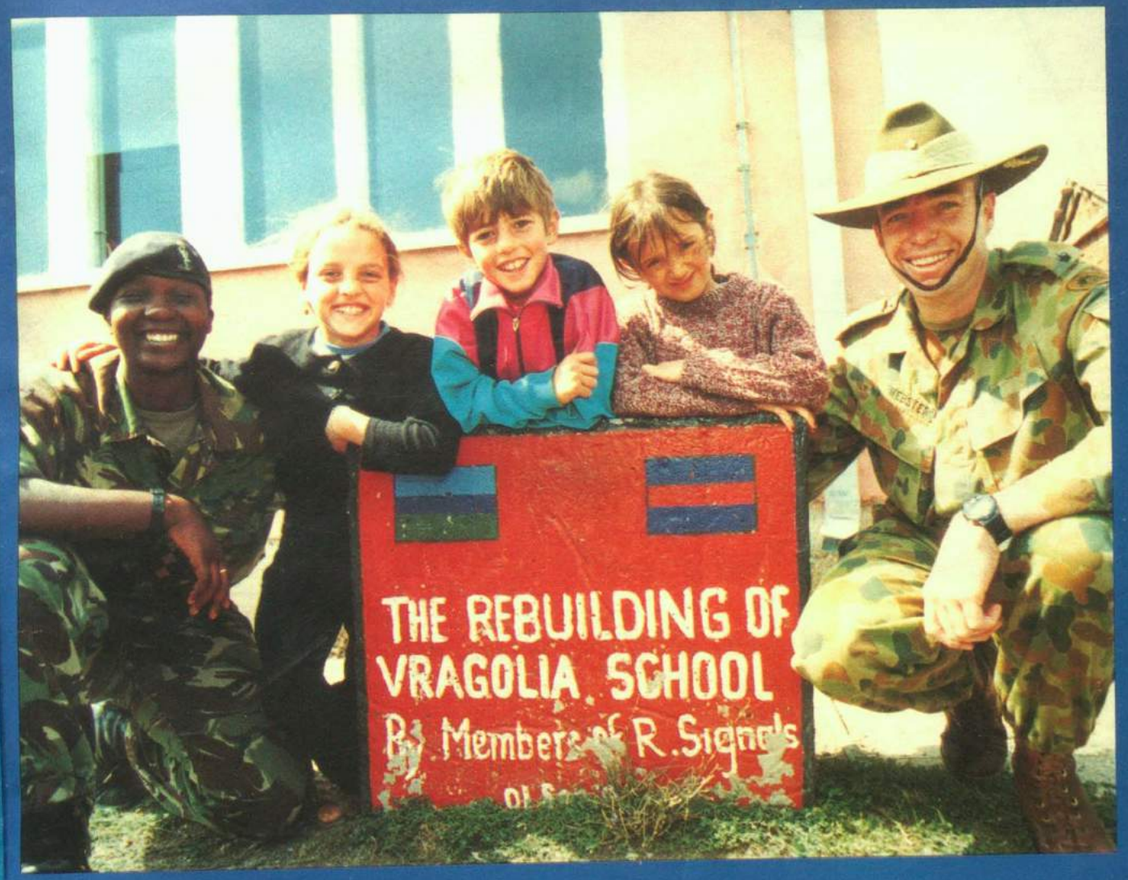
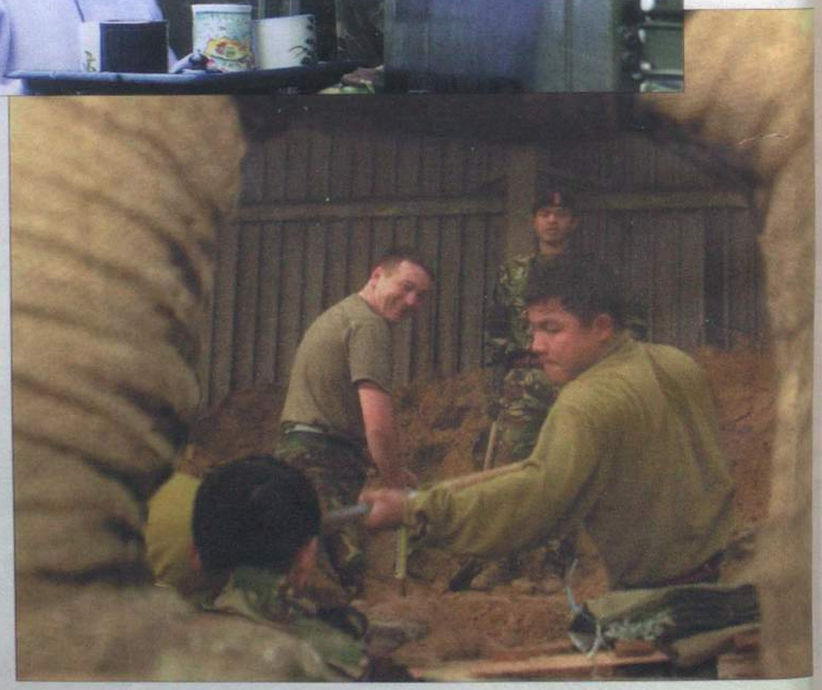
THE Wire

February 2001



The Royal Corps of Signals

Two signal Regiments were called upon to help the authorities in York when the disastorous flooding hit the city. The regiment performed magnificently in support of the civil community and we feature a perfect record of their activities on the inside covers. See the Regiments work on page 29.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RCI/BCS LECTURE:
15th March 2001
IBM Research Labs, Hursley

RSI Seminar:
3rd Mat 2001
PMH Blandford

AFCEA SYMPOSIUM:
14th November 2001
HMS Collingwood, Gosport

RSI London lecture:
29th November 2001
IoD, Pall Mall, London

Further information from Col (Retd) Bill Kennedy 01258 482647

The Royal Signals Magazine

February 2001 Vol. 55 No: 1

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

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Editor Lt Col (Retd) P. Valder
Deputy Editor Mrs J. A. Herring

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FRONT COVER
Comes courtesy of 7 Signal Regiment and shows **Maj Webster** and **Capt Pritchett** paying a visit to Vragolia School which is being rebuilt by members of the Royal Signals.

BACK COVER
Comes courtesy of 30 Sig Regt and shows **HRH The Princess Royal, The Master of Signals,** The CO and LS&GC and Warrant recipients with their wives.

The closing date for copy to REACH this office, in order to go in the April issue is 15 February 2001

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001

The Royal Signals Association's AGM combined with the Branch Representatives' meeting will take place in Chelsea Barracks on **7 April** and not the 2 April as printed in the December issue of *The WIRE*

Authors alone are responsible for the content of their articles. The opinions expressed in the articles of this publication are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Royal Signals or the Ministry of Defence. This publication should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

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BRITISH KOREAN VETERANS PARADE AND SERVICE ST PATRICK'S BARRACKS BALLYMENA SUNDAY 29 APRIL 2001

Did you serve in Korea with any unit sub-unit or as a part of 29 Independent Infantry Brigade Group during the Korean war?

Parade Location: Depot The Royal Irish Regiment
St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena

Timings 29 Apr 2001:1140hrs Fall In ,
1200hrs March On - (Parade and Service),
1245hrs March Past
1300hrs Lunch and Entertainment,
A charge of £5.50 will be made for each person attending lunch, for which a preordered ticket will be required.

Each year during April, a remembrance parade and service is held at St Patrick's Barracks Ballymena in Northern Ireland, by The Royal Ulster Rifle Association and British Korean Veteran's Association (Ireland Branch). This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Imjin fought by 29th Independent Infantry Brigade Group during the period 22-25 April 1951. It is the wish of Regimental Headquarters The Royal Irish Regiment to include as many veterans of 29 Brigade or their antecedent Regimental Associations, as would like to attend the parade on Sunday 29 April 2001. Any individual or Association wishing to take part should contact **Maj R. J. Walker** for further details at: The Regimental Office, 5 Waring Street, BELFAST, BT12EW.

MARKET GARDEN 2000

Parachuting requires medical certification that you are mentally fit to jump. This, for normal people, would understandably cause some confusion. It remains a direct contradiction, no reasonably sane person would want to jump from great heights only to rely on a bit of cloth and cord to stop them falling to their deaths!

Ex Market Garden 2000 (8-18 September) was an exercise with many objectives, the first was route planning, in this case, go to the furthest port you can possibly get from your objective and spend 12 hours driving there. Alternatively you could go to the nearest port and spend two hours driving. No guessing which route we took! Eventually our pilgrims landed on the fair shores of the island of Texel and set about the first objective, to undertake the Dutch Military Parachute course. The second objective was to show gratitude to British and Polish WW2 airborne veterans for their wartime sacrifices. The aim was to do authentic airdrops in WW2 airborne uniform from WW2 aircraft, in front of veterans on original drop zones. The drop zone earmarked for us was at the Polish drop zone at Driel, near Arnhem. This was to be followed by a 71/2mile march, in full WW2 kit from the British airborne drop zone at Ginkle Heath to Arnhem Bridge.

The participants of Market Garden 2000 were mainly members of the now disbanded 10 (V) Parachute Battalion, other ex-airborne soldiers belonging to a group called Pathfinder and serving soldiers. Also participating were four Canadian Grenadier Guards, a US Marine and a US Navy SEEBEE, a truly mixed bag. Representing the Corps from Blandford were **Sgt Nigel** 'Stickers' **Brewin** and **Cpl** 'Mac the Brew' **MacDonald**, both of Radio Systems Group, Royal School of Signals and **Sig Steve** 'Spielberg' **Davies**, 11 Signal Regiment. **Sgt Brewin**, already qualified, did three jumps from an Antonov 2 and then, awaiting the arrival of the DC3, instructed the participants in and oversaw parachute packing, thus enabling the non-qualified personnel to get up in the air quicker and get all their qualifying jumps in. When grounded due to bad weather **Sgt Brewin**, assisted by the other Signallers, started spreading paranoia amongst the ranks. The blue Royal Signals recruitment stickers miraculously found attachments to anything on which the three-second rule had expired or had been left unattended. For the multinational contingent, the sight of a Signaller in the vicinity with a smile on his face caused them to carry out the Immediate Action drill. A dash (to the nearest mirror), strip down (to their underwear), crawl (around their equipment), observe (everyone else panicking), sights (it was a right sight), fire (burn the stickers, should they find any).

Sig Davies, on his second jump, landed roughly on the DZ, it was a combined decision that he should not carry on jumping.

Sig Davies hopes to return next year to complete the course. He then went on to demonstrate a rare talent as the event cameraman operating the video camera and at various times could be seen weighed down by an array of cameras. The Dakota, still in allied wartime markings, the same one **Sgt Brewin** jumped from into Normandy in June, arrived on the Wednesday, much to the delight of everyone. Up to that point all the jumps had been conducted from a former Soviet Antonov 2, used to drop Spetznaz forces due to its ability to fly at speeds that would stall other aircraft and achieve a smaller spread of parachutes. With the Dakota in Holland, a first Arnhem Anniversary jump was undertaken at Texel Island. The event was covered on Dutch National TV. It saw a rare dramatic event as one of the parachutists in the same stick as **Cpl MacDonald** suffered 'Tailstrike' where his canopy became entangled on the tail wheel of the Dakota, ripping out three panels and shredding the remainder of the canopy. The parachutist was forced to deploy his reserve, he landed safely, half an hour later he was back in the air again, nerves of steel! Then Friday came, we redeployed to the Dutch mainland to a campsite at Oosterbeek. We were to jump from the Dakota on the Saturday at Driel, the wartime Drop Zone for the Polish Parachute Brigade. Unfortunately the aircraft ran into unforeseen problems, we missed our slot, we were all gutted at this development but it was out of our hands. Once the aircraft was able to fly again on the Saturday evening we had to be content to watch it drop the Red Devils onto the memorial outside the Hartenstein Airborne Museum in Oosterbeek.

The team participated in the 'Race to the Bridge'. All the parachutists, in full WW2 uniform, equipment carrying Lee-Enfield rifles, Sten and Bren guns marched from Ginkle Heath to Arnhem Bridge, re-creating the march that **Lt Col John Frost** and the 2 Battalion of the Parachute Regiment took. The local population waved and cheered us as we passed, we managed to unload our boiled sweets and compo biscuits at the children. In return we were given all manner of bottled refreshment, including a rare rocket fuel that **Cpl MacDonald** and **Sgt Brewin** were given by one grateful native, they each had one sip, their throat lining took two weeks to recover!

Cpl MacDonald receives his Dutch Wings
from an Arnhem veteran at the steps to the Hartenstein Hotel

On the Sunday the wings presentation for the newly qualified took place. **Cpl MacDonald** was afforded the privilege of being presented his wings by an Arnhem veteran, of which thirty of them attended our parade, a moment **Cpl MacDonald** will treasure for the rest of his life. After the parade, the team left for the nearby cemetery to lay a Corps wreath at one of the memorials to the British and Polish Airborne dead. Affairs concluded satisfactorily, the team returned to the UK. The next memorial jump from the Dakota will be in June 2001 on DZ (N) the original drop zone for the 5 Parachute Brigade, 6 Airborne Division followed by a march to Pegasus Bridge.

THE MEMOIRS OF MAJOR F. T. C. WILLIAMS ROYAL SIGNALS

by Col (Retd) Cliff Walters, Museum Director

The Museum has recently been presented with an unusually well-displayed collection of bound scrap-books and other personal memorabilia by **Maj Frank Williams** who now lives in North Yorkshire. The eleven volumes beautifully record highlights of **Frank's** service in the Corps in words, photographs, verse, cartoon, press cuttings, drawings and maps and span the years 1933 to 1946. As a young man of twenty and already in possession of a PMG's licence to work as a commercial radio operator, he enlisted into Royal Signals in the hope of experiencing something of the excitement and glamour of soldiering on the North West Frontier of India. He was not to be disappointed. The first four scrapbooks capture exactly his adventurous life of active service with the Signals section of the 2nd Indian Infantry Brigade on operations during the Waziristan Campaign of 1936-37. The Museum has many photographs and personal accounts from those who also saw active service in India during the inter-war years. However, this particular collection is a gem being particularly well-assembled and painting a vivid and exciting account of a young Signalman's early experiences of imperial policing in a dangerous place. **Frank** took his own photographs and developed them 'in the field'. The other seven scrapbooks deal with **Frank's** experiences during the Second World War. In May 1940 he was in France (by now a Sergeant) with the 1st Armoured Division. Evacuated from Brest after the German conquest of France, he was commissioned and in 1942 again went on active service, this time with 23rd Armoured Brigade of the Eighth Army. He took part in desperate battles in the Western Desert, and the breakout and pursuit of the Axis armies up to their final surrender in North Africa. There followed three years of the Italian Campaign, during which he served with 15 Army Group Signals in the advance through Italy. All of these scrapbooks make fascinating reading particularly for anyone with a personal interest in these historic campaigns. The Museum staff are always pleased to help anyone with research and access to this (or any other) collection which is available to anyone who would wish to view it.

The busy author slowly going mad
Repairing a N0 1 Set, K Section, Coronation Camp, June 1937

Exciting Times
Sgt Frank Williams, 1st Armoured Divisional Signals,
BEF, France 1940

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ANNUAL BCS/RSI LECTURE

Thursday 15th March 2001

"For whom the gate tolls"

by Professor Stevan Harnad

at

IBM Research Laboratories, Hursley

6.30pm for 7pm, supper 8.30pm

Further information from Suzanne Peart of BCS on 01793 417417 or Col (Retd) Bill Kennedy on 01258 482647

The White Helmets

OC **Lt Col Jack Amberton**
Team Capt **Capt McAnulty**
Chief Instr **SSgt Paul Boughey**

ONCE A WHITE HELMETS ALWAYS A WHITE HELMET
THE CO 11 SIGNAL REGIMENT VISITS THE TEAM

As an ex White Helmet and a fellow Ulsterman I was happy to welcome **Lt Col R. G. Nicholson** back to the Team for a day of Off-Road training on Bovington Training Area. **SSgt Paul Boughey** the Team Staff Sergeant and Chief Instructor was chomping at the bit at the thought of a day 'playing' on the 'Moors', especially when he heard that **RSM Kemp** and the CO's driver would be riding as well. Somehow the Adjt, **Capt Fiona Priestnall** had convinced the CO that she would hold the fort back at RHQ.

Lt Col R. G. Nicholson got straight back on the saddle, and after a bit of instruction from the Team Staff Sergeant the RSM (who had passed his road licence five years ago) was inches behind him. We are still not too sure if **Cpl Dilchandra** took the CO's motioning to another bike as an order for him to ride, but he had soon donned my gloves and helmet and shot after them.

Cpl Dilchandra had one airborne experience coming out of the 'Dust Bowl', not frightened by that he then decided to be a gymnast achieving a triple somersault and head plant on 'Sandy Bottom'. Thankfully we didn't manage to injure him too badly. He can definitely have a place with the Team on next year's induction course! The RSM soon got the hang of it and was tearing around Bovington and having fun, he even decided to try out a few jumps ensuring that the CO followed suit. I bet the CO in retrospect wished that he had left him back at camp. A great day was had by all! Once a White Helmet always a White Helmet. All that was left when the visitors had gone was for the Team Cadre to enjoy the last few hours with the Off Road bikes before they had to go back to the Honda Imps.

The Famous Five
(L-R): RSM Kemp, Lt Col R. G. Nicholson, Cpl Dikhandra, SSgt Boughey and the mechanic – LCpl Fullerton

INDUCTION COURSE 2000 - *by LCpl Duncan Marsh*

Myself, **LCpl** 'Scottie' **Ecott** and **LCpl** 'Fish' **Fisher** were selected from a cast of thousands (well 30) to instruct the inductees. Both 'Scottie' and 'Fish' had instructed on previous courses but this was my first and I was looking forward to it. Monday morning started off 'nice and easy' with a video from a previous selection course -'This is going to HURT', and the introduction of the instructors and supporting cadre to the now tense and nervous looking students. The course photo followed with a late entry by **LCpl** 'Scottie 'Drowned Rat' **Ecott**, after an eventful nine-hour motorcycle ride from Chester through the heart of the November floods. Before the 'Fun and Games' could begin on Bovington Training Area, a basic riding test had to be passed by all the students, including the four totally novice riders. It was then on to Bovington Tank Training area and to the basic off road riding phase.

In the days to follow there were many hilarious and very scary incidents, many of which **Sig Kev Wright** was in the middle or on the periphery of. **Kev** managed to find a 40ft long, 1fi m deep tank dip and drown himself and one of the Honda XR 250's that were kindly lent to us by the Honda Imps. Not happy with killing one of the bikes, **Kev** had a good go at killing himself on the same day by creaming in on one of the jumps and suffering concussion. After a 24-hour stay in Bovington Medical Centre, **Kev** gave the DS a massive scare, during (once again) jump training on the 'Knife Edge' the chief 'crash test dummy' suffered damaged legs. First on the scene was the Team Medic and Instructor, **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Ecott**, who's diagnosis was a broken femur at first. It turned out to be a pencil in his pocket, (the only time **Kev's** pencil has caused so much concern), but he was carted off in an ambulance just in case. Not to be out done, recently promoted to Lance Corporal (well done mate!), **Johnny Kama** carried on with his rugby training. The 15 stone lump of Fijian muscle decided to tackle a tree at 30mph and we are not too sure who won. Apparently he has had worse injuries on a rugby pitch. Race Day produced plenty of thrills and spills. The weather closed in just to make things that little bit more difficult. Not surprisingly **Sig Ricky** 'Feed Me Now' **Gaston** who is already a member of the Team, won the race (by a whisker). Just a whisker away from returning to 3 Div, Eh **Rick**? The Welsh Wizard (No 29) abandoned conventional methods of stopping and dislocated his shoulder as a result. We never did discover how he gained such an extensive knowledge of sheep. No 27 (**Pte Pile**), was disqualified for straying into the trees. The phrase 'out of control but looking good' springs to mind. Revenge was sweet when **LCpl Gaz Fisher** got his just deserts for being an 'LB' (in house) at the end of Week One. Possibly the White Helmets nastiest (but obviously fair) instructor received a splattering of eggs from the Course who thought he would make a good omelette. Not to be out done he returned a few beauties himself.

The excitement was not reserved for the bikes only, back at Blandford Camp our social evening was cut short due to a bomb scare. This resulted in a very interesting evening in the gymnasium. After the peak of Race Day things naturally quietened down for Week 2 – Trick Week, the Team's bread and butter. We made the most of the able bodied students, teaching many tricks that make the White Helmets the Worlds Premier Motorcycle Display Team. Included in Week 2 was the Fire Jump training with great progress made by all. Day 2 of the Fire Jump Training saw the recently appointed Team Captain – Capt 'Mac' lead by example and go first through the fire. We won't tell anyone you drew the shortest straw, of course it wasn't rigged (honest!). Nice eye lashes! A short show marked the end of Week 2. The show was performed in front of the Regimental Colonel and OC White Helmets who seemed impressed by the guts and determination shown by all after a mentally and physically demanding two-week course. Well done and welcome to the six new comers, we look forward to seeing you all soon for further training.

Cpl 'Stevie (Airborne warrior)' **Girling** **LCpl John** 'The Chef' **Dodd**
Sig 'Gymnast' **Brown** **Sig Johnny Kama**
Sig Marcus Kershaw **Sig Kev Wright**

Should you make a purchase as the result of seeing an advert in *The WIRE*, please let them know that you saw their advert in your Corps Magazine

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS' VISIT TO MELBOURNE ON THE OCCASION OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The year 2000 is the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. Royal Signals traditionally sends a signal of greetings and best wishes to our sister Signals Corps, each year. For significant anniversaries, a suitable gift is made. The tradition is reciprocated, and on the Royal Signals' 75th anniversary, the Australians presented our Corps with the splendid Front Doors to our new Museum in Blandford. This year was to be no exception. For such an important anniversary, it was only right and proper that **The Master of Signals** should fly out to Australia to make the presentation in person, to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals' Representative Colonel Commandant – **Brigadier Evans**. The occasion was to be the Corps Dinner, in the home of Royal Australian Signals – The Army Communications Training Centre (ACommsTC), which is the Australian equivalent of The Royal School of Signals. ACommsTC is in Simpson Barracks, Macleod - a pleasant, green and open barracks in a suburb of Melbourne, 20 minutes Northeast of the Central Business District.

The Master presents the dial to Brig Evans, Representative Colonel Commandant of The Royal Australian Corps of Signals

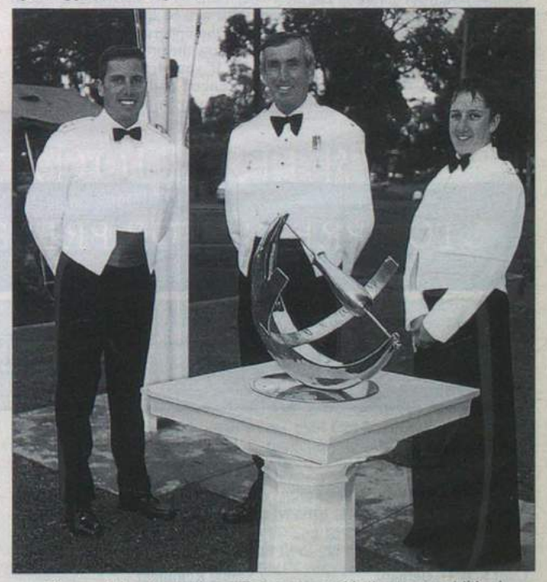
The presentation is to prove a constant symbol of our enduring relationship, with a sister Corps, whose fortunes, during so many conflicts, had been so closely entwined with our own. So what better than a timepiece, and for a sunny country like Australia, a large brass sundial seemed appropriate. For those of you who know something about sundials, this one is described as an Equatorial dial with an analemmatic gnomon.

The registered Domain Name for the Beverley Boys' Archive

beverleyboysarchive.co.uk

A close-up of the dial

At times, the complexity of this project seemed to resemble the construction of the International Space Station. The List of Credits is as follows: The style of dial was invented by **Maj Gen Oliver** (late Royal Artillery) and patented in 1892. It revolutionised sundial accuracy, as due to its cunning design, it reads true time throughout the year – other dials can be up to 20 minutes out, as the seasons change. The presentation dial was designed by **Mr David Brown** of Bath, and crafted by **Mr Silas Higgon** in England. The dial was mounted on a plinth of Donybrook Marble from Western Australia, designed by **Mr Arthur Andronas**, one of Melbourne's acclaimed architects, and crafted by stonemason **Mr Paul Smith**, also of Macleod. The presentation and a short speech were made by **The Master, Brigadier Evans** responded, then the officers retired for the Corps' 75th Anniversary Dinner. With so many Australians and New Zealanders as a captive audience, **The Master** could not resist a few sporting jibes in his speech.



Some of the Australian officers pose with the 'new addition'
(L-R): Lt Peter Carey, Maj Dave Cave (2IC), Lt Danny Glatz

The rest of the dinner went as all good dinners do, and no tales need telling in this piece! **The Masters'** presence and the quality of the presentation helped cement our close relationship still closer.

For all of you who will be lucky enough to come to Melbourne in the future, either on Exercise Long Look or perhaps as the UK Exchange Instructor, you now know why there is a sundial engraved with the words 'Presented by the Royal Corps of Signals' in front of the Centre.

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM - VOLUNTEER GUIDES

During 2000, in addition to the normal weekday opening, the museum opened at weekends from mid-February to the end of October. On these weekend and public holiday days it was operated by volunteers who manned the reception desk, sold shop goods and generally made visitors welcome by assisting them in their understanding of the various displays. On Friday, 17 November, 17 of these volunteers met at the Crown Hotel, Blandford, where the museum staff welcomed them to an 'end-of-season' dinner to thank them for their efforts.

In welcoming them, the volunteer coordinator, **Lt Col Pat Soward,** introduced **Miss Stella McIntyre,** the new curator, and welcomed **Maj Roger Pickard,** the recently retired curator (now restored to good health) and **Mrs Danny Pickard** who have offered their services as museum volunteers next year. He noted that the weekend takings of £21,380 in 2000 was 40% more than in 1999 - in spite of the museum being closed for two days in September due to the petrol shortage. This demonstrates that **Mr Adam Forty,** the Business Manager, has a marketing strategy that is attracting increasing numbers of paying visitors to the museum and that the volunteers are making a substantial contribution to the museum's income as well as having an enjoyable and rewarding day out. **Lt Col Pat Soward** made a point of welcoming **Mrs Laurette Burton** who has recently joined the growing number of volunteers working in the archives on research projects. We were delighted also to welcome **Brig Burton** in the unaccustomed role of 'Husband of! and as a museum trustee.

Col Cliff Walters, the Museum Director, noted with satisfaction that the museum was at last up to full strength and told volunteers of some of the detail changes being made to the displays in order to make better use of available space. He spoke of the introduction, over the winter months, of 'talking boxes' that will give visitors an audio commentary on some of the more important displays and of a touch-screen information terminal which is to be installed in the medal gallery. This will carry information on the medals on display and on those to whom the medals were awarded. **Mr Adam Forty** then spoke of his satisfaction in seeing our visitor numbers rising in spite of the general trend of falling museum visitor numbers. He spoke with enthusiasm about the growing success of the 'South West Motor Cycle Expo', a fund raising event sponsored by the museum, which is attracting TV coverage and burgeoning support. The Band Concert, featuring the Corps Bands and the Dorset Youth Orchestra was also popular and well supported. The Air Day at Compton Abbas unfortunately failed due to lack of sponsorship and will probably not be attempted again.

To conclude, **Miss Karin Mountford,** the Shop Manager, presented each volunteer with a blue coffee mug, suitably embellished with a gold 'Jimmy', as a memento to remind them, as she said, of the aggravation caused by the erratic operation of the canteen during 2000! There is always a need for volunteers to work in the museum, both as researchers on weekdays and to operate the museum at weekends. It is a very rewarding way to make use of experience gained during service in the Corps and anyone who lives within a reasonable distance of Blandford who would like more information is invited to telephone the Volunteer Coordinator on 01258-860647

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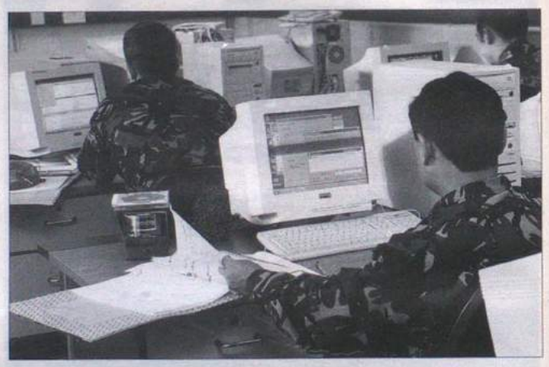
INFORMATION SYSTEMS OPERATORS

HQ SOinC(A) are only too aware of the current backlog of potential Information System Operators who have yet to receive their training. To overcome this, the Royal School of Signals has been allocated additional resources to provide three extra Information Systems Foundation courses. This will bring the total number of courses during the training year 2001/2002 to six, training a potential 72 Information Systems Operators. If YOU have been selected to attend an Information Systems Foundation course, and your name is on the roster held by R. SIGNALS, MCM Division in Glasgow, please be patient. You will be loaded onto a course as soon as it is possible. If you would like the opportunity to become an Information Systems Operator you must follow the procedures detailed in SOinC(A)'s Policy Directive Number 31. If you already have some IT qualifications, these can be cross-referenced and assist you on the selection board. Please contact your unit Yeoman of Signals/Training Officer for further details.



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MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
DECEMBER

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Col P. B. Neale	HQ AG MIS
Lt Col P. J. Davies	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Lt Col A. E. Kendall	Directorate of Joint Warfare
Lt Col I. W. MacKenzie	OCE LAND
Lt Col G. J. T. Rafferty	DB(L) SPT
Capt S. E. G. Barnard	2 Signal Regiment
Capt B. M. Bingham	264 (SAS) Signal Squadron
Capt L. D. Burrell	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Capt M. J. Crinnion	Army Apprentices' College
Capt R. J. Farrimond	RMA Sandhurst
Capt L. Golley	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Capt A. Greenfield	9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Capt G. Hodgson	2 Signal Regiment
Capt A. Scott	7 Signal Regiment
Capt S. G. Scott	34 (N) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Capt A. T. W. Steele	7 Signal Regiment

OFFICERS
JANUARY

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Brig J. R. B. Cook	Dept of AG
Col C. L. Le Gallais OBE	HQ 11 Signal Brigade
Lt Col N. A. W. Pope	30 Signal Regiment
Lt Col R. A. Sharp	JSSU (AN)
Lt Col A. K. Trimble	Chief of Staff BDS
Lt Col D. J. Whitby	Information Infrastructure
Maj E. C. Dale	7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ)
Capt B. M. Bingham	JHQ South
Capt J. B. Duckworth	7 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (207)
Capt J. R. Fradley	7 Signal Regiment
Capt M. Keech BEM	G6 HQ LAND

WOs & SNCOs
DECEMBER

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 FofS N. R. Henly	1 (UK) Div Signal Regiment

A/WO1 RD A. D. Young	31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
A/WO1 YofS J. R. Knight	PJHQ (UK)
WO2 RD N. Fisher	30 Signal Regiment
WO2 YofS R. J. Darlington	30 Signal Regiment
SSgt P. D. Eldridge	16 Air Assault Brigade HQ
SSgt E. J. Head	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
SSgt P. R. Howson	Joint Support Group (NI)
SSgt D. P. Wilson	225 Signal Squadron
A/SSgt D. W. Burdus	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt P. S. Parkes	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt S. M. Schofield	30 Signal Regiment
Sgt P. A. Cooper	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt J. A. Harris	15 Signal Regiment
Sgt A. R. Kennedy	15 Signal Regiment
Sgt G. W. Lloyd	3 (UK) Div Signal Regiment
Sgt C. R. Pagett	20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200)
Sgt S. J. Pringle	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt S. R. Sale	8 CTT
Sgt J. E. Tanner	600 Signal Troop
A/Sgt P. A. Grundy	JSSU (FI)
A/Sgt J. B. Love	32 Regiment RA
A/Sgt D. J. McCall	30 Signal Regiment

WOs & SNCOs
JANUARY

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 D. L. Walker	The Royal School of Signals
A/WO1 RD G. A. Coffin	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 RD I. E. Evans	University of Wales OTC
WO2 RD J. R. Stillie	2 Signal Regiment
WO2 YofS P. J. Carey	15 Signal Regiment
A/WO2 RD A. C. Slack	249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L))
SSgt L. C. R. Chapman	259 Signal Squadron
SSgt G. A. Greaves	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
SSgt J. P. Lawrence	16 Signal Regiment
SSgt N. L. L. Perham	HQ Royal Signals
SSgt K. J. Ripley	15 Signal Regiment
SSgt P. Rouse	12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228)
SSgt G. Steel	34 (Northern) Signal Regiment (V)
SSgt R. Turner	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
SSgt M. J. Yates	Comms Proj Div
A/SSgt B. D. Crosby	16 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt P. J. Graham	30 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt L. P. Hopkins	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (203)
A/SSgt D. J. Keenan	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
A/SSgt N. J. Smith	UNICOM
A/SSgt R. P. Williams	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt K. Allen	HQ Royal Signals
Sgt T. P. Blakeley	7 Parachute RHA
Sgt A. I. Bremner	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt D. M. Butler	36 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Sgt I. J. Chappell	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt B. A. Clark	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt J. P. Cordery	7 Signal Regiment
Sgt A. Crabtree	36 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Sgt K. L. Crawford	249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L))
Sgt T. J. Croxon	RTMC
Sgt G. R. Dearden	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt C. D. Doick	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt K. Ellams	36 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Sgt L. S. Ford	2 Signal Regiment
Sgt S. Hamilton	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt D. Hansen	30 Signal Regiment
Sgt A. W. Haslam	20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200)
Sgt C. L. King	SHAPE Regional Signal Group
Sgt P. S. Kinsey	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Sgt A. J. P. Lynch	7 CTT
Sgt S. A. Marriott	7 Signal Regiment
Sgt R. B. Moore	21 Signal Regiment (AS)
Sgt B. B. Newton	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Sgt S. R. Phillips	Air Warfare Centre (AE)
Sgt M. P. Pryce	12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228)
Sgt S. J. Robinson	4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204)
Sgt N. Ruff	259 Signal Squadron
Sgt G. Sinclair	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt D. A. Skingley	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt J. L. Sowden	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. Stoneman	JCUFI (AE)
Sgt M. J. Swanson	5 Battalion REME
Sgt A. Tye	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
Sgt S. R. White	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt D. J. Wilson	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
A/Sgt S. H. Ayers	225 Signal Squadron
A/Sgt J. C. W. Baxter	30 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt P. S. Belcher	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt K. J. Betts	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
A/Sgt J. Chambers	225 Signal Squadron
A/Sgt S. A. Clarke	7 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt S. M. Foster	259 Signal Squadron
A/Sgt G. T. Gibson	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (213)
A/Sgt A. J. M. Giffen	20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200)
A/Sgt M. K. Hopkins	225 Signal Squadron
A/Sgt P. A. Jenkinson	7 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt K. Langan	30 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt S. D. Link	7 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (207)
A/Sgt D. J. McCall	30 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt M. R. McMullan	AAC Arborfield
A/Sgt S. L. McNeil	280 (UK) Signal Squadron
A/Sgt A. J. Mitchell	30 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt R. A. O'Neill	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt G. G. Overend	7 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt A. I. Piper	ATR Bassingbourn
A/Sgt S. J. Reeves	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
A/Sgt A. Richardson	30 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt D. A. Royle	7 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt W. Scarrott	RMA Sandhurst
A/Sgt N. R. Smith	16 Air Assault Brigade HQ
A/Sgt A. C. Torrington	642 Signal Troop

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)

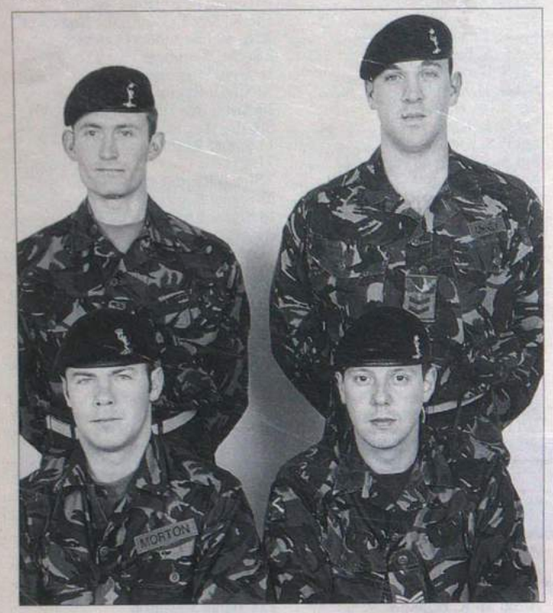
ROYAL SIGNALS MOBILE PRESENTATION TEAM
Team OC **Capt Mike Morton**
Team SNCO **Sgt Martin Hunt**

As the Royal Signals Mobile Presentation Team (MPT) is due to expand we thought it would be a good idea to inform the Corps of what we actually get upto, as it has not been very well advertised in the past. The team is based at the School of Signals, and from there deploys on a regular basis to various parts of the UK delivering various presentations and running exercises for different age groups at many different schools and colleges. Normally we hit a town or city for one or two weeks, trying to squeeze as many presentations as possible into the time allocated to us. What we do depends on the venue; space allocated, time given, age group, and as the team has such a rapid turn over of personnel (One-year tour) new ideas and presentations are being developed day by day. With the lack of kit available to us, it is very much beg and borrow, and making do with what we can get hold of. Having said that most departments within Blandford are very helpful to us, and all members of the team need to remain flexible and adaptable.

We have just returned from a two-week tour of the Liverpool area, where we had a great response from the scouse kids. Having stayed at Dale Barracks in Chester, each school was a fair trip away and most days we managed to put in a good 12-16 hour day. The presentations went well, a simple yes or no answer was quite often dragged out into a 30 minute briefing by **Capt Morton**, but he did manage to get a fan club of girls at most schools. **Cpl Shane Hodgson** enjoyed the trip, although most of the time he was getting a lot of agro from the team about his ginger hair, which is now renowned through out Liverpool, and the school kids are now well aware that with equal opportunities the Corps is willing to accept 'Gingers', and to be a Spec Op a bulb shaped head is not required but can be an advantage. Keep Smiling **Cpl Hodgson**, Santa might bring you some hair dye! The weekend in the middle was much needed R + R, Friday night saw a few beers in Chester, where **Cpl Chris Umney** thought it would be a good idea to try recruiting a few girls, and giving them his career profile in a busy pub! **Cpl Umney** also likes to tell the kids about his qualifications, especially his driving skills, one of which is that he holds his HAZMAT license, and that he knows all about fuels and gasses. He demonstrated this to the Team by filling a diesel vehicle with unleaded! Then it was good team bonding, sucking petrol through a straw for three hours. **Sgt Martin Hunt** had quite a good trip, as we a had a liaison member attached to the team who was from Liverpool, and he escorted us to and from the schools, so fortunately the team didn't have to rely on **Sgt Hunt's** map reading. The second week was quite tiring, and **Sgt Hunt** managed to frighten a few kids into joining up when he got confused and thought he was back at Bassingbourn, treating some of the kids more like recruits, but it was all taken in good spirit.

Overall Liverpool was a Success, The team's spirits are very high and we sell the Royal Signals very well to both teachers and students. We're looking forward to April, the second MPT will be formed and ready for action, and throughout next year vacancies will be opening to replace current team members. It is a high profile job and all of the team enjoy it, so if you reckon you've got what it takes to give presentations and run

exercises and handle 30 – 50 screaming school kids for a day, then keep an eye out for the signals asking for volunteers, and get yourself over here for an interview.



Back Rpw (L-R): Cpl Hodgson, Cpl Umney
Front Row (L-R): Capt Morton, Sgt Hunt

COMMAND SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT EQUIPMENT ISSUES

The big development was the announcement in Parliament on 27 November 2000 that the competition for the preferred contractor for Project Cormorant had been won by Nortel Networks Global Professional Services (Defence) (also known as Cogent). Cormorant will provide a new communications capability to the JRRF. It will equip the JTFHQ and associated headquarters with an up to date system mounted on the Bucher Duro platform. It will inter-operate with Ptarmigan and other in-service equipment currently in use by UK and Allies. A production contract should be let in January 2001 and delivery of the equipment is anticipated from May 2001 onwards. An Initial Operating Capability will be in place by November 2001, sufficient to support a small-scale operation, and a Full Operating Capability will be delivered by end 2003. Cormorant will be issued to 2 Sig Regt and 30 Sig Regt. The Cormorant Introduction Unit will be based with 2 Sig Regt.

FALCON - Falcon will replace Ptarmigan, Euromux and the RAF RTTS system. Invitations to tender have already been issued and a down select of contractor is expected in summer 2001. Trials are planned to take place in 2003, with an initial tranche to be issued to HQ ARRC in 2004 with subsequent increments to include divisional and brigade slices in 2008.

MAPPS & GPTAP - Mobile Access to Primary Packet Switching (MAPPS) and General Purpose Trunk Access Port (GP TAP) will provide PPS and limited trunk connectivity at modified SCRA Centrals thus avoiding the need to deploy significant elements of Ptarmigan to support exercises or small scale operations. Trials are underway now and an in-service reliability demonstration is planned for 2001. A total of 30 SCRA Centrals will be converted of which 15 will be in the air-portable role mounted on Pinzgauer vehicles. 21 Sig Regt (AS) will be the first to receive this equipment (4) and distribution across the rest of the Corps will be as follows; 1 UK Div (6), 2 Sig Regt (4), 3 Div (6), 16 Sig Regt (6), RSS (3), LSRC (1).

SATCOM - A down select of two consortia, Paradigrn and Rosetta, have been invited to tender proposals for a Private Finance Initiative for SKYNET V. Although full details are not yet available both consortia would procure and own the satellites and would provide a pre-determined range and level of services to Defence. They have expressed an interest in taking on the ownership, operation and support of UK satellite ground terminals and, dependent upon negotiations would supply some of the deployable terminals. The consortia will submit their proposals in January 2001. The new satellites would be placed in orbit late 2005/mid 2006.

UK/TSC 503 - The UK/TSC 503 has had a number of technical problems to overcome. It is now anticipated that the system will enter service in two modes. One will be an SF-role Rapid Deployable Terminal with a 2m dish and the other an HQ role Full Capability Terminal with 4m dish. It is due to enter service in 2001.

BOWMAN - After the withdrawal of 'Preferred Bidder' status from the Archer consortium the Bowman Project was re-competed to industry. The Invitation to tender was let on 4 November 2000 to three prime contractors; Computing Devices Canada; Thomson-Racal and TRW. Bids will be received by February 2001 and Main Gate is anticipated for Summer 2001. The current plan assumes a trials brigade to be equipped, trained and ready to conduct trials over the period 2003-04 subject to selected proposal.

The Personal Role Radio was separated from the main Bowman contract and is expected to achieve an In Service Date of March 2002. This will provide a low-level tactical radio that is insecure and with limited range. Marconi has been selected as the preferred supplier, subject to satisfactory contract negotiation and it is anticipated that the first radios will be delivered in 2001.

INFORMATION OPERATIONS

Or Oh Lord! - Not another set of abbreviations! (A piece in lighter vein from Command Support Development)

Now that we have all overcome the post Christmas/New Year lethargy, and the kids have finally accepted that there really is a world shortage of the batteries that run the Furby, the time has come to apply our minds to some developments which are having an increasingly significant effect on the way that we work. The aim of this short article is to try to chart a way through. yet another set of gobbledegook and initials which has recently arrived on the scene and with which we in R SIGNALS will have to become familiar. In other words, what follows could be regarded as a 'Pitch-writer's Guide to the Lexicon'! (With apologies to Douglas Adams.)

Firstly some history: at the end of Operation Desert Storm it was realised that the concerted attacks on the Iraqi Command and Control Systems, which had proved so successful in paralysing, and eventually leading to the defeat of the enemy forces on the battlefield, merited being taken into doctrine. The result, devised in the US, was the concept of Command and Control Warfare (C2W). C2W recognised that the Command and Control process is vital to the successful prosecution of an operational plan. You will remember that it is represented diagrammatically by a building of five pillars representing the activities of Physical Destruction, OPSEC, PsyOps, Deception and EW; the whole standing on a foundation of All Source Intelligence and CIS. There is a frequently held misconception that those seven aspects were the only components of C2W. This, of course, was not the case, the intention being to merely represent the broadest spectrum of the operational art. It is possibly better to understand C2W in the form of 'C2 Provide', 'C2 Protect' and 'C2 Attack', which terms are self-explanatory. From the Corps' point of view, friendly C2 must be provided (the provision of C2 bearers is our core business after all). Our C2 must be protected (ask any Yeoman about Crypto and the like), and the enemy C2 is ripe for exploitation and attack, ask 14 Sig Regt (EW). Don't forget also that there are many others in the C2W business in the form of recce troops and Gunners, to name but two.

C2W was fairly slow to catch on. The fact that one of its major tenets is to achieve the aim by whatever means is most suitable, preferably using the minimum force, wasn't always given as much weight as one might have hoped. The other two services tended to continue business as usual, perhaps applying a little more thought to the conundrum 'in which order do we destroy things?' In the Army, no one could really see what was so special about it. The Gunners had been knocking command posts around for as long as any one could remember, and eavesdropping on others' communications and doing our best to disrupt them wasn't exactly new. Besides which, the Royal Regiment was understandably blowed if it was going to let some damned Signaller, who couldn't see the target anyway, tell them how and where to shoot their guns. This aside, as a concept, it also lacked the subtlety that was essential if the principles were to be applied above the operational (two star for the sake of this argument) level of command. With the increasing national interest in computer security, in which the MOD was playing a significant part, it was time to tackle the problem in a different way.

It became apparent that it was the information being passed by, and stored within, the C2 system that would make a more worthwhile target. Indeed it could be construed that information was a dimension in its own right and within which operations could be conducted. Thus was born Information Operations. As with C2W, Information Operations (not Information Warfare - that was tried for a while but, remembering that we need to develop a concept which is equally applicable for the military, the government and UK plc, it was thought to be too far too aggressive) can be divided into several sub-disciplines. The overall doctrine is still very much in its infancy so we won't attempt to quote definitions here, however, it does split neatly into 'Offensive' and 'Defensive Information Operations'. Relating back to the components of C2W, the aspects of 'C2 Attack', namely ECM Jamming, Physical Destruction, PsyOps and a possible new activity called Computer Network Attack (authorised hacking to you and I - should they ever approve it!) all fit nicely into Offensive IO (OIO). To complete that side of the process, Information gained from all forms of ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance) provides the information generation aspect that hadn't really been included under C2W.

On the other hand, Defensive IO (DIO) includes all the old 'C2 Protect' and 'C2 Provide' functions and adds the newer capabilities of 'Computer Emergency Response Teams' (CERT) and Red Teams, who test our CIS security by trying to penetrate (hacking again!) our systems from the outside. The most important part of DIO is 'Information Assurance' (IA), which is often used as an alternative title to DIO. Like a well known brand of varnish, it 'means just what it says on the label'. IA is essentially the process of ensuring that the information arrives in the right place, in the right time, in the right, available, format, having come over robust, secure bearers. Something of a mouthful but, if you stop to think, there is very little which we would not class as 'good system engineering practice' and much which those of us who are involved in the provision of CIS circuits should be doing anyway. So there is one part of IO that we already know all about and whether we actually practice it as well as we should, we will leave to individual consciences! In the field, whilst we are all used to ensuring that a new location is free of the enemy we must now ensure that its electronically secure as well. Looking for spurious wiring and the like will be within the gift of most of us but any more than that and other aspects of IA are specialist. CERT, Red Teaming and the more sophisticated search techniques will require the highest level of expertise and will be at the cutting edge of computer technology. It will probably be the province of the TA where we can harness commercial, state of the art, experts.

The more discerning amongst you will have noticed that we have said very little on OIO. You will not be surprised to read that that was quite intentional; not because we wish to be coy but on the grounds that the doctrine has yet to be set out. What is certain, is that the components of C2W are alive and well and being practiced under the new name of IO at the operational level and below. When the doctrine becomes clearer you will be told.

(On a completely serious note for a moment IO is going to have a major effect upon all aspects of future operations. Everything that relies on the very existence of information, let alone its transmission, will have to exist within an all encompassing regime of IO. In particular, we in R SIGNALS will no longer be just the providers of data highways, or the engineers of speech circuits. However, we will have to become the experts in ALL aspects of data and information management from its generation through its fusion, transmission, manipulation and storage to its security. The rest of the Army (and probably the other services too) will be relying on us to take the lead).

In the meantime DON'T PANIC!

ROYAL SIGNALS INSPECTION TEAM HEADQUARTERS LAND COMMAND

PERSONALITIES

OC **Maj (TOT) Gig Plumb**
FofS **WO2 (FofS) Marston-Weston**

A NEW BEGINNING

With the arrival of a new OC and along with it a new regime it has been decided that it is about time the Wire included a few notes from RSIT. The team bid farewell to the outgoing OC RSIT, **Capt Marcus Sulivan** whose last inspection took the team to Kosovo for a seven day full board package including sun, duty frees and photo opportunities aplenty. Good luck and all the best to **Capt Marcus Sulivan** on his MSc at Blandford and a warm welcome to the new OC RSIT, **Maj Gig Plumb** and his family, who took over the fixtures and fittings (including **Sgt John** 'Victor Meldrew' **Payne**) before setting out on the September 2000 tour.

ON TOUR SEPTEMBER 2000

A busy programme for September saw RSIT visit 34 Sig Regt (V) in the sunny Northeast, 30 Sig Regt, Royal School of Signals and 1 (UK) ADSR. The trip to 34 Sigs was made worthwhile by **Sgt John Payne** sharing his wisdom stating, 'You don't realise how flat the North of England is until you get to the top of one of these hills.' Both 30 Sig Regt and RSS trips were spiced up with the culinary delights of Gurhka cuisine thanks to the excellent choices of **Sgt Suren Rai** and **Sgt Lal Gaha**. Whether or not **Sgt Paul Hughes** and **WO2 (FofS) Andy Marston-Weston** will ever enjoy the sense of taste again hangs in the balance having fought a close battle in the 'Let's see who can eat the most raw chillis' contest. By the time the team hit Herford a real partnership was beginning to form between the new OC and FofS, on the golf course that is, with the.OC amazed by **WO2 FofS Andy** 'Ronseal' **Marston-Weston's** ability to do exactly what it says on the course. Herford also saw the beginning of TOTy's hour for RSIT. Horse riding was the teams (OC's) choice for the first of many TOTy's hours. The noise of trotting horses was drowned out by the screams of, 'I'll get you back for this!' from **Sgt Tim Mayner** who plotted his revenge whilst clinging on for dear life. As September drew to a close, the RSIT team rode off into the sunset and landlords across the North of England and Herford counted their takings from **Maj Gig** 'Just one more" **Plumb** and his posse.

Top: Capt Sulivan, WO2 (FofS) Marston-Weston, Sgt Hughes, Sgt Mayner
On the ground: Sgt Payne

HEADQUARTERS 11 SIGNAL BRIGADE

Comd **Brig J. R. B. Cook**
COS **Maj R. P. Wilson**

HAIL & FAREWELL

The only changes from September to the end of the year are in the Ops Room. We bade farewell to **Maj Jim Foulkes** and **Claire** who have departed on resettlement prior to joining civi-street. Best wishes for your MSc and many thanks for all your work on the Balkans commercialisation project. **Maj Duncan Parkinson** has assumed the appointment of SO2 Ops, and happily will not be deployed to Theatre, but remain in the Headquarters and actually do some Operations work. We welcome back into the fold **Capts John Hiorns** and **Al Garrett** from their time in Bosnia/Kosovo. The Ops Room also welcomes **WO1 (YofS) Mark Whiting** (on promotion) and his wife **Maria** and **SSgt** 'Ray' **King**, who has arrived without his wife, but whom we are expecting to be posted to Donnington in December. **Maj (Tfc)** 'Dick' **Gamble** was promoted from Captain, which will hopefully give him sufficient money to buy the champagne. **WO1 (YofS)** 'Pierre' **Pardew** left us on promotion to Captain to the sunny climes of Corsham and DCSA. Best of luck **Graham** and many thanks for all that you have done for the Brigade.

PROJECT CORMORANT

WO2 (FofS) 'Band 7' **Stowell**, has recently remained uncharacteristically discrete as the bidding process for the TWACN project was nearing completion. The preferred bidder for Project Cormorant (TWACN) has been announced as NORTEL Networks. This now permits detailed discussion in order to finalise the award of contract, which is due to be signed in January 2001. The first batch of equipment will be delivered to 2 Sig Regt in mid January to allow trials and training. The aim is to have the first declared operational assets with 30 Sig Regt in January 2002. The first tranche is planned to be sufficient to support a small-scale deployment. The rollout programme is due for completion in November 2003, by which stage, hopefully, 2 and 30 Sig Regts will hold sufficient equipment to support two medium scale operations. The current focus for Project Cormorant is to put into place the training required for the conversion of the nominated units. This will include AS Op conversion for up to 400 soldiers in 2 and 30 Sig Regts plus underpinning knowledge to allow them to operate this 'state of the art' technology. Driver conversion training will also have to be undertaken in order to convert to the new BUCHER DURO vehicle. This is a major task, that 2 Sig Regt (as the introductory unit) is fully focussed upon. It is a very exciting time for the Brigade, with new equipment and the challenge of expeditionary operations. The future is bright – the future is 11 Signal Brigade.

BALKANS COMMERCIALISATION

Since the last update, the commercialisation efforts in both Bosnia and Kosovo have peaked with the acceptance into service of the projects, with the exception of the mobile capability (Project Dagger); this has been delayed due to a fundamental design review. Just to quickly refresh your memories, an outline of the projects follows:

BGs and other brigade locations with three networks:
- BLUE – which will provide KFOR SECRET voice/data communications between HQ MNB (C), BGs and other brigade locations. This is the bearer for the Op AGRICOLA Theatre Information System (OATIS).
- BLACK – which will provide UNCLASSIFIED voice communications between all major BRITFOR locations. It will provide access to DFTS, PTT and KFOR PN.
- RED – which will provide UK SECRET voice/data communications to HQ BRITFOR and the APOD.

POLYGON - This project was delivered in three tranches:
- Tranche 1 – Provides the UK Pristina BG and military emergency services, mobile radio communications system, to overcome limitations and poor coverage of Clansman within Pristina City.
- Tranche 2 – Extends the POLYGON solution MNB (C) AOR wide, to remove the requirement for R SIGNALS on hill top sites and manning unit rear links.
- Tranche 3 – The updating of the handsets delivered with Tranche 1.

Bosnia - MYRA – To provide trunk connectivity between HQ MND (SW), BGs and other divisional assets. It is to replace the EUROMUX network and will reduce the requirement to man hill top sites. There will be three networks:
- BLUE – which will provide SFOR SECRET voice/data communications between HQ MND (SW) and its BG locations. There is the capability to leave this system in place should another nation assume framework nation responsibilities.
- BLACK – which will provide UNCLASSIFIED voice communications between all major BRITFOR locations. It will provide access to DFTS, PTT and SFOR PN.
- RED – which will provide UK SECRET voice/data communications to BRITFOR locations.

DAGGER - SFOR SECRET communications to support the requirements of the deployed Div and BG Tac HQs – now to connect into MYRA BLUE. Div HQ requires 16 voice channels and 64 kbit/s data access into OLTIS, whilst BG HQs require a single voice and file-transfer capability.
CURCH - A simplex VHF voice communications system to support aviation safety throughout the AOR.
LATTICE – Resilient, insecure communications at Divisional level, in addition to the fixed infrastructure, to enable the rapid reporting of incidents.
LOGAN – Resilient NATO Confidential communications at Divisional level, in addition to the fixed infrastructure, to support the point to point requirements of MND (SW) Liaison Officers.

Key points at this time are:
- In MND (SW) the BRITFOR Sig Sqn handed over to the BRITFOR Sig Tp on 28 September 2000 thus reducing R SIGNALS commitment in Bosnia from approx 300 to 50. Work is ongoing with the new proposed MNB (C) Sig Sqn establishment; however, manpower savings should be approximately 40.
- In MNB (C) PTARMIGAN Light, closed on 21 November 2000 and the equipment was shipped back to units by sea on 8 December 2000.
- The requirement for deployable mobile comms for HQs (DAGGER) has been delayed due to a design review that will see the provision of leased Land Rovers with Civ SATCOM to Bosnia. Kosovo will receive the vehicle less the SATCOM element. The multiplexing equipment will also be housed in the leased vehicle (similar to news/media equipment). BAE SYSTEMS are aiming for January 2001 as an ISD for this element of the commercialisation programme.
- After a period of instability that led to a lack of user confidence in POLYGON, the system has regained ground in the eyes of the user in theatre and is acknowledged as providing a major improvement on CLANSMAN coverage. The system remains accredited for KFOR RESTRICTED but will not gain CONFIDENTIAL accreditation in its current form.
- ACPO completed installation of infrastructure cabling in Dec 00 in Kosovo and will do so by March 2001 in Bosnia. HQ LAND G6 have endorsed configuration control procedures with CPD Blandford to ensure the maintenance of the high standards of installation achieved over the last year.

The 11 Signal Brigade Commercialisation Implementation Team formally ceased to exist on 31 October 2000. This has come as a great relief to the SO2 Ops who can now task his long absent SO3, **Capt Al Garrett** with day to day brigade business. However, theatre G6 staff have not seen the last of **Capt John Hiorns,** who will continue to be involved with the delivery of Project DAGGER equipment to both theatres until the end of January 2001. The whole process of implementation has been a great success. Both Kosovo and Bosnia are now served with high grade, reliable, modern, commercial solutions delivering CIS that are a vast improvement on the systems previously deployed. This success would not have been possible without the tireless support provided to the projects over the last 12 months. Particular thanks are extended to three people and organisations: **Maj** 'Noddy ' **Baugh** of ACPO with his band of Telemechs, 600 Sig Tp who on more than one occasion deployed to both theatres with less than 24 hours notice, and finally **WO2 (FofS)** 'Mick' **Dighton** of CPD, who having seen his original concepts develop over the last two years, is busy catching up on resettlement for his future life as a civilian.

BRIGADE STUDY PERIOD

The annual 11 Sig Bde Study Period was held on 18-19 November 2000 at Donnington. The theme this year was 'Ends, Means and Ways'. The weekend started with a look at the 'Ends', or in other words Military Capability. **Capt Alex Fennell** and **Lt** 'Mogs' **Southern** gave excellent presentations from 30 Sig Regt on their experiences in East Timor and Sierra Leone. An informative briefing followed this, on the commercialisation of the Balkans by **Capt (TOT) John Hiorns**. The session was completed by a pictorial walkthrough of Op Waterfowl, by **WO2 (YofS)** 'Nat' **Jennings** from 2 Sig Regt. Op Waterfowl was the flood relief operation conducted in York and the surrounding area. After this whetting of the appetite (no pun intended) and some keen debate during questions, the programme moved onto the 'Means' section. The COS, **Maj** 'Wacko' **Wilson** updated the audience on the peculiarity of the OPCOM status of 11 Signal Brigade TA units, the difference in Readiness States between the Brigade TA units and the ARRC requirement and a number of training issues. The DCOS, **Maj Steve Hunt**, continued with a briefing on the recent TA Establishment Review and this was followed by an introduction to Cormorant by **Capt** 'Rus' **Lifton** from 2 Sig Regt. This section, not surprisingly, led to some heated debate prior to the lunch break. The remainder of the weekend was given over to the 'Ways', focusing in on the TA element of the Brigade. The audience was split into syndicates on Saturday afternoon to discuss a number of topics. These covered areas such as Mobilisation, Readiness States, Improving the TA and Regular Army interface and ways to motivate TA Class 2 tradesmen/women to attend Class 1 courses.

After an opportunity to change into Mess Kit, the Key Note Address on Creating a Mobilisation Culture was delivered by the Brigadier TA, **Brig John Thompson**. Following questions and an early impromptu performance by the pipes, the assembled masses of some 107 Regular and TA Officers and Warrant Officers followed the piper over to the Mess for dinner, which was magnificently organised by **Maj** 'Rab' **Young**.

For some, the next morning was a bit of a blur, particularly those that had only finished in the bar at 5:00am! Most resumed their seats, although some syndicates appeared a little thin on the ground. Brig TA was obviously impressed by the level of debate and was observed to ask for additional paper when he reached the end of his notebook.

The weekend was concluded by a joint presentation on the Corps After Next (CAN), by Col Force Development, **Col Dennis Mills** and Col TA, **Col Douglas McClay**, both of whom came up from HQ SoinC (A) to update us on the Corp's vision for the future. Overall, the weekend provided rich debate, sore heads and an increasing depth of understanding between the Regular and TA troops of the Brigade.

NEWS OF TRAINING

11 SIGNAL REGIMENT

11 SIGNAL REGIMENT
LIFE AS A PHASE TWO TRAINEE AT RSS, BLANDFORD
A TRAINEES' VIEW

The sleepy county of Dorset is host to the Phase 2 Training Centre for the Royal Corps of Signals, where the fresh new recruits are subject to the months of trade training that await them. Upon arrival at 11 Sig Regt recruits are shown the delights of Blandford Camp such as the Denbury Bowl, The Forum Cinema, and the fantastic cookhouse (which is somewhat better than back in basic training). They are then introduced to the Kohima Tp staff who will be their mother and father figures for the following weeks. Here they learn the basic signalling skills and how to keep their heads down and their boots highly polished. They are then sent to their respective Troops where they will learn their trade and the pride to have in their Troop. This pride makes the Harrogate Cup sporting competition very competitive. The chosen few (the Operators) soon find themselves at the Army School of Driving at Leconsfield before finally qualifying in trade to be able to wear the 'coveted Jimmy' stable belt. The Technicians who will have spent a year or more learning their trade will learn to drive in the driving school on camp and on completion of their driving they are promoted to Lance Corporals. From Blandford everyone goes onto their chosen units, where they become an asset to the Royal Corps of Signals.

GORDONS CUP 2000 - *by Sig Grounds & SigWorthington – 3 Sqn*

Remembrance weekend had arrived and with it the rain and the wind as promised. The 12 motivated 'volunteers' – all Phase 2 Trainees – met up with the other Troop teams for the briefing on the next 24 hours of activities. Each team was made up of 12 Signallers, including two reserves. Ulster Tp, 3 Sqn's team comprised of **Sig** 'Benny' **Bikal**, Sig 'Rodney' **Rudra**, **Sig** 'Paddy' **Padam**, **Sig Feldman**, **Sig Adamson**, **Sig Page**, **Sig Simpkins**, **Sig Finnie**, **Sig** 'Do we have to run?' **Worthington** and **Sig Grounds** (our illustrious leader) – standbys included **Sig** 'Davey' **Dipendra** and **Sig Whitehouse to** complete the line up. Never before had 3 (Harrogate) Sqn won this highly fought for Military Skills competition and this was going to be a real test. After a few refresher sessions led by **Sgt** 'Buck' **Rogers** and **Cpl** 'Wedgy' **Wedge**, confidence levels were high and the possibility of sneaking the title from the Combat Trade Squadron was looking like it could become a reality.

After a non-tactical night in the woods to the rear of the Military Training Wing, (certainly the earliest Friday night in bed since arriving at Blandford for all taking part) the event got underway. As the teams laid their kit out for inspection the heavens opened and the tone was set for the remainder of the day. The torrential downpour ensured the teams knew they were in for a physically and mentally demanding competition over the next six hours.

The kit inspection signalled the start of the event and by 0900hrs the teams had gone their separate ways and were now facing the first of the six stands. The teams moved around the course, spending 50 minutes at each stand before moving on to face the next test of military skills and to examine the team spirit that existed amongst the now very wet volunteers. The rain continued to fall all day as the teams progressed undertaking activities in Military/Civil Knowledge, Endurance, Shooting (5.56mm rifle and 12 Bore Shot Gun), Map reading (practical & theory), Leadership (command task) and the SAT Range (various scenarios). These stands had been purposely spaced around Blandford Camp and each team was armed with a map highlighting the route that was to be followed. Extra points could be picked up for the time taken to move between stands.

The competition was drawing to a close and all the teams made their way to the deciding event, the assault course. Cold, tired, wet and both physically and mentally drained, the captains tried their best to motivate their troops for one last push. After a quick check on the points Ulster Tp realised their chance of picking up the trophy for winning section was now a real possibility. A good team effort was required as they took on Beaufighter Tp (2 Sqn) watched by several hundred cheering supporters. Ulster Tp succeeded in finishing their heat first but along with the remaining teams were given a lesson on how to negotiate the course by Lightning Tp (3 Sqn) who put together an almost flawless performance demonstrating the sheer effectiveness of true team spirit.

Lt Col Nicholson, CO, 11 Sig Regt was there to make the presentation and preceded the prize giving with a few words of congratulations at the effort put in by organisers and volunteers in such dreadful storm conditions. The announcement was made and the cheers rang out as Ulster Tp were announced the 'Winning Section' of the 'Gordons Cup Military Skills Competition 2000.' The consistent performance by Lightning Tp also ensured that 3 Sqn had achieved their aim and could now celebrate as overall winners of the Gordons Cup. The competition was outstanding and proved highly successful. The victory was a great reward for all the team's efforts.

CHILDREN IN NEED 17 NOVEMBER 2000 - *by SSgt D. J. Smith*
1 SQUADRON, 11 SIGNAL REGIMENT – CAR WASH

Unusually, it was a quiet week in Blandford after the previous few weeks of activities such as the drill competition, Gordon's Cup military skills competition and Remembrance Parade. Suddenly it dawned on me that something was wrong. Arrrgh!!!!!!! Children in Need! 'That's an idea', I thought. A deviously simple plan came to mind. Ask everyone who parks on Anson Square Car Park for one pound and we'll wash their car, simple. Appeal to people's better nature and they'll donate money to charity. Who was I trying to kid? By the time most people reached the car park they claimed to have donated so much money to charities recently that a second mortgage was required. A change of tactics was in order so with scenes reminiscent of the cold war, 1 Sqn set up 'Checkpoint Pudsey'. Mission:

1) Stop the car as it goes in, try to receive a donation.
2) Enquire extremely politely if the owner would be prepared to abandon his car close to 12 cold soldiers who were trying to do their charitable duty.
3) Give the impression that the vehicle might mysteriously suffer a few flat tyres or get covered in dirty washing water if driver uncooperative.

Check-Point Pudsey manned by
Cpl Sheridan, Sig Foster, Sig Gibson, Sig Burchell

Needless to say the day went extremely well. That is until a pristine metallic blue BMW appeared. Nice car, I thought, obviously someone's pride and joy. Needs a little more work, however, to get it just right. Enter the RSM. 'Hello Sir,' I said. 'Staff, why is my car dirtier now than when I gave it to the lad's?' 'Your car sir?' I said looking for a hole to dive in, 'Yes Staff, MY car.' Fortunately the RSM took it very well despite nearly having a heart attack. The next thing that brightened up the day was the sight of the OC 1 Sqn, **Maj J. Howes** of the Royal Canadian Signals, washing my car saying, 'Staff, are you sure this is a British tradition?' Without missing a beat I said 'Yes Sir.' Smartly getting out of the way before someone told the OC the truth. The day went exceptionally well with the Squadron raising £231.93 for the Children in Need appeal. Thanks must go to everyone who donated and to all those people without whose help this would not have been possible.

'Sir you've missed a spot!'

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BLANDFORD CAMP BIDS A FINAL FAREWELL TO YET ANOTHER OF ITS LANDMARKS

by SSgt Oldcroft (Garrison SQMS),
and the last soldier ever to enter those dark walls

We know you're in there!

As the search for the final occupant of Anson Towers continued it was reported that no brick would be left unturned until the final soldier was found. It seems that every soldier within the Corps who had ever had the misfortune to live within its dark and damp walls, would rejoice in the knowledge that it was, at last, on its way down. Although the last ever occupant may never be known, whoever ot was must be happy in the knowledge that he will never have the misfortune of returning and will complete his training in the luxury of one of the new buildings. Known as 'Castle Grey Skull', it was the last of the old style accommodation blocks left within the Garrison. Its demolition started on 13 November 2000 and the final wall fell ten days later. As is the way within Blandford Camp the valued real estate left by its demolition will soon be replaced by the final part of the new build, the completion date is to be sometime in May 2001.

IRON TROOP, 2 SQUADRON - INITIATIVE AND SURVIVAL

Fourteen members of Iron Tp had their initiative and survivability tested on a recent 72 hour exercise. They were equipped with painters overalls and lace-less boots and dropped off in teams of two at various towns throughout the South of England.

Tasks that they had to complete included:
Meet Mayor,MP, or Famous Person
Get on local radio
Sit in a Porsche
Sing Kareoke in public
Overnight in a posh hotel
Be pictured with a local sports team
Milk a cow/goat
Attend a wedding
Get your fingerprints taken
Handcuff a policeman
Hit a ball on the 18th
All teams had to meet at ENDEX on the Isle of Wight
The exercise was aimed at raising money for the RNLI

Holby City? You told us Bristol!

Throughout the Exercise the teams met with surprisingly helpful and supportive people. Highlights included the policeman who was an ex Guardsman-total co-operation, appearing on Millennium FM Radio and being offered flights to Southampton, and joining the cast of TVs Casualty on location. A total of approximately £2000 was raised for the RNLI.

Gary and Gareth tie the knot!

PIPES & DRUMS TRAINING/ BLANDFORD CAMP

by (Pipe Major) LCpl Paul Tweedley

The Royal Corps of Signals Pipes and Drums are administered and managed by 32 Sig Regt (V) from RHQ in Glasgow. During recent years the popularity of the Band and requests for pipers to play at dinner nights has grown dramatically. The only drawback the band has, is that unlike other army bands, it is not centralised, and its playing members are located at different units throughout the world.

Piping and drumming as a hobby at Blandford Camp is still very much on going. Since last summer however, the number of attending trainees has depleted slightly, with a lot of the pipers posted. The aim of myself and **Cpl** 'Scotty' **Thomas** (lead drummer) at Blandford, is to produce competent pipers and drummers, so by the time they reach their field regiments they have a basic understanding of playing bagpipes and drums. The students also have the opportunity to attend Royal Signals Piping and Drumming training weekends, held approximately once every eight weeks in various locations. **Sigs Slowey** (Lightning Tp) and **Wardrop** (Iron Tp) have made such good progress in the last year, that they are both now playing very competently on the bagpipe. **Sig Slowey** has recently moved on to 39 Inf Bde, N.I. **Sig Wardrop** will be assisting piping the boxers to the ring on the evening of the finals 6 December in front of the whole Regiment and the SOinC(A). **Sig** 'John' **Mackenzie** (Ulster Tp) has improved so much on the side drum, that he is now becoming involved with performing at Mess Dinner Nights, having played recently as part of a (mini band) at the dining out of the CO, 33 Sig Regt (V).

Practice evenings at Blandford are held every Wednesday from 1900hrs to 2100hrs in the Whernside Hobbies Centre. We are always on the look out for new talent to come and join us no matter what standard. So next time you are in Blandford come and give it a try!

5 DIVISION WOMEN'S INTER-UNIT COMPETITION
8 NOVEMBER 2000

11 Sig Regt entered a team in the competition after **SSgt Graham** did some wheeling and dealing with various course instructors so that the Phase 2 Trainees could be released from trade. Everyone turned up on a cold but sunny day at the Blandford Astro Pitch, where the order of play was decided.

11 Sig Regt drew the short straw by having to play the current Army Cup Champions, 3 Div, first. As expected, we were beaten rather easily. This was partly due to the team being unable to get together to practice, and also because 3 Div were able to field a side full of Corps and Army level players. Despite this, our team got stronger as the match progressed and players started to get together. Our second match was against HQ LAND. The performance of our team was much better with stirling performances from players such as **Sig Ingledew, Pawson,** and **Townsend.** The winning goal was scored eventually and this set us up for the second places play-off against 14 Sig Regt (EW).

This final match was hard fought but we kept our shape and produced most of the attacking play. **Sig Whitehouse**, in goal, foiled the few attacks from the opposition and **Sig Walker** put in a huge effort in mid-field despite carrying an injury. We managed to score three goals to clinch the second spot to 3 Div and qualify for the Army Inter Unit Finals, which will be held in Aldershot on 3-4 April 2001.

The Team

HARROGATE CUP - DRILL COMPETITION

With 3 Sqn winning the drill competition last year, the pressure was on to repeat last year's success. We started practising early with the help of SSM (**WO2 Tasker**) and **LCpl Murphy** (REME re-trader). We had the routine well rehearsed and before long we could complete all rifle drill movements on just the one word of command. The squad agreed that **Sig Siddall** would be our squad commander due to his previous experience and rather booming voice. On the last practice session, the squad reduced from the original 30 to the 24 who would be going onto the square on the day.

When the big day came, we had to be up early and we could see that the weather was not going to be to our advantage. It was storm conditions. The rain was gusting across the square horizontally and the wind was so strong, people were frequently losing their hats. With most of the team having taken part in the RSA drill parade, we considered ourselves expert at preparing our No.2 dress. The inspection was thorough and went well. After an excellent performance on the square and a lot of hard work in extremely difficult conditions, we sadly only managed second place, beaten by 2 Sqn fielding predominantly a team of Ghurka's with more drill experience.

Later that day, the Squadron Gordons Cup team success made up for our disappointment with an excellent win overall. In traditional Army form, the team celebrated with a few beers at the end of what was a very challenging day.

INTER-SQN-BOXING-COMPETITION - *by Sig S. J. Whitehouse*

It was way back in September when it all began for the members of 3 Sqn Boxing Squad. December and 'Finals Night' seemed a long way off and the fitness regime bestowed upon us by our SSM, **WO2 Tasker**, was enough to put anyone off ever contemplating a career in boxing. However, those soldiers with the 'right stuff' stayed the distance and endured the gruelling outdoor circuits, sprints up 'cardiac hill' and so called 'gentle jogs' of between two and five miles. The training took place twice a day, every day come rain, wind or shine - it was mostly rain! The sessions were run by **LCpls** 'Barney' **Barnet** and **Neil** 'Catch Up' **Trimble**. Needless to say as time passed and training increased numbers dwindled and dropped from approximately 85 down to a determined team of 30 men and 4 women. In the few weeks remaining before the Pre-lims the emphasis of training switched from fitness to techniques to enable us to go the distance armed with the correct boxing essentials to win our bouts. Under the watchful eye of **WO2 Tasker,** and the Training Team for the Squad: **Sgt Dearden, Sigs Burgoine, Teese** and **Hanlon**, we were well prepared and ready for action.

The weigh-in at 06:00hrs on the morning of the competition provided light entertainment as people were either stripping off and running around the gym or being force fed at breakfast to make the weight categories. Later that day after laughing at each others protective equipment and trying out the 'one-size-fits-all' kit the atmosphere became tense as the realisation hit home that we would soon be entering the ring. All the squadrons would be in attendance and the only way to get out was to box. As it turned out there was little to be afraid of, as the months of training had paid off with 1 Pre-Lim Win and 8 Semi-Finalists going through. In the Ladies Individual Exhibition bouts 3 Sqn had mixed success with 1 win, 1 loss, and 1 to go on Finals Night. **WSig** 'Shazza' **Whitehouse**, on her last sporting competition at 11 Sig Regt before leaving to join the AGC(RMP), won her bout against **WSig Long** of 1 Sqn. Unfortunately, despite a tremendous effort **WSig Cave** lost to **WSig Bird** of 2 Sqn. However, the best of the ladies bouts was still to come.

The following day preparations and rehearsals were carried out and the QMSI, **WO2 Whittaker** and his team briefed us all on what was expected and the 'finer points' of sporting etiquette for 'Traditional Army Boxing'. There was to be no Prince Nazeem or Rocky style antics on Finals Night. The scene was set and we were ready to take boxing by storm and put on what can only be described as fantastic entertainment. Each boxer was piped into the ring to much applause by the hundreds of spectators. Silence fell as the RSM, **WO1 Kemp** announced the contenders and the referee checked that all protective equipment was in place. As the bell rang the crowd roared and supported their relevant boxers. Each bout was fought with tremendous spirit and courage and this was reflected in the final results. Three fights deserve special mention:

Sig 'Jimmy' Cowan had a cracking bout beating **Sig Burns** of 2 Sqn and collecting the prize for Best Boxer.

Sig Gill unfortunately lost to **Sig Howarth** of 1 Sqn but was commended by the referee on what was a brilliantly fought bout and collected the prize for Best Runner Up.

WSig Sarah O'Reilly had a fantastic battle beating **WSig** 'Scouse' **Roberts** of 2 Sqn in just two rounds.

The overall results meant that 3 Sqn won the boxing competition and collected the trophy from the Garrison Commander, **Col Eubank**. This combined with the other events run throughout the year ensured that 3 Sqn collected the Harrogate Cup that was presented by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Nicholson**. After all the formalities the boxers were invited to a well-earned and well-deserved evening out at the Sgts' Mess. I only hope I get to do it all again sometime as it was the best sporting event I have had the pleasure to take part in. Well done and thanks to all those concerned.

263 (HARROGATE) SIGNAL SQUADRON ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE

Sqn Comd **Maj Mel Rayner**
SSM **SSgt Les North**

There are several 'goodbyes' since the last issue of *The WIRE*. **Maj Steve France** is now riding horses somewhere in London as SO2 Comms London District and **WO2 (SSM) Adam Yafai** is resettling having decided to leave the army. A warm welcome to **Maj Mel Rayner** who hasn't stopped since she arrived and thanks to **SSgt Les North** for jumping into the shoes of the SSM at short notice.

SCOTT TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Adam Shakespeare**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Amanda Korchel**

EXERCISE MILK TEETH - *by AT Kemp*

Many people were looking forward to their first exercise, Ex Milk Teeth. That was until they saw the packing list; there was no way that it was all going to fit into the bergen, but with some gentle persuasion it all went in, just! We left at 0730hrs with the weather wet and grey, this made

the NCOs very happy, but it had the opposite affect on the apprentices (ATs). When we arrived at the training area, the weather was getting better; even the sun was making the occasional appearance in-between the rain showers.

The first few hours involved learning the fundamental aspects of living in the field, camouflage, cooking, hygiene and making a shelter. The ATs were given their first introduction to the gourmet delights of 24-hour ration packs, tasty! In the afternoon we were taken on a little walk up and down some hills in the pouring rain to take part in a map reading exercise. After a night vision demonstration we all went back to the harbour and started the most enjoyable part of any exercise, stag. After the basic admin of a morning in the field, we moved to another location for our second and final night. After setting up the harbour area and trying our hand at shell scrapes, we had a lesson on sentry duties, which we put into practice in the night hours. By now it was the end of the day, and it was back to our favourite night-time activity, stag.

After an interrupted night's sleep we had a kit inspection, which did not go too well! There was no time for a rest as we started learning and practice patrolling. After a short break, which involved a lesson with the Padre, we tabbed to another location to learn fire and movement. During fire and movement there is no time to worry about what you are lying in or crawling into, but we certainly noticed what it was later on. That was the final part of the exercise and we headed back to camp and back to huge amounts of washing and cleaning which needed to be done before our next inspection. Only a few weeks to go before the junior terms first leave, and following that, the Test-Exercise Dragon's Teeth.

RAWSON TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Kate Yardley** AGC (ETS)
Tp Sgt **Sgt Colin Gaul**

DRAGONS TEETH - *by AT Robertson*

We awoke on Thursday morning with anticipation but dread boiled up after seeing the bergens packed and strapped roll mats worn out from previous physical labours. Rawson Tp, 263 Sig Sqn ventured into the wilderness. As we stepped off the bus on Hankley Common the chilling wind froze our morale and chilled our bones. Applying cam cream and donning our bergens we tabbed to our harbour area and brewed up. Frostbite began to set in as we awoke to stand-to and the daily routine began. A sudden crack shook the woods as a ND echoed around us, shortly followed by the roar of an angry Troop Sergeant. Our ears were still ringing as we departed for the first of many tests. Cam and concealment showed that some just can't help but be noticed. Next was judging distance, no rulers allowed. Observation came and it started to rain.

Queuing up to be hosed down after a mud sliding session in PT

As the rain poured down it was going to be another night in the wet but shooting the QMSI raised our spirits. RTR (Return fire, take cover, return appropriate fire) in the rain again, the field was like a bog but we still managed a smile then the aggression came as we shouted and screamed and destroyed the Fig 12's. Then home we thought, until we got back to the bashers to discover rations for another night in the freezing forest of death and despair. Night Patrol came. We were tabbing in the dark tripping over logs and nearly drowning in streams then a crawl in the dark to sneak up on Ma'am who was drinking a warm brew and wrapped in warm clothes then back to our stag under a windswept poncho before a bad night's sleep.

'Bug out!' The cry screamed by Ma'am as thunder flashes exploded and we doubled to the ERV where the admin test awaited us. **Cpl Barker** checked our equipment and had a good laugh at the state of some of our rifles. Then back to the coaches leaving the dragon toothless.

PENNEY TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt** 'Pierre' **Farrimond**
Tp Sgt **Sgt** 'Digger' **Gardiner** RGBW

Life is improving for Penney Tp as they begin to smell the fresh Dorset air of Blandford. For the staff, **Cpl Wheeler** of the Light Infantry has just returned from being a Second Lieutenant instructing in Saudi Arabia and **Cpl Smith** of the Green Howards has decided to become a Technician and so has departed to Blandford. He takes our best wishes as does **AT Duke** who recently became engaged.

The 38 strong Troop is currently away in Wales on a field firing exercise. It is a good escape from the classroom and barracks. There are now four AT Lance Corporals who are daily practising their leadership skills in camp. The rest of the Troop are giving the AT Lance Corporals a hard time as well as sharpening their skills. Everyone has just finished their final military exercise which the whole Troop attended. To have a zero LOB list is rare. Everyone took their turn to be Section/Patrol Commanders with over half the ATs giving sets of orders. The standard was wide but everyone developed and learnt the lessons. The major effect of the permanent staff standing back is the ATs have to navigate on exercise rather than just follow and wish it were not raining. Hence nearly everyone saw more of Salisbury Plain than they needed to. However, Penney Tp performed better in every facet than the RLC, RE and REME Troops. We were swift but not always sure, yet!

11 November saw the Troop visiting London on an initiative exercise. It coincided with Armistice Day so after a visit to the National Army Museum the Troop conducted an Act of Remembrance at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. **AT Dawes** read a poem and **AT LCpl Maxwell** said a prayer while **AT LCpl Binner** laid a wreath.

AT LCpl Binner lays a wreath at the Royal Hospital Chelsea

The Troop then set off to complete as many of the 50 tasks within six hours as possible. Beefeaters shoes were cleaned, hotel beds were changed, Fireman's poles were slid down, Police cells were cleaned, Air Hostesses bags were carried and one group even sat in a helicopter but could not fly because of the weather (good preparation for their future careers).

At LCpl Maxwell and Ats Hudd, Duke and McCandless avoiding the floods

The tales could go on but the photos will dot the walls of Blandford soon. The day finished with a meal in a restaurant and plenty of singing on the coach home after only consuming soft drinks. Who says you need alcohol although they maybe tempted at Blandford. Christmas decorations are now up and Pass Off Parade rehearsals are now the bulk of the programme. So by the time you read this the PS will have moved and the Troop will have been posted on to Blandford with **AT Eastwood** off to sunny Catterick to join 2 R Anglian.

AT Prest about to go caving - it is voluntary!

Some of the Penney Professionals on their final exercise - Exercise Janners Joy

NEWS FROM THE BALKANS

MULTINATIONAL DIVISION (SOUTH WEST) AND BRITISH FORCES SIGNAL SQUADRON (204) OPERATION PALATINE

Sqn Comd **Maj G. R. Norton**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. W. Craig**

THE RATS ARE ON THEIR WAY BACK

As the unit approached its hand-over to the Dutch Signals Battalion the Squadron said a final farewell to **Maj Adrian Campbell-Black**. He took his final trip in a AFV 432 out of the Banja Luka Metal Factory's gate on his way to a well deserved break prior to his new posting at 1 Sig Bde.

Maj Campbell-Black taking his final salute from the unit

Now that the Dutch have taken over the bulk of the unit's responsibilities the tear down of the equipment began in earnest. The first task was to consolidate and back-load all our equipment with the help of our volunteers from 11 Sig Bde. The old Signal Regiment lines had to be moved around and then cleaned up to enable the BRITFOR Signal Troop to have a new and fresh start.

No lack of enthusiasm as the lads tear down the unit lines to make way for the Signal Troop

11 Signal Brigade volunteers muck-in on a final clean up

Once the back-loading and cleanup was complete both up on the Hill Top Sites(HTS) and down in the Metal Factory, there was just the long wait for the Dutch to clear HTS at Sjenokosic. Finally they did and our lads could go to work on the last site to be cleared. Not a easy task but with only three days before the main body was due to fly back the troops did themselves proud and cleared it in only two days with a day to spare.

The last two power units leave Sjenokosic, assisted by the RAF

The lads look on as the Chinook lifts the last load down the mountain
(L-R): Sig Cooke, Sig Evans, Cpl Allan, Sig Cole, Cpl Taylor, Sig Phillips (7 Sig Regt)

OPERATION PALATINE
KNOCKOUT FOOTBALL COMPETITION

On the 10-11 August 2000 BRITFOR Sig Sqn entered a team in the group stages of the Op Palatine BLMF 5-a-side Football Competition. The competition consisted of two groups of four teams, the Signal Squadron's group consisted of B Squadron Light Dragoons, NLT and Myra Techs.

The Sig Sqn played NLT in the first game winning 4-3, the next game was an easy7-1 against the Myra Techs and the final game in the group was a hard fought victory over B Squadron taking us forward into the semi-final. In the semi-finals we took on and beat the runners up from Group Two, HQ BRITFOR 2-1 earning us a place in the final and a chance to move onto the theatre wide competition. The final started with the Signal Squadron taking an early lead but after six mins the BLMF had a power cut and the game was abandoned. It was played again the following night when B Squadron ran out comfortable winners 7-4, although both teams progressed to the Op Palatine final held on Sunday 20 August 2000.

The Signal Squadron was drawn to play in Group B alongside the CSS Bn and the UK Arty Bty. The Signal Squadron lost the first game to the CSS Bn 3-0 and won their second game against the Arty Bty 7-1 and progressed onto the semi-finals beating the UK Battlegroup LAD 4-2 earning a chance to move to the final. The final was a rerun of one of the earlier games and one that the Signal Squadron had lost, so they where determined to seek revenge. A hard fought game with the Signal Squadron beating the CSS Bn 5-2 to become the Op Palatine football champions for 2000.

DON'T BE DISSAPPOINTED, COPY FOR THE APRIL ISSUE MUST REACH THIS OFFICE BY 15 FEBRUARY 2001

Operation Palatine 4 Knockout Football Champions
Back Row (L-R): LCpl John marlborough, Cpl Guy Keyworth, Sgt Steve Tressider, Sgt 'Mo' Pay, LCpl Yates
Front Row (L-R): LCpl Glen Moffat, SSgt Gavin Wood (RLC), SSgt 'Ollie' Oliver, Sgt 'Scholly' Martwich (Manager), WO2 (RQMS) 'Daz' Day (MIA)

Sgt 'Scholly' Martwich recieving the trophy from D Comd BRITFOR, Col Hall (late RLC)

OSCAR TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Paul McTurk**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Olly' **Oliver**

After many years, the hill top sites are finally unmanned in Bosnia. The last of the crews packed up and returned to the Metal Factory on 12 September 2000. Quite amazingly, everything went to plan, in fact almost too well. The Vitorog crew misunderstood a message to pack up quickly so that we could all go home and the packing, which we estimated would take a week, took them only eight hours! Unfortunately, they could not leave the mountain for another week so they had to resort to entertaining themselves with a chess set and a box of compo. Also in good 4 Bde fashion they nearly burnt down the rebro when a brush fire went out of control. That's three years in a row that the Squadron has had a serious fire to deal with! Gola P missed the close down instruction altogether and very reluctantly packed up at the last minute.

LCpl 'Old man' **Charlie Forsyth** was almost in tears as we drove away from his hilltop and back to the real world. Radaljica simply handed over to the infantry battle-group but Lisina West, who were the last to close, had to strip and remove all their Co-ri-mecs and ISO containers which took several days. Loads of dramas were had due to a few minor accidents (thanks to **Sig** '(Driving skill of a jelly fish) Dinger' **Bell**) and loads of drama as some over inquisitive locals pre-recce'd the site for what remains could be scavenged. All of the rear link detachments closed without any serious problems and it is with great relief that we have now handed over to the more-than-capable Dutch 108 Signal Support Battalion and the HQ BRITFOR Signal Troop. The Troop is now back in barracks tidying up some loose ends before a well-earned post-tour leave. Luckily, and surprisingly to some, the rear party had not just been 'hanging around' but under the guidance of **Capt** 'Just have it' **Buck** much of the armour seems to have been quite well looked after.

Unfortunately we must say good bye to **LCpl Glen Hislop** who is posted to 7 Sig Regt and **Sig Chris Burke** who goes to 3 Div. Best of luck to both of you. Also welcome to the troop to **Sgt Steve Tressider** and family, now you will see what we have to contend with from puzzle palace. Welcome also to **Sig McCutcheon** straight from the factory good luck. Finally many thanks to the augmentees from 7 Sig Regt, we couldn't have done it without you.

PAPA TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt M. P. Parke**
Tp SSgt **SSgt P. V. Davis**

PAPA TROOP- THE STORY SO FAR.....

by Sig 'Lucy' Corlett

September was a busy month for Papa Tp and included an Exercise, the draw down and the hand-over to the Dutch. Exercise Strong Guardian III included most of the Troop deploying to Glamoc Ranges to provide the divisional tactical headquarters with the Dutch providing the admin support and the Dutch Union making sure each Dutch soldier had six hours rest before doing anything. Only one problem occurred on the Exercise which was one Czech watch keeper being asked to leave the radio, after spending 15 minutes trying and failing to answer or understand a radio check. The Exercise went extremely well with everyone impressed yet again by the Brits.

The draw down of the Troop actually went to plan with **LCpl** 'Tommo' **Thomas** actually managing to back-load all the stores from Tommy Tuckers. **Sig Dan** 'Donald' **Tooke** managed to escape the Troop for a 'learning experience' on the Vitorog where he got evacuated due to a grass fire spreading up the mountain. **Sig Sean** 'I'm never organising anything again' **Brierely** sorted out an excellent Troop function where everybody enjoyed themselves immensely. All went smoothly apart from a small food fight that broke out right in front of the brand new Sqn Comd, **Maj Norton** (welcome to 204). Well it was an interesting tour and it's a shame that the Troop has broken up with 7 Sig Regt returning to Krefeld – cheers for putting up with us and thanks for all your hard work. So, now we are back in Germany and it is all go here. **Cpl** 'Chuck' **Henson** is sorting out the stores and getting the Troop turned around ready for next year. Everyone is working hard to get the armour put back into use and with lots of maintenance to be done it is no small task. With a new training year rapidly approaching though it is a necessary one.

Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Scott' **Rose** and wife **Kelly** on the arrival of their new baby girl. **SSgt** 'Drill Pig' **Davis** showed off his fancy footwork on the RSM's parade; guess who is buying the beer Staff? Get well soon to **Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robertson** who slipped a disk on the toilet, who knows what he was doing in there. A big 'hello' also to **LCpl** 'Neil' **McElhinney** who the Troop has left back out in Bosnia, missing you lots! Welcomes go to **Sigs** 'Chip Pan John' **Ritchie** and 'Nikki' **Earl** who have joined us from Oscar Tp. **Sig Masters** has just arrived from 3 Div, hope that you all enjoy your time in Papa Tp! We have a fair amount of people to say goodbye to as well. Firstly **LCpl** 'I am the Messiah' **Yates**, who has gone to Oscar Tp, what a swap! **Sig** 'Jimmy' **Findlay** is off to Ireland to 8 Infantry Brigade and **LCpl** 'Tim' **Stanton** is off to my old Troop in 212, 1 ADSR, enjoy! **Sid** 'Fruit Bat' **Wright** is shortly going on the White Helmets selection; we all think that he will be right at home there so good luck!

Finally, we would like to say farewell and good luck to **Sgt 'Maurice' Pay** on his posting back to 249, and also a special thank you goes to the Gurkhas of the 30 Sig Regt det that did such an excellent job for us in Zgon.

SSAFA BIG BREW UP - 21 SEPTEMBER 2000

The families and Friends Club of 4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn(204) took part in the SSAFA Big Brew Up on 21 Sep 00. Husbands, wives, friends and not forgetting the living in lads, got together for a cuppa or two and a slice of cake. Although the majority of the Sig Sqn was soaking up the sun in Bosnia, 39 lads and lasses turned out to support the event. A big thanks for all that supported this worthy cause and to **Mrs Amanda Norton** who, with a little pressure from her mum, organised the event.

The Big Brew-Up
(L-R): LCpl 'Smudge' Smith, LCpl Dinsdale, Sigs Ashmore, Brierley and Amanda Norton (The Organiser)

SUPPORT TROOP

QM **Capt Pete McElwee**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul Buckley**

With the tour of Bosnia and the comforts of the Banja Luka Metal Factory behind us, it is now time for Support Tp to find their feet again. During the past four months we have said farewell and hello to new members of the Troop. **SSgt Gaz Allcock** who seems to enjoy the nightlife of Osnabruck moved from the Duke of Wellingtons to the Squadron to take control of the LAD. The remaining members of Support Tp from **SSgt Chris Kimber** who yet again moved far, **Chris** we hope that you enjoy your time at 4 Regt RA and congratulations on the promotion, PS can I have my bike back sometime before March. **SSgt Gaz Allcock** and **Sgt Mick Pryce** have been busy ensuring that the out of use programme for the vehicles was well under way before the advance party arrived back in Osnabruck . The main party left the Banja Luka Metal Factory looking forward to their long weekend with their families before the hussle and bussle of normal day to day work that we in the Squadron left some four months. The rear-party returned to the Squadron some ten days after the main party had arrived back. Rumour has it that the reason for the delay in the flight has some thing to do with the QM and his staff wanting to see the Scotland game in Zagreb and not that their was a problem with the aircraft.

A happy smiling Papa Troop having handed their Mobile Troop responsibilities over to the Dutch

Sig Smith recieving the driver of the month award from Maj Gen Brims

Maj Gen R. Brims visits the BRITFOR Signal Squadron just before the handover to the BRITFOR Signal Troop
Maj Norton's first visit (No pressure)

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

During the past four months there have been a lot of changes within the Squadron, and I apologise if there is any one that I may have left out. Welcome to **Sgt** 'Sholly' **Martwich, Cpl Chris Heap, LCpl Godfrey, LCpl O'Donovan, Sig** 'I have been in the Army before' **Daniell** and **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith.** Welcome to you and your families and we hope that you have a great time here with the Squadron. Welcome to **LCpl Lee Peacock** who has no realised that there is more to life than working in the Comms garages.

The Troop would like to say farewell to the following people and their families: **Sgt** 'Spike' **Hughes, Cpl Stu** 'I am REME and you will never get my name in The WIRE' **Mulholland, LCpl Col Forster, LCpl** 'Trucker' **Taylor, Cpl** 'Bry' **Brown, Sig Jody Davis, Cpl Col Teale, Sig Billy Conley** and **Sig Ian Custy.**

NOT FORGOTTEN

The following die-hards have ALL agreed to stay in Bosnia until December and they are **SSgt Gavin Wood, Sig Armstrong** and **Sig Murphy.** We hope that every thing is going well and give us a ring if you need any thing. **Woody** the Memos are on the way.

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

XV HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND AND 15 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col M. P. Llewellyn**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) A. Balsdon**

EXERCISE ALDERMORE FINN 1 - *by Sig Moore*

The Regimental PORT package took place at Magilligan Training Centre on the 1–5 November 2000. We deployed with very little knowledge on what was to lie ahead for us; all we knew was that the RSM **(WO1 Balsdon)** was running the show. So some with dread and some with high expectations we deployed. The whole exercise took place out of a simulated patrol base. We were split into three Sections, and from the very start we were on a constant 4-hour rotation consisting of Patrolling, Guard or QRF. We even had a couple of Snatch vehicles to add to the realism. After a night of very little sleep (especially for 2 Section, who got lost out on patrol!) we proceeded to the ranges to practice live firing, pair's fire and maneuver on the IBSR range. After many more patrols and interesting lessons given by R IRISH instructors on VCP's, Rummages, and many more Province operations, we had an attempt at the pistol CQB range. The scenario involved delivering Crypto and Comms equipment whilst driving through a hostile area. Our driver, **SSgt Gratrick**, with some rather fine acting, decided that our car had broken down and we had to deliver the Crypto and Equipment by hand, very suspect! After coming under attack we had to fire and maneuver to a safe area. Using the drills previously taught which was pair's fire and maneuver, we managed to put 40 rounds and 2 smoke grenades down to achieve our 'tactical' withdrawal. We then proceeded back to the patrol base for more festivities courtesy of the training team. ENDEX was celebrated with some live grenade training that certainly made a few eyes light up, mine included! **Sig Nevens** and I have come to the conclusion that grenades are definitely the way forward, especially as you've got nothing to clean after you've thrown them!

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross-country got off to a flying start with both the male and female teams putting in a good show. The first race of the season was the Northern Ireland relay cross-country championships, which was held in Ballykelly. Apart from the wind this proved to be an easy course with the male team coming second and the female team coming third. The second race of the season was held at Hillsborough and organized by Lisburn Station, which resulted in the male team coming first, and the female team came joint third. The third race came back with the team positions being exactly the same. There has been one more race which brings us up to date so far and that was hosted by 8 Royal Irish at Gosford Castle on Wed 15 November 2000. The course was run over an undulating forest track, 5.8 miles for the men and 3.4 miles for the females and consisted of a total of 149 runners, 34 of which were female. This resulted in a change in the overall position for the female team, which are now sixth, but the male team is still storming ahead in first place…more success to follow.

ROYAL SIGNALS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 11-13 OCTOBER

On 10 October **Maj Duggan** assembled his merry band of 'Badders' players to take them to the R SIGNALS Corps Championships at 21 Sig Regt at Colerne. As the team had been successful in several major badminton events during the year, **Maj Duggan** felt confident enough to book his return ticket after the prize giving!

Men's Inter-Unit Event: In the Men's Inter-Unit Event the Regt qualified for the finals after beating 14 Sig Regt (EW) in a well fought semi-final. All of the first, second and third strings were able to hold their own and the first two strings ensured qualification by winning their matches. In the final, the Regiment faced a combined onslaught from 8 and 11 Sig Regts (better known as 'The School'), who certainly gave the team a good lesson in how to play badminton. The fact that 'The School' team had several players of Corps and Army standard may have tipped the scales just a little! That said, all the players gained from the experience and look forward to a rematch next year. The men's Inter-Unit Team was **Maj Duggan, WO2 (IS Supvr) Bennett, SSgt (Supvr R) Jacklin, SSgt Slade, Sgt Anderson** and **Sig Moore.**

Ladies Inter-Unit Event: Although not as well attended as the Men's event, the Ladies event was nonetheless a very good standard with the Regt playing 14 Sig Regt (EW) in the Ladies Unit Final. The event was extremely close with both sides having several novices playing in their first event. Every game had to be made to count to ensure the Ladies Team eventually took the title of Royal Corps of Signals Ladies Inter-Unit Champions. The members of the victorious Ladies team were **Sgt Samuel, Cpl Howard, Cpl Richardson, LCpl Stewart** and **Sig Raynor.**

Unit Mixed Doubles/Open Doubles/Veteran's Doubles/Ladies and Mens Signals Events: The Regimental team had mixed blessings in the remaining events of the Championships but still managed to bring back several trophies to add to **Maj Duggan's** ever-increasing trophy cabinet. In the Mixed Doubles, **Maj Duggan** and **Sig Raynor**, after battling their way through the opposition, qualified for the final only to be beaten by a pair who had recently returned from representing the Army on its recent Brunei tour! In the Ladies Singles **Sig Raynor** battled through to the finals but unfortunately was beaten by **Cpl McTurk** (7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn), the Corps' leading lady. Again the ladies did the Regiment proud with **Cpl Richardson** and **Sig Raynor** taking the runners-up medals in the Open Women's Doubles and **Cpl Howard** and **Cpl McTurk** taking the winners trophy. **WO2 Bennett** and **SSgt Slade** took the Veterans runners-up place and **Maj Duggan** and **SSgt** 'Play it again, Sam' **Slade** took yet another runners-up medal in the Unit Team Open Doubles. On a final note, those people who feel badminton is not a physical game might like to try their hand at competing in excess of 12 matches a day at Regimental level!

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. E. Mullender**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) M. R. Neighbour**

COMMCEN TROOP - *by Sig Pennock*

It has been a busy period for COMMCEN Tp, with a lot of departures and arrivals, the big move into a brand spanking new building and the added bonus of the new system now in use, Compucat, which has been a great deal of fun getting to grips with. We have to say sad farewells to **LCpl** 'Nath' **Hadley**, who has left province to be closer to home at 30 Sigs, and is now experiencing the joys of Sierra Leone. **LCpl Fox,** who is off to the world of panzers and tanks at 19 Mech Bde. Last but not least **LCpl** 'Taff' **Evans** who is off to civvy-street and not just any part of civvy-street as he has found himself a job in Amsterdam. I am sure all the lads will be sorely missed by the whole troop. On a lighter note, we can enjoy the new company of **Sig Cunningham, Sig Brennan, Sig Moore, Sig Nevens** and lastly **Sig Ward**, who have all joined us straight from the factory.

SUPPORT TROOP - *by Sig Stott*

This has been a good period for Support Tp, as the final movement into our new offices went with great ease. A warm welcome goes out to **LCpl** 'Stu' **McCrone**, his wife **Clare** and their young son **Lennon**. The Troop will be sorry to say goodbye to **Sig** 'Chrissy' **Davies**, soon to be Lance Corporal, who is going to Germany to drink copious amounts of cheap booze and to join her husband. She takes with her our best wishes for the future. Congratulations go out to other members of the Troop who have been selected for promotion to Lance Corporal and hopefully to be wearing their fresh tapes very soon. These are **Sig Tom Dunham, Sig** 'Rick' **Fawcett, Sig** 'Revs' **Reveley** and myself, **Sig** ' Stotty' **Stott**. So if you want to know where it's at, and the promotions are slick and fast, come and join us at the MT.

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

Forget the Military Skills Competition, SSgt Smith weighs his 'oh so heavy kit' for the March and Shoot.

The Military skills competition took place at Ballykinler on the 16 Nov 00. HQ Sqn was lead by **Sgt Dixon** from RHQ. Our team consisted of **Cpl Douglas, LCpl Walker, Sig Nevens, Sig Reverly, Sig Green 742, Sig Cunningham** and **Sig Moore**. We made a good impression from the word 'go'. When the start whistle was blown, all the other teams 'darted' off at a great rate of knots, and we just stood there trying to find out where we were! The stretcher race was a classic case of DS humor as 30metres turned out to be 300! The casualty wasn't exactly the lightest either! The assault course was looked upon with horror, as we had to do it with full kit, this was welcomed by the Squadron morale officer **Sig** 'Where have all the brews gone?' **Cunningham**. **LCpl Walker** received some very impressive war wounds on her arms. One circuit was bad enough, but we had to do two! We achieved top marks on the rummage stand as we had learnt the skills on the Regimental PORT package. We finally finished the event fifth, which at least wasn't last. We still celebrated at the 'bop' back at Lisburn, as our only reward for attending the Mil Skills was a case of high morale! …and a look forward to more military competitions.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Squad Comd **Maj M. J. Smith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. S. Thorne**

This period has seen the Squadron represented on various sports pitches, and indeed at the Regimental Sportsman's Dinner. In addition to this a number of people have managed to participate in Ex Wipers Finn, a battlefield tour de France, and other days out designed to relieve some of the pressures of work. The Squadron has had a very busy couple of months from an operational perspective and is feeling the pressure from increasing under-manning.

Farewell to **Maj Jeremy Tod**, and many thanks for all that has been done for the Squadron during your time. The end of the summer brought a complete turnover of Squadron hierarchy, and the new team is now ready to move the Squadron on to greener fields.

Welcome to **Maj Mark Smith** who has moved across to 225 Sig Sqn to take the helm, having spent a year as Adjutant.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt P. R. Griffiths**

It has been a busy couple of months within the glorious Sp Tp, with a number of people arriving and leaving. **LCpl Kev James** is now with 35 Sig Regt (V) and **LCpl Graeme** 'I'm a story-teller' **Lafferty** has now joined 31 Sig Regt (V) - both their fags and repertoire will be missed. The RQMS Dept welcomes two new drivers; **LCpl Danny** 'It's your turn to make the brews' **Richardson**, and **LCpl Steve Worthington** who have both moved across from Regimental MT.

Congratulations to **Danny** who has just become married to **Amanda,** and to **Steve** and **Lisa** who have recently had a baby boy called **Kieran** (affectionately known to us as 'Ernie'). **Sgt Vicky** 'I collect novelty rubbers' **Dumbell** and **LCpl Vicki** 'bud-wize-errrrrr' **Bishop** have now taken up the roles of Sqn Clerks after **Sgt Ian** 'giz a gitar!' **Frame** has left the office to re-badge to R SIGNALS. The RQMS's Department has been busy preparing for the Board of Officers in which **WO2 RQMS Andy Hartley** has had his whip cracking to get things moving along smoothly. Meanwhile **Sgt Andy Bolton** and **LCpl Jo** 'I've got 8 A-levels' **Quinn** have been moving their stores frantically from shelf to shelf. The Department celebrated **LCpl Quinn** and **LCpl Pullen** being selected for promotion with a Troop night out. **Capt Griffiths'** pizza ended up on the floor - you can't take him anywhere! All in all, a lot of hard work, and a little bit of fun for all.

ECHO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt F. A. W. Stewart**
OPSWO **WO2 (SUPVR R) P. F. Gardner**

Another busy period for Echo Tp, and with tight manning, those remaining 'take the strain'. August and September saw the Troop participating in various Regimental Sports competitions, and the occasional BBQ's and evenings in the Squadron bar - the essential morale lifeline of the Troop! Thank you to **Sgt Lomax** and **Cpl Roche** who came from JSSU Digby to alleviate our manpower for two months. Their hard work and good humour was appreciated by all. From the watches:

A Watch - Farewell to **Cpls Ashley** and **Hodgson** who are both set for pastures new at RSS in Blandford, and **LCpl Howard** to 14 Sig Regt (EW) in Brawdy.

B Watch - Farewell to **Cpls Burton** and **Marshall** who are both moving to JSSU Oakley.

Warm congratulations go to **Cpl Heather Carter** on her recent marriage to **Sgt Carter** from the Regimental Training Wing - quite a severe measure to ensure passes in your ITD's!

C Watch - Welcome to the new Watch Supervisor, **SSgt (Supvr R) Rowlands.**

Congratulations and farewell to **WO2 (Supvr R) Fielder** who has moved on promotion to JSSU Digby, also farewell to **Cpl Halliday**, moving to JSSU Oakley.

D Watch - Farewell to **LCpls Wooton-Jones** and **Smith** and good luck in civvy-street. Congratulations to **LCpl Fox** in playing a pivotal role in the Army Rugby League team's success in the recent Inter Service competition.

Reporters - And at last…we say goodbye to **WO2 Bond** to has been trying to break out of province for many months now. We wish him the best of luck in JSSU Digby. Also farewell to **Sgt Savage** who has moved to the Falkland Islands for six months prior to posting.

GOLF TROOP

Tech Adjt	**Capt I. R. Hargreaves**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) A. G. Jenkins**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt B. Wilkins**

Once again it has been an extremely busy period within Golf Tp. Operational tasking continues and the large number of departures recently has meant a hectic time for those that remain. That said, however, we have had some new arrivals to the Troop and a warm welcome is extended to **WO2 (Supvr IS) Gary Bennett,** who arrived from 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **Sgt Ian Frame** who has changed both Corps and trade from AGC Mil Clk to Sgt IS Operator. **Cpl Rouchy** continues the re-trade theme, moving from Data Op to Installation Tech and joining us from 233 Sig Sqn. Finally and most recently **Cpl Welch** posted in from 243 Sig Sqn. On the departures front we have recently said farewell to **Sgt Michelle Watkins**, posted to CPD Blandford, we wish her all the best for the future. Congratulations go to **Sgts Phil McLeish** and **Ryan Lang** on their recent promotions to Sergeant.

EXERCISE REYNARD FINN

Ex Reynard Finn for September took the form of a Squadron Go-Karting Grand Prix followed by a Squadron BBQ. 16 members of the Squadron participated in what turned out to be a very exciting and fun afternoon. The competition consisted of 16 heats, two semi-finals and a final. **LCpl Danny Richardson** won the competition with some very 'Formula 1-like' driving. Nothing deterred **LCpl Richardson** from winning the Grand Prix, even at the expense of sending **Sgt Loz Hill** through the barriers. Some very notable driving from **Lt Fi** 'Tyre Wall' **Stewart**, **Cpl Billy Kirkwood**, and **LCpl Jo Quinn**. An enjoyable day was had by all.

OKTOBERFEST

(L-R): LCpl Drummond, Cpl Aldred and LCpl Fox at the Squadron Oktoberfest

The marquee is erected, tables laden with bratwurst and the 'umpa lumpa' band are raring to go! The scene is set for yet another 225 Sig Sqn Oktoberfest. Festivities got underway around 1930hrs - fancy dress was optional. Apart from the members of the Squadron who always dress like German teen fashion victims, (tight bleached jeans, white trainers, tie-dye t-shirts and bum bags - you know the type!), the usual 3 'Squadron Suspects' went all out. **Cpl Jay Aldred** as 'Hitler' (wearing an East German border guards uniform), **LCpl Gez Drummond** in full leather leiderhosen and **LCpl** 'Foxy' **Fox** as a German soldier of the female variety, blonde pig tails and all! All who attended drank and made merry, appreciation of the entertainment in the form of an Irish umpa lumpa band was somewhat varied, with all those who had 'exchanged' numerous beer tokens joining in. Whilst nursing hangovers the following day everyone would agree that a good time was had by all, with special thanks given to **Sgt Al Bolton**, **WO2 Andy Hartley** and the rest of the RQMS Dept for the administration and organisation of yet another very successful 225 Sig Sqn event.

EXERCISE WIPERS WALKABOUT FINN
17-22 SEPTEMBER 2000
by SSgt (FofS) Crowther

On the 17 September 2000, nine members of 225 Sig Sqn set off on a trekking exercise around the battlefields of Belgium and Northern France. The party left Thiepval Barracks on the Sunday morning crossing the Irish Sea on the Larne-Cairnryan ferry to start the long journey down the length of the country. Driving was alternated between **Sgt Stu** 'I never fly off the handle' **Murray** and **SSgt (Supvr IS) Paul** 'I've got my Camp-Bed' **Davey** who did their best to fend off questions from **SSgt (Supvr R)** 'Are we there yet Dad?' **Jacklin.** After several hours of 'I Spy' we arrived in our transit accommodation in Shorncliffe and the next morning caught a ferry to Calais. From here it was a short drive to the campsite which provided the base for the next four days. **SSgt (FofS) Si** 'Have you done your homework?' **Crowther** came up with the idea for the Exercise and the aim was to walk along the sector of the Western Front held by the British Expeditionary Forces (BEF), whilst learning about the battles and conditions that were endured by troops.

Day One - The first day's walking found the party in the Belgian medieval town of Ypres, known to the troops at the time as 'Wipers'. During the war the name of this town became a byword for the terrible slaughter and loss of life that ensued over four years as it was the scene of fierce fighting between the Germans and primarily Commonwealth troops. The Ypres salient jutted into the German lines for the duration of the war, and cost the Commonwealth 200,000 casualties over the 4 years that it was defended. A stark reminder of the bitterness of this struggle are the names of the 55,000 Commonwealth troops commemorated on the Menin Gate. Their names are recorded here as their bodies were never found and have no known grave. The monument is a fitting memorial to the men who died there and all the members of the party were extremely moved when we witnessed the nightly playing of The Last Post by Buglers from the Ypres Fire Brigade.

Happy trekkers on Day 1
(L-R): Sgt Brankin, Sgt Ballard, SSgt (IS Supvr) Davey, SSgt Wilkins, Sgt Lang, SSgt (Supvr R) Jacklin, Sgt Murray

After leaving the Menin Gate the party visited Sanctuary Wood and Hill 62 which lie on the Menin Road to the east of Ypres. **Sgt Ryan** 'Rip Van Winkel' **Lang** was able to impart some of the salient points he had researched prior to the Exercise and relate this to the ground. Here a stretch of the trenches remains and the party was given an insight into the squalor and terrible conditions endured by the troops. The day was rounded off with a visit to the Cloth Hall Museum in the centre of Ypres. During the war the building was reduced to rubble but was rebuilt by money from German War Reparations. This is a must for visitors to the areas and gives a good description of the battles in the Ypres area.

Day Two - On our second day in Belgium the party moved to the south of the Salient and visited St. Eloise where the British blasted several mines under the German strongpoints in March 1916. The biggest of these contained 95,600lbs of ammonal and apart from destroying several key fortifications and dazing the defending Germans; it allowed the position to be captured by the 41st Division. To view some of the mine craters the group had to negotiate several fences - some members faired better than others! **SSgt (Supvr R)** 'I'm not fat its just a weak fence' **Fogg** did an interesting double back somersault before an admiring audience. The group then moved further south through Wijtschate and Ploegstreet, known as 'White Sheet' and 'Plug Street' to the British. The wood at Ploegstreet saw some particularly fierce fighting and stark reminders of the fortifications can still be clearly seen. Moving on from Phloegstreet the group made their way up a steep ridge to the Mesen, better known as Messines, the scene of fierce fighting in 1917 when 19 of the 21 mines were detonated in a very small area. The remaining two mines were not and records of the their locations were lost. In 1995 one of them exploded during a thunderstorm by the Le Pelegrin crossroads when a tree was struck by lightening. Fortunately there were no casualties. The location of the remaining mine is still unknown. In Mesen the church (the only one with a crypt in the surrounding area) was rebuilt after the war with money from Germany's War Reparations. The church was the subject of a number of watercolours by a German Infantryman, Adolf Hitler.

Day Three - The group moved from Ypres in Belgium to Arras in France. To the south of Arras lies the Somme Valley and over the next two days the group walked around famous battle sites in the area. The Battle of the Somme is infamous in the British Army as the greatest disaster in its history. The battle started on 1 July 1916 and by the end of the first day the Commonwealth troops had sustained 60,000 casualties. The battle continued for five months, but resulted in little territorial gain for the British. The small gains that were made were lost following the German Army's last ditch Spring Offensive of 1918. The group started the day by heading south of Arras and passing through the villages of Ayette, Bucquoy and Hannescamp. The first major battle area that was passed was Gommecart where the 46th North Midland Division attacked the wood on 1 July. Further on South the group arrived in Beaumont Hamel and were able to visit the Newfoundland Memorial Park dedicated to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Newfoundland was the oldest colony in the British Empire and is now part of Canada. The Island and part of the North West Canadian Mainland has a population of around 250,000 and has traditionally been a fishing community. In the First World War the people of this independent country raised a battalion of troops who fought at Beaumont Hamel on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Within 30 minutes of the troops going over the top three-quarters of the battalion had become casualties. The park is kept in an immaculate condition and has preserved both the German Y Ravine trenches and allied trenches allowing the visitor to gain a good appreciation of the lay of the land at the time. As the group walked over the park from the Allied trenches and through 'no-mans land', it was clear to see how the murderous machine-gun fire would have cut down the advancing troops who were offered very little cover. In close proximity to the park is the Hawthorn Ridge crater that measures 65ft deep and has a diameter of 130ft.

Day Four - On Day 4 the group again returned to the Somme area and headed further south to the Thiepval ridge. On the monument to the missing at Thiepval is recorded the names of 73,412 men who died in 1916-17 and have no known grave. The monument itself is a huge construction, built of brick with stone facing and was designed by Sir Edward Lutyens. It stands on the site of an impregnable German Fortress, which took two months to capture. All the exercise participants are based in Thiepval Barracks and a visit to this ridge and memorial were of particular interest to the group. Within Thiepval Barracks, next to the Church, is a monument commemorating the battle at Thiepval and naming the Barracks after the village. The monument is dedicated to the men of the 36th Ulster Division who fought at Thiepval and records the number of losses from the Division as 5766. From the Thiepval memorial the group moved onto the 36th Division Memorial. The large tower incorporates a small museum that details the actions of the Division when trying to take the Schwaben Redoubt. The 36th Division can trace its roots to the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and indeed we found wreaths from that organisation lying by the monument. The 36th Division was arguably the most successful Division on the first day of the Somme, and succeeded in reaching the German's fifth line of trenches by the end of the day. However, the Ulster men were almost too successful, and the Divisions to the Ulster men's flanks were unable to make as much ground. This allowed the Germans to fire on the 36th from three sides and by the end of the day they were forced to fall back to the German second line.

After leaving the Somme the group drove to Calais and caught the 1915hrs crossing to Dover, arriving back in Hythe for 2100hrs and another night in transit accommodation. After a tiring four days of walking the group made their way back up the length of the country and took the ferry from Cairnryan to Larne and onto Thiepval Barracks for 2300hrs. We were tired but all felt a sense of achievement having gained a great deal more knowledge of the battlefields of Belgium and Northern France.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj A. N. Walker**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) R. J. Dunseith**

FAREWELL TO OFFICER COMMANDING
233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
by SSM Dunseith

On the 15 August 2000 the Officers, Warrant Officers, SNCO's and Wives of 233 got dressed up in their finest to Dine Out the OC, **Maj Richard Giles** and his long suffering wife **Tracey**. A sad day for the OC, he had just finished his last day in Command during which time blood, sweat and on occasions even tears have been shed. This combined with the birth of young **Thomas** whilst in Northern Ireland has made for a very memorable time in the lives of the Giles family. The evening was an outstanding success due to **Sgt Gaz Watkins'** tireless efforts and a superb display from our own Royal Signals Pipes and Drums with a special mention to the Sqn's Piper **LCpl Andy Burrows** whose face didn't change when drinking the Whiskey Toast, unlike my own! The PMC for the evening **WO2 (YofS) Russ Darlington** excelled himself in collating the Port fines, however after announcing Gadies and Lentlemen (twice) everyone knew where all the port had gone. I know both **Maj Giles** and **Tracey** were touched by the whole evening and the presents will hold a special place in their home, we wish **Richard, Tracey** and the children all the best for the future.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

A warm welcome to the new Officer Commanding 233 Sig Sqn, **Maj Nick Walker** from that hot bed of places Blandford, hopefully you'll enjoy the G1 challenges as much as your predecessor! We also welcome **Capt Helen Bosley** from 3 Bde here for a short while to discover that admin can be as interesting as comms … or maybe not! Talking of G1 challenges, a sad farewell to the 2IC, **Capt Annabel Taylor** who, after spending six months learning the job, has now been head hunted to be the new Adjt, good luck in your new job but don't get lost in the ivory tower, keep in touch.

INDIA TROOP - *by LCpl Smith*

Tp Comd	**Lt T. E. Grey**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt C. Marlowe**

The Troop has said goodbye to some familiar faces and welcomed some new not so familiar ones over the last few months. Amongst those leaving where **Sgt** 'Selly' **Selkirk**, who is now enjoying the good life in his rather lucrative new job in civvy street. This said he still hasn't become a stranger as he phones his old colleagues to regale them with tales of long sideburns, all expenses paid courses and his ridiculous over time rates. **Sig Kenny Waring** also managed to escape and is now hopefully jet setting around the world trying to find sunshine and desperately trying to forget RAIN (the only weather pattern known to Northern Ireland). Amongst the new arrivals who have been sentenced to two years hard labour in India Tp are **Cpl Billy Beaumont** whose boundless enthusiasm is slowly being sapped - luckily she is due to go on her Class 1 upon successful completion of her entrance exam in November. **Cpl** 'Stevy' **Simpson** has joined the illustrious ranks of the brew drinking, biscuit stealing System Administrators, he has obviously undergone some arduous training to prepare him for his new job – needless to say he has nearly overdosed on caffeine on more than one occasion. **LCpl Adi Falinski** arrived in Province and almost straight away 'volunteered' to take part in the march and shoot due to be held some time this year (if the dates don't change again)! **Sig Phil Broken** who lived up to his name by promptly going to hospital as soon as he arrived. 'Hellos' also go to **Sig Jackie Bridger** recently arrived from 30 Sig Regt, and to **Sig Steve Moran** from 16 Sig Regt. Welcome to you both! 'Hello and goodbye' to **SSgt (FofS) Gaz** 'Turncoat' **Williams** who leaves us for the joys of TM Tp, after managing to stay in the chair for only six months. Tell us all how you managed it!

by LCpl 'Chicken' McLuckie

As the deadline for Ex Indian Summer, an India Tp charity event, grows ever nearer, the System Administrators still manage to find time for a brew or two (or three… or four…). Praise has to go to **SSgt Nige Smith** and **Sgt Jeff** 'I'm NOT Ginger' **Thomas** for managing to pull themselves away from their hourly caffeine fix and taking part in the Mercury Cup March and Shoot Competition. Thanks to their sterling efforts, the team managed to come fifth. If it had not been for them, the team might only have been runners up! **SSgt Craig Marlowe** headed up both the Mercury Cup March and Shoot Competition and the Military Skills Competition. Finishing in second place in the Military Skills Competition ensured that 233 Sig Sqn achieved third place overall in the Mercury Cup Competition, so well deserved congratulations go to all those who took part in the events.

The Troop is now enjoying its fitness, as we have finally realised that we do actually have to attend PT sessions, but a special mention has to go to **Sig Moran**, who decided to 'throw his teddy' and run off the football pitch after being hit with the ball! As this article goes to press, the Troop will be off gallivanting around a golf course somewhere in Northern Ireland. Results of that competition will be published in the next edition. One thing is certain, **LCpl** 'Doughnut' **Foulkes** will retain the record for eating the free bacon rolls…

Congratulations are due to **Cpl Graeme Keith** and his wife **LCpl Jo** (nee Ellison) **Keith** on their recent marriage. He must be the luckiest member of the Troop to date – he has found himself a 'Toygirl' – about 20 years his junior! Keep an eye on your heart monitor **Graeme**… Congratulations also to **LCpl** 'Toff' **Lucas** and his wife **Apple** on their recent marriage.

NETWORK CONTROL CENTRE

Tp Comd	**Capt A. M. Haresign**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt S. D. Johnson**

We say a fond farewell to the 'Three Amigos', **WO1 (YofS)** 'Porthos' **Rose**, **WO1 (FofS)** 'Aramis' **Gill** and **WO1 (Supvr IS)** 'Dartagnon' **Brooks**. This swashbuckling trio having masterminded the Problem management within the Province for the past year, have been whisked off to work in a cramped office in the Penthouse suite of the newly formed G6 Branch. **WO2 (YofS)** 'unlimited budget' **Darlington** departs for pastures new and a quieter life supporting his local team, Scunthorpe United. **Sgt** 'Dolly' **Parton** and **LCpl Paul Walton** swap their three-screen technology for a pair of snips and a screwdriver on their move to TM Tp and **LCpl Brian Milne** departs to join the Globe Trotters. Good luck to all of you on your recent moves. We welcome the new management team **WO2 (YofS)** 'Will' **Carley** and **WO2 (FofS) Rick Gorman**. Hello too to an Armada of new arrivals in the form of **Sgt** 'Del' **Richards**, **Sgt** 'Mac' **McGibbon**, **Cpl** 'Dave' **Carter**, **LCpl** 'Dino' **Deans**, **LCpl** 'Rob' **Latham** and **LCpl** 'Tristian' **Fox**. We also welcome **LCpl** 'Shaza' **Pillans** on a work experience scheme from TM Tp. We would also like to congratulate **Cpl Danny Pearson** and **Cpl Keith Lamb** on their promotion, a double celebration for **Cpl Lamb** with the birth of a new baby boy and on the recent marriage of **LCpl** 'Mother Hubbard' **Ellison** to **Cpl Keith**.

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt R. A. Hamilton**
Tp (YofS)	**WO2 (YofS) N. J. Bartlett**

Hellos and good-byes: After a thoroughly hectic period in the Troop we are pleased to see the arrival of many new faces. First, fresh from his Class 1 at Blandford, we have **Cpl Mark Collins**; secondly all the way from 1 Div we have **Cpl Steve Blood**. The Ops side has seen two new faces arrive to bolster the defences against the constant barrage of technical wit, **Cpl Dave Weatherstone**, from 19 Mech Bde, and **Cpl Dave Haskell**, from 20 Armd Bde. All seem to have settled in quite easily, and adapted to the role with few problems. **LCpl Ian Bostock**, has moved over to us from Surveillance Section and we have a replacement Storeman **Cpl** 'Dougie' **Douglas**. Due to heavy commitments we have had to start recruiting from the ranks of TM Tp, resulting in an influx of four new Sys Eng Techs: **Cpl Si** 'Old Obvious' **Mason**; **Cpl Louise** 'Penelope' **Parker**; **LCpl Harry French**; and **LCpl Andy Widdup**. With a big welcome from the Ops to **Sgt Tony King** and **Sgt** 'Nige' **Cathrew**. On more of a sad note, we say goodbye to **WO2 (FofS) Jim O'Donnell**, who leaves on a medical discharge; and goodbye to **Capt Colin** 'Shoot Everything' **Kell**, leaving us for 2 Sig Regt in York. Good luck to both in the future. We also say a fond farewell to **Cpl Steve** 'The Jinx' **Armstrong**, and **Cpl Nick** 'Arthur Daley' **Clift**, who are off to

brave the wrath of Blandford on their Class 1 course. Another loss is **Sgt Steve Mayell**, moving across the Province to take up an appointment as a Troop Staff Sergeant with 8 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn. Good luck from the entire Troop. Congratulations to **Sgt Paul** 'Loggy' **Wright** on his recent appointment as Workshop Sergeant. We are all just wondering how long your beautiful hair will last before you pull it all out. Congratulations also go out to **Cpls Si** 'Big Nose' **Wellstead, Matt Ashurst, Andy Burrows,** and **Nic Jenkins** on their promotions to Corporal.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt E. L. McLellan**
Tp SSgt **SSgt D. G. Ware**

Hellos and good-byes: If it seems a little empty around TM (Tucan) workshops recently, that's because it is. After an influx of new arrivals earlier in the year, it has been time to say a number of goodbyes. **SSgt Brian Gillies** has finally set off for the warmer clime of Cyprus. A very dedicated and well respected Troop Staff Sergeant he will be sadly missed and the Troop wishes both him, his wife **Caroline** and two daughters **Hannah** and **Natasha** all the very best for the future. **Sgt Paul Alfer**, our very loyal RLC member of the Troop is departing for Germany with his wife **Adele** and dog Ziggy. We offer you many thanks for your hard work and commitment to the Troop and the best of luck in your new post in Germany. **Sgt** 'De De' **Watts** joins the **Gillies** family in Cyprus, also with family and dog in tow as well as a large number of qualifications and courses under his belt. It is hoped that **Sgt Watts**, wife **Liz**, **Christopher** and Nabi the dog all have an excellent tour.

TM Tp has also experienced some internal loss the first being **WO2 (FofS) Gorman** who moves to NCC as Australian Liaison officer, we hope he enjoys his stay in the Millennium Dome. Many thanks for all your hard work both as Troop Commander and Tp FofS during the last eighteen months, the Troop Commander for one is most definitely happy that you're still only a few hundred metres away…'about the Tech CR's…'. **Sgt** 'Spike' **Milligan** is also saying goodbye to the Troop, journeying all the way over to 225 Sig Sqn. I'm sure we'll still see plenty of you. By the end of the month **Cpls Bruce Noble**, **Stuart Perkins** and **Daz Flay** will be moving on to 39 Bde and JCU respectively. **Cpls Si Mason** and **Lou Parker** stay within 233 Sqn but are now in Romeo Tp, and will shortly be followed by **LCpl Boyd** whilst **LCpl Fox** has also been swallowed up by the underground bubble of the NCC.

TM TP's new **FofS**, **SSgt Williams**, comes from India Tp and will need re-educating in the ways of the Tucan. Hello to **LCpl Disley** who has arrived straight from RSS trade training and **LCpl Thomas** from the dark depths of R Tp. Last but not least, hello to our new URS geezer, **Sgt Terry 'Scouse' Coakley (RLC)**, who takes over from **Sgt Alfer** this month. We trust that you and your family will enjoy your time with THE Royal Corps! Finally a big congratulations to all those in the Troop who have recently been promoted. On the Tele Mech side **LCpls Lowe** and **Partridge** and **Sig Rayner** have come off their boards with success, whilst there have been a number of new Cpl T2's: **Cpl's Berry, Flay, Noble, Parker, Perkins, Renshaw** and **Tutton**. The TM Tp shooting team came second on Ex Harp Finn 2000. **Sgt 'Fred' Farnfield** has had success in Blandford on the Royal Signals Leadership Course and returned ready to lead from the rear. (He's had plenty of practice on those long endurance runs). Also mention goes to **Cpl Chris Renshaw, LCpl Steve Boyd, LCpl Dave** 'The Blair Witch' **Rice and Sig** 'Muggy' **Mugford** whom recently completed a COP Team Medic course. 'To all those who have done well……well done'. **LCpl Steve** 'Cabbage' **Boyd** went patrolling with 1 WFR again, this time around Strabane on the West border of NI for two weeks at the end of November. Thanks to everyone who supported **Sgt** 'Gaz' **Watkins'** daughter, Rebecca, for Children in Need. A special mention goes to **Sgt** 'Spike' **Milligan** who sponsored a HUGE £10.

NCC OLYMPIC STEPATHON IN AID OF IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

by LCpl Jo Keith and Cpl Graeme Keith

The gymnasium was where we found our inspiration to raise funds for Imperial Cancer Research Fund in the form of, a 24 hour step-a-thon. The aim of the event was, through a system of hourly stags, to keep two step machines working continuously for a 24-hour period. This was maintained primarily through NCC personnel and a couple of guest steppers from within 233 Sig Sqn. To make the day more challenging there was a program of step aerobics for those who had overindulged over the summer holidays. The day started with light humour and a casual climb up the Dutch elevations but eventually became competitive with sprints up Ben Nevis. Even **WO1 (Supvr IS) Mick Brooks** put his pipe away, until we finally realized how far we had traveled. We reached the height of Everest three times over, in total 165,332 feet. The event was well supported from the Lisburn Imperial Cancer Research Fund who worked extremely hard on the raffle, which **Cpl Eddie Edwards** appreciated when he won the fluffy Dulux dog. Reaching the pain threshold had to be made worthwhile by gaining sponsorship through request and persuasion; **Cpl Max Wall** doing a Grant Mitchell, **Cpl Linda MacCulloch** with an impromptu ride a nag to name a few. The easiest donation was the £10 note that was found in the gymnasium doorway. In total buckets of sweat were shed for a worthy sum in excess of £1,400. A big thanks to all those involved. What's next? Sponsored 24 hour ACFT?

MCKELVIE CUP SHOOTING COMPETITION

by LCpl 'Nige' Foulkes

The McKelvie Cup Inter-Troop Shooting Competition was held on 22 October at Ballykinler Training Centre. The day started in true Northern Irish tradition – early, dark and very wet! Even though the weather was horrendous – gale force winds, bitterly cold and horizontal rain – the event was extremely well supported, with all Troops entering teams. The competition consisted of three events: Clay Pigeon Shoot, 100m Rifle 5.56mm Practice and a 25m Browning 9mm Pistol Practice. NCC Tp started as they meant to go on – by coming bottom in every shoot. Thanks for coming lads! India Tp were obviously robbed and finished in third place, behind TM Tp and Romeo Tp respectively. Well done to Romeo Tp – someone suggested you display the trophy in the Guardroom, but your lads would never get to see it there…!!! A special mention must go to **SSgt Mick** 'Deadeye' **Knowles**, **Cpl Ross** 'Skill At Arms' **Menzies**, **LCpl Nige** 'Hair-Trigger' **Foulkes** and **Sig** 'Barn-door' **Manifield** for representing India Tp. When you get five minutes **Ross**, can you run the Troop through Browning 9mm Pistol Stoppage Drills? Oh, go on…please? **Cpl Jenkins** of Romeo Tp took the top honours in rifle and shotgun, and **LCpl Boyd** of TM Tp top honours in the pistol. Finally, a big 'Thank You !' to Romeo Tp for organising the day. Hang on a sec, didn't they win it?

MAXTREK 2000 - *by LCpl Burrows*

It's 4 o'clock on a Saturday morning and whoever volunteered us for the challenge of the day is refusing to take responsibility. Us being **WO2 (YofS)** 'Tac' **Bartlett**, **LCpl Nick** 'Jenks' **Jenkins**, **LCpl Si Wellstead** and myself **LCpl Andy Burrows**. The challenge of the day…..to scale the height of Mount Everest in 30 hours. The event took on the shape of consecutive ascents and descents of the infamous Slieve Donard Mountain which makes up part of the Mourne Mountain Range in Northern Ireland, each complete ascent and descent being 10km long. So to succeed in our task of scaling the height of Everest we would have to cover Donard a staggering 10.4 times (104km) with a total ascended height of 8,500m. Its fair to say we all underestimated the amount of pain

TM Troop Dress in style for their Fancy Dress Party

we were about to endure! The day started well, with all parties enjoying the first climb, but it was as early as the second climb when we realised that this challenge would best be tackled as a team. So we broke the legs down with **LCpl Si Wellstead** and **LCpl Nick Jenkins** completing three full rounds, an equivalent of 30km. **Tac** 'Mountain Goat' **Bartlett**, not to be beaten by Donard gathered up enough spirit to go one better with four (40km) and **LCpl Andy Burrows** after a lunchtime nap went one better still with 5 full ascents and descent, a respectable 50km. 13 hours after crossing the start line, the Romeo Tp team had completed one and a half times the height of Everest a truly outstanding achievement of which all can be proud. The event was run in conjunction with Cystic Fibrosis for which we raised £250.

EXERCISE VIA FERRATA FINN 2000 - *by LCpl Chris Renshaw*

Whoever said adventure training is great fun has obviously never tried to organise it. Exercise Via Ferrata Finn was TM Troop's level three annual adventure training exercise to the Dolomite mountain range in the Via Ferrata region of Northern Italy. When the bid went in for the equipment, Bicester came back and said sorry, we haven't got half of what it is you're after (more hair fell to the floor). Luckily **LCpl Hayden** 'the Dude' **Lawer** has a brother who works at Kinnegar stores depot, and managed to 'acquire' everything we were short of.

More fun was had trying to book the ferry; not being allowed to take a transit van without paying freight cost for it. After some gentle persuasion and quite a few promises of gifts from abroad (tall dark handsome men, chocolates, etc) by **LCpl Chris Renshaw**, the girls at the booking office waived the freight charges for us. Thank you. Everything we'd done up to now could have been for nothing, transport availability being the traditional hindrance right up until the day we departed.

So, we were finally all set to go, and after a few gentle words of wisdom by the Sqn OC, **Maj Giles,** (don't drink too much, don't do anything I wouldn't do etc) we departed (nearly) on time. After a nice calm ferry crossing to Heysham we set off on the drive south which was supposed to take us 8-12hrs, which we completed in a little under five hours (don't ask!) the fact that it was the middle of the night had something to do with this. Consequently, upon arrival to Dover, it was time for sweet talk and promises from **LCpl Renshaw** to try and get the two vehicles and pax on a much earlier hovercraft. Having successfully negotiated this, the journey continued onwards, and onwards, until, at around 0100hrs, as we were about to cross the German-Austrian border, we encountered our own fuel shortage problem with every 24hr garage being closed. The local petrol stations only took a locally issued charge card prompting **Sgt** 'Micky' **Mann** to have a quick whip round prior to persuading two local women that were passing to buy the petrol for him and for him to give them the money. Of course he didn't tell us this, he just chatted to the two women then got into their car and drove away, returning with a jerry can of petrol.

The morning we arrived in Italy, it was raining and so misty that there wasn't a mountain to be seen (maybe we were still in Holland after all). A rain soaked walk around town provided us with an opportunity to purchase local maps and gain professional knowledge of the area. The next day it was still raining so we opted for a little early R+R in Venice, where the OIC exercise **Lt Elisabeth McLellan** came out with the comment of the trip. While travelling down the Grand Canal in Venice, a funeral boat was just loading a coffin into it, when this was mentioned to her she responded with the comment 'Oh look, a wedding, don't they look nice' enough said I think. (In defence, the boat was blue and she saw lots of people and flowers as opposed to a coffin, but that's not going to change anything is it)? The next day brought glorious sunshine, so we preceded onto the first mountain after a necessary safety brief. We were all expecting something quite easy to break us in but, oh no, with **LCpl Andy Widdup** in the lead we set off up a mountain of scree that took us an hour to ascend. Then we reached the bottom of Punta Fiames, 2240m of wet rock going up and up and up. After a few choice words from the team we cracked the mountain with no problems, but if we thought that was bad it was nothing compared to the next day. This was the longest climb Ivana Dibona reaching a height of 3225m. People who visit the region and attempt Dibona get the cable car to the top and walk down getting picked up at the car park at the midway point, but not us. We decided to do the whole climb starting at the very bottom. In total that day we trekked 27km uphill, and when asked by people climbing down why we were climbing up, the day leader **LCpl Hayden** 'The Dude' **Lawer** merely replied 'it's because of who we are and what we are' and calmly continued upwards. The next day was just a baby climb really; we took the cable car up to top of Ivano Dibona and from there continued onto Ferrata Marino Bianchi (Cristelio), where we witnessed some of the stupidest people in all of Italy. They were climbing at over 3000m with sheer drops on either side with NO safety equipment at all, and when one pair got into difficulty **Sgt Mann** had to run to the rescue (what a guy). **LCpl Bruce** 'Give me more karabiners to clip on' **Noble** led the team up Tofana de Rozes 3225m. This was a very challenging climb as the wind, rain and mist descended on to the mountain and then we got stuck behind a group of French novice climbers who didn't have a clue. When we finally had the summit in sight a shock awaited us; it was covered with three feet of snow, which made it even harder to reach the top. The next day was a very justified day off.

The final climb was up the hardest and tallest mountain in the region, the Tofana Dimezzo 3243m. The day leader was **LCpl Stu** 'I'm going to use the hardest route I can find' **Perkins** who bravely led us up some of the toughest climbs any of us has ever experienced. We always knew when a hard bit was coming because **LCpl Perkins** would use words or phrases you would not want your mother to hear. The coolest member of the team when climbing was our PTI **Cpl Mike** 'Is this it?' **Lake**, who happened to celebrate his first wedding anniversary with wife **Cpl Sunny Lake** who went with us as admin commandante. Finally the R+R stage arrived starting with Lake Eibsee, a beautiful glacial lake in south Germany which we walked round and then went swimming in. Quote of the day had to be credited to **LCpl Hayden Lawer** when (having hired a pedalo) he enquired, 'How do you make it go backwards?' We then travelled to Fussen where you can see the castle that appeared in the film 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. To do this we had to climb the Telegeilburg Mountain. However, when faced with the choice of walking up the Telegeilburg (two hours uphill) or taking the cable car the top, £3 and 5mins, everybody obviously choose the cable car except for **Lt McLellan**, **Sgt Mann, Cpls Lake** and **Lake** (weird or what). After we descended we continued the journey back north towards Calais, stopping off over night in Brussels. This afforded the opportunity for experiencing a bit of culture, taking in museums, art galleries - even a little bit of opera … (I said opportunity). The rest of the journey went as planned except for nearly missing the ferry because we were all in McDonalds, luckily we made it back just in time and returned to Lisburn as planned. Many thanks to all those individuals and departments, both in HQNI and 39 Bde and Signal Squadron, who have supported the exercise, your help has been very much appreciated.

The Team descending Punta Fiames

40th (ULSTER) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col A. P. R. Roberts MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. G. McGinley**

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Welcome to **Capt Nick Morris** on his recent arrival as Adjt, replacing **Capt Andy Lucas**, albeit **Capt Lucas** was actually gone for three months before **Capt Morris** arrived. No sooner had he arrived than he departed on first his NIRTT course and then JCSC. Meanwhile **Capt Carl Kinghan MBE** continues to hold the fort whilst also serving as PSAO HQ and 66 Sqns.

85 (ULSTER & ANTRIM ARTILLERY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj M R Fraser-Brenchley**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Hedley**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A belated welcome to **Capt Eddie Spence** who arrived in June 2000 as PSAO. **Capt Spence** comes from the RDG, but as his last job was AO at 39 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn it shouldn't be too much of a culture shock. He also managed to replace as PSAO **Capt Carl Kinghan MBE** the man who recruited him as a soldier in the first place.

Goodbye to **Capt Jeni Ballagh** who leaves us after only a short time to become 2IC Basic Company of Queen's University OTC. Good luck with the new post and thanks for preventing the Ops Officer from decorating his office!

EXERCISE SOUTHERN RUN

For some it's a walk in the park, for others no more than a stroll but for the rest of us who grimaced at the PTIs in an effort to pass our CFT at Ex Southern Run in September - well done. The aim of this annual exercise is to complete most of the ITDs required of all TA officers and soldiers. Apart from the CFT, the Squadron was put through its paces at weapon handling, the APWT and NBC training. Thanks to **Cpl Burgess** of 66

Sqn for the graphic description of the effects of a nuclear strike, and thanks to the Padre who provided an illuminating lecture on morality.

As we were recovering from the CFT **SSgt Gary Shaw** was given a bit of a surprise when he was called forward to receive the **Wills' Trophy**. Indeed he was so surprised that he started a new tradition of saluting in PT kit and which we believe he is now trying to have included in the drill manual (yes he has done the Drill Instructors Course). The **Wills' Trophy** is awarded for the best NCO, Regular or TA, in 11 Signal Brigade so this is a tremendous accolade for him and is well deserved. This was presented by **Col Roger Davenport TD** Deputy Commander 11 Signal Brigade. **SSgt Shaw** has worked tirelessly throughout the year with recruiting, recruit training and as Drum Major of the Regiment's pipes and drums. Congratulations and well done from the Squadron.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **WO1(RSM) Chris McGinley** on his recent selection for commissioning. Congratulations also to **Miss Anna Donnan**, a former Civilian clerk , on her recent award of the Imperial Service Medal . The medal was presented by the Commanding Officer in the presence of the permanent staff and many of her friends and family.

Presentation of the Imperial Service Medal
(L-R): Capt Carl Kingham MBE, Miss Anna Donnan,
Lt Col Tony Roberts MBE

Congratulations also go to our SPSI **SSgt Dave Gallagher** on the award of his LS&GC and also to **Cpl Colleen McCandless, Cpl Neil Telford** and **LCpl Joanne Sanlon** on their promotions.

SOCIAL

The SSM's gender recognition ability has been tested (and found wanting) lately. This has been due to some of the lads dressing in grass skirts and bikinis or basques and stockings. The occasions for this cross-dressing were a foam party and the Rocky Horror Halloween Party. The two events were a big success. Go-go dancers, a foam machine (obviously) and a cannibal's boiling pot were organised for the foam party. Not many escaped being boiled - and most of the Squadron were pickled by the end of the night. A bit of time warping took place at the Squadron's Rocky Horror Halloween Party with the male members of the squadron raiding their partner's underwear drawer – some with worrying enthusiasm. A great night was had by all - many thanks to the SQMS, **SSgt Tommy Johnston**, and all those who helped out.

REGIMENTAL GOLF SOCIETY NEWS

The Clonaver Park Golf Society's end of season Annual Presentation Dinner was held on Friday 3rd November, it was attended by 55 members and their guests. This was the 8th Dinner Night in the Society's 9-year history. Trophies were presented for the monthly outing league and for the Annual Matchplay singles and Doubles competitions. All are looking forward to the Turkey Shoot in December.

The Winners
(L-R): Lee Whitley, Sig Pete Blane, Mr Richard McKeown,
Capt (QM) Dave Crystal, Mr George Cook

321 EOD SQN RLC
THE ROYAL SIGNALS ELEMENT

EOD Branch ECM Advisor **WO2 Dave Watson**
Squadron ECM Advisor **SSgt** 'Robbo' **Robson**

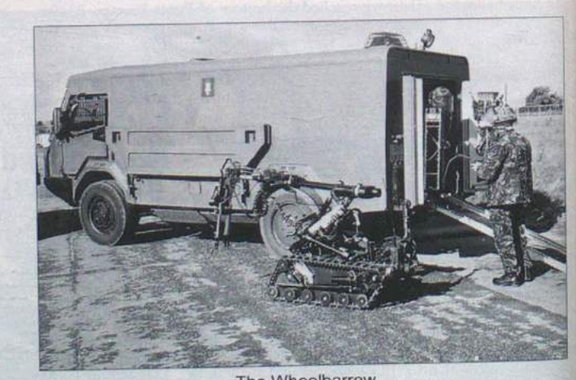
Royal Signals Personalities:

Antrim	-	**Cpl** 'Nige' **Cathrew**
Armagh	-	**Cpl** 'Mac' **MacDonald**
Belfast	-	**Cpl** 'Richie' **Fox** & **LCpl** 'Deano' **Messer**
Bessbrook	-	**Cpl** 'Jamie' **Leishman**
Holywood	-	**Cpl** 'Eddie' **Edwards**
Lisburn	-	**LCpl** 'Rachel' **Howarth**
Londonderry	-	**LCpl** 'Dave' **Boyle**
Omagh	-	**Sig** 'Shoey' **Traynor**
Province Reserve	-	**LCpl** 'Jase' **Manton**
R & R	-	**Cpl** 'Fishy' **Myers**

Written by LCpl Dave Doyle

321 EOD Sqn is the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit in Northern Ireland, responsible for the safe disposal of Improvised Explosive Devices and stray ammunition across the province. The unit comprises a HQ element at Lisburn and ten detachments (4-man teams) supporting the various Brigades. On each team there is an Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO), a Captain or senior rank, responsible for the team and the running of a task. This is the guy in the big green suit who walks down to the bomb! Also on a team there is the No. 2, he is the team 2IC and is responsible for all the EOD equipment used by the team.

He is also the Wheelbarrow driver; this is a remote controlled vehicle used to disrupt possible devices! The third member of the team is the ECM Operator, a member of the Royal Corps of Signals. He will either



The Wheelbarrow
appears less than keen to go to work this morning!

be a TG, a Radio Op or a Spec Op and is attached to 321 EOD Sqn for a six month tour from either the UK or Germany, as part of 11 EOD Regt. The final member of the team is the Infantry Escort, attached to the EOD team from the resident Battalion. This soldier is responsible for the close protection of the team whilst on the ground. He also assists the other team members with their jobs whilst on task and back at base location!

Another proud day for Londonderry Det

The results of an EOD training day, carried out by the Londonderry Det. **LCpl** 'Dave' **Boyle**, Royal Signals is situated front left.

THE ROUTE TO 321 EOD SQUADRON - *LCpl 'Deano' Messer*

Just how do you get to become an ECM Operator with 321 EOD Sqn in Northern Ireland? It's not as easy as you may think, there are several challenges you must overcome before you qualify for employment with 321. Whether you volunteer or are simply sent to EOD, you could do a lot worse. Life with the RLC is mellow. However, the first stumbling block is you must be a Spec Op, Radio Op or Tele Op (TG) otherwise you're not getting in!

Don't get too comfy upon arrival at your UK or Germany based squadron, you won't be there long. From the word go, you'll be jetting back and forth to the town of Hull (this is not unlike Monaco) and Kineton (this is not unlike Outer Mongolia). In Hull, or just outside it at a place called Beverley, you'll attend several courses. First, you will carry out Cat C driver training along with an exciting Hazmat (carriage of hazardous materials) course; in total this lasts two and a half weeks. Next, you will do the advanced EOD van drivers course. This is a week of tearing around the countryside, keeping the needle in the red of course, with an instructor by your side. It ends on the Friday with a one and a half hour blue light run, where you follow a police traffic car, forget everything you've been taught and terrorise the streets of Hull, legally.

Now it's off to the Army School of Ammunition, Kineton. Here you'll spend five weeks on the Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal Electronic Counter Measures Operator Course. Once you've successfully completed this course you'll be accepted for employment with 11 EOD Regt, basically you can operate anywhere in the world except Northern Ireland. Once back with your base squadron you will spend a couple of months consolidating your newly acquired skills and adjusting to the almost Mediterranean, feet up feeling you get from the Ammunition Technicians of the RLC. During this time you will conduct VVIP covers at many royal, military and sporting events, living it up in many a bought and paid for hotel at luxurious locations.

Once your boss thinks you're ready, he will send you on the EOD ECM Advanced (NI) course. This is another four weeks at Kineton, where you'll get to take on a lot more responsibility. Finally, just one more fast driving jolly in Hull, where you'll spend a few days tearing around the streets, with the needle in the red again, but this time in an unbelievably heavily armoured, 11 tonne, TACTICA. The locals love it! At last you fit the criteria for 321 EOD Sqn. You will soon embark on a six-month operational tour of NI where the responsibilities and rewards are second to none. Welcome to the wonderful world of EOD.

ARMAGH DETATCHMENT

ECM Op **Cpl** 'Mac' **MacDonald**

Although things have been quiet, we have managed to keep ourselves out of trouble, or at least **Capt** 'Hyacinth' **Howard** has had us scrubbing the detachment for all the visitors that we have been getting. It has to be said that if the millennium dome received as many visitors as we did, it wouldn't need lottery funding! The beginning of June saw the detachment vehicles go in for servicing which meant that the team actually got a night off in Lisburn as well as a deserved break from our pagers. A good time was had and a few well-deserved beers were sunk by all. The teams drivers continue to do a sterling job, they are out and about trying to break the land speed record and are expected to make a guest appearance on Police, Camera, Action short

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

1ST (UNITED KINGDOM) ARMOURED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

THE REGIMENTAL TUG OF WAR TEAM AT THE BRAEMAR GAMES

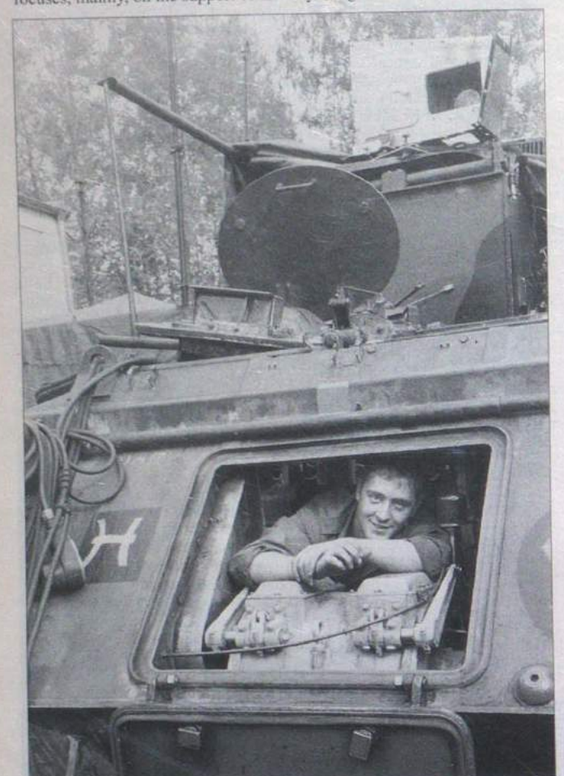
A late entry, but no less important, was the Regimental Tug of War Team's invitation followed by their participation in the Highland Games at Braemar, Scotland in September. After a full season of competitions and training, this event was to be the highlight of the Team's year.

The CO and RSM manage to make the Games
to support the ten man strong Regimental Tug of War Team

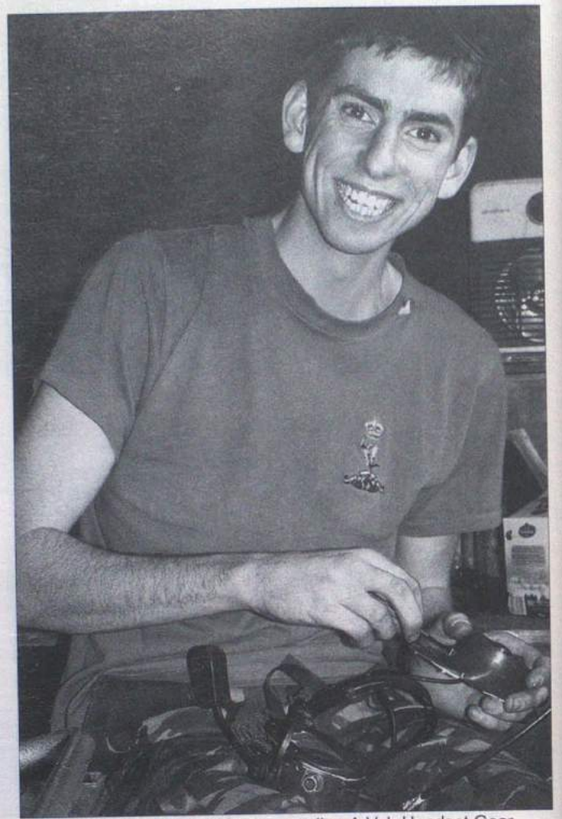
The full fury of the Team's combined power on full view, as they compete in several matches throughout the period. This well trained and disciplined team are cheered on by the RSM, Chris Hymas

MILITARY ACTIVITIES

October saw the Regiment deploy to Bavaria, to join soldiers from five nations, as part of the ARRC level exercise, Ex Arcade Fusion. This study focuses, mainly, on the support of the Royal Signals tasks on exercise.



Sig 'Geordie' Graham is finally talked into smiling for a photograph (no mean feat), as he once again finds his Detachment, a SAS/MC with an electromechanical problem

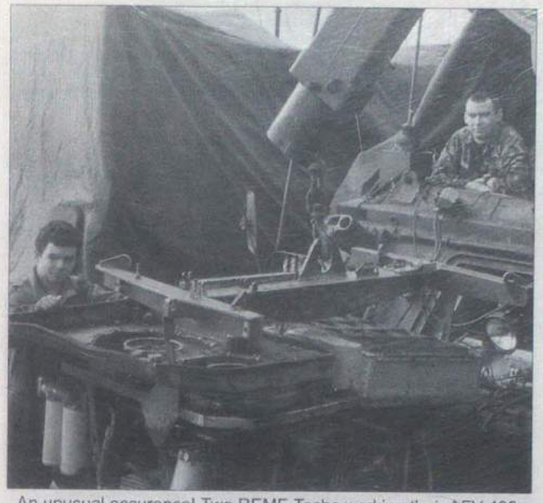


Technician, LCpl Ali Gage, mending A Veh Headset Gear

Driver Linemen, Sig Col Simm, mends a damaged 7 quad cable

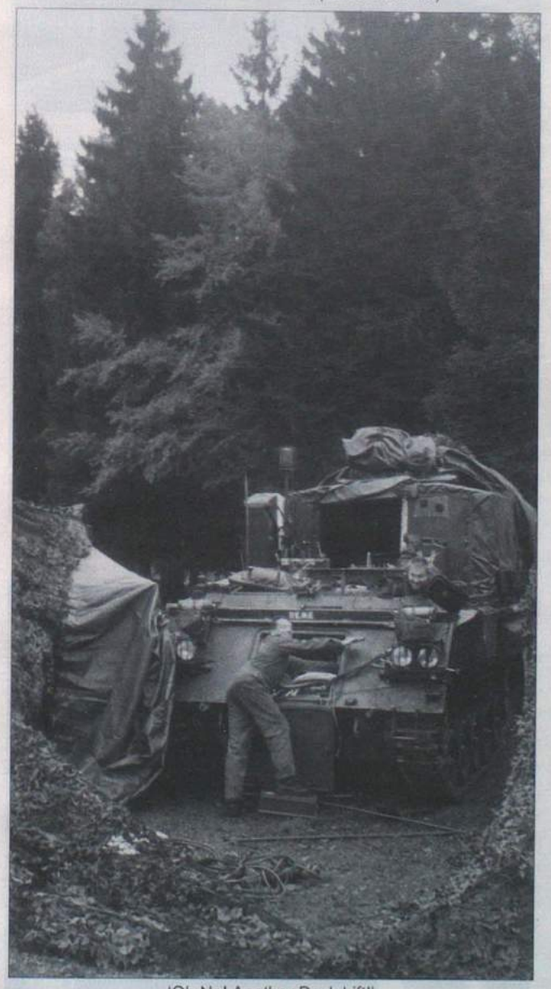
Forever mending cable heads,
Driver Lineman Sig Mandy MacKenzie, gets to grips with a 7 quad, under the expert tuition of colleague Cpl Allen

DON'T SEND US DIGITAL PHOTOS as most of them are only saved at 72dpi, for publication they must be a minimum of 300-400dpi



An unusual occurence! Two REME Techs working their AFV 439, known as 'Maurice', a definite problem child on this exercise! Also unusual is working in a green field site... (for Divisional Main Headquarters that is!)

Systems Operator, Sig 'Phsyco' Smith, on watch in the SAS/MC of Diamond 6, Papa Headquarters



'Oh No! Another Pack Lift!'
This time it is one of the Regiment's own AFV 436s that needs attention, just at the end of the exercise - the REME Voden is most useful for taking packs straight out of the vehicle, as seen here

Preparing to power the beast up, Driver Electrician, Sig Tom Saunders, carries the power cables to provide the lighting to Divisional Headquarters

ON OPERATIONS

Soldiers from the Regiment are frequently away on Operational Tours and Detachments, from BATUS- Canada, Bosnia, the Falklands to Kosovo. Operational Tours give the chance for our soldiers to put into practice all the skills that they learn in training and on exercise. The following photographs are all from Operation Agricola 3.

Driver Lineman, Sig Gail Evans,
gets to grips with a drum of HQ Quad at
Headquarters Multi National Brigade (Central), Pristina, Kosovo

This KFOR helicopter is captured on film, flying over a destroyed and vacant building near Pristina. This picture could equally depict the same scene in Bosnia

In the guise of a Desert Rat (convenience only!) Sig Gail Evans joins the multitude of R. SIGNALS soldiers who have experienced the pleasures of the Operational Tour work horse, the 'ISO container'. this time it houses the Line store for HQ MNB(C)

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Despite being an extremely busy period for the Regiment, the past two months have, never the less, resulted in ten soldiers from the Regiment participating in their Basic Freefall Parachuting course, with one of the soldiers, **Sig Stables**, completing a 15,000 foot Tandem Jump, as the highlight of her course.

EXERCISE GENOA DIAMOND

Ex Genoa Diamond was a two-week sailing expedition from ASTC Kiel, in Germany and some three hours from Herford. The expedition was designed to allow those participating to learn sailing skills, and to get to grips with basic navigation under the watchful eye of Royal Signals Bosun, **LCpl Del Whyman**, who is permanently based at Kiel. The soldiers sailed round several Danish ports, but as the majority were novices, the sea conditions took a few by surprise!

'Ready for action!'
Sigs McKinley, Potter and Booth, along with Sig Towell
are prepared to set sail for Denmark, on the Corps' yacht
'Quicksilver'

Showing signs of deteriorating rapidly, the group display casual nonchalance after two days on board!
Dress standards begin to slip!

Finally, taking advantage of still water and warm weather, the group strip down to the bare essentials

2 SIGNAL REGIMENT

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Bailes**
SSM **WO2 Hancock**

OPERATION WATERFOWL

On Tuesday 30 October, when the cities authorities 'stood to' as the water reached 4.6mts high there was perhaps some indication that help would be needed to avert a pending disaster! Planning, only in its initial stages, took place in the civilian police HQ where **Maj Jamie Compston** (OC 214) managed to 'scare all' by turning up in full SOP's as the military LO. Fortunately the rivers did not rise any further (that night) and all were 'stood down'. The unit, like all good military planners, started to look at its manning and equipment because we had the sense to look at the weather report, which clearly predicted more rain strangely enough! Lo and behold on Thursday 2 November just as the troops had finished for the day (gone 1700hrs) and just as the Prime Minister was flying-in the civil authorities mobilised as the river rose again! The 2IC Squadron got the call from Operations (later to be known as OOPs) requesting '50 men down town in 20 mins'. Fortunately the singlies were still eating, the blocks were still full and the panic started! The rest you could say is history, however, it is important that all facts are recorded correctly and it is through these pages of our Corps publication that the important details are remembered. Hence for those hardworking members of 214 and 219 Sqn's who had been away on exercise in Germany and had stood down for the long weekend it was left to Support Sqn to save York, or Atlantis as it soon became known. As the call-in procedures kicked in and soldiers quickly responded to the council's requests, to fill sandbags, there was a sneaky suspicion this was going to be a long night! 50 hours later on Saturday afternoon some of our teams finally stood-down for a consolidated period of rest and well earned it was! As history is being written it is only fair to mention those who did not deploy on Exercise, from 214 and 219, as they became honoury members of HQ Sqn for this first 50 hours and they played their part exceptionally well. There are too many people to mention from the Regiment as a whole, who played their part above and beyond the call of duty. However, in a real time situation such as this Aid to Civil Community a lot of lessons were learnt, a lot of friendships forged and a lot of sweat was shed in averting a larger disaster than actually occurred. It is unfortunate however that considerable damage was unavoidable and widespread, but the troops from the Regiment carried out all that was asked of them, and more, in coming together for the good, benefit and support of the local population. Flooding has affected a few members of the Regiment and their homes and we have a great deal of sympathy for them and their families, particularly at this time of year, as they work towards rebuilding their homes and lives.

MIKE TROOP

Tp Comd **WO1 FofS Dodd**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Swithenbank**

Life in TM Tp has been hectic lately with preparation for PRE. At the same time the Troop has also been split as people leave us to join JCUFI Squadron. On 2 November the Troop and most of the squadron was put on standby to help defend York from the torrents of flood water the likes of which York has not seen for nigh on 400 years. Op Jorvik Giraffe (later re-named Op Waterfowl) saw members of the Troop filling thousands of sand bags, building flood defences, evacuating civilian personnel and helping prepare peoples houses for the impending floods. For the glory seeking members of the Troop this was the perfect opportunity, with people like **Cpl Ed** 'Two Crates' **Waring** who was only too pleased to find himself on page 5 of the Sun newspaper. Congratulations are in order to **Cpl Lee Rumford** whose wife **Lisa** gave birth to a little girl, **Kaitlin**, weighing in at 4lb 4oz. Congratulations also go to **Cpl** 'Shotgun' **Salter** on tying the knot with new wife **Vicky** under the most arduous conditions, after having their home flooded and then told it was going to be demolished. Welcome to **Sgt Lee Turbitt** who having had to rough it out with the weather in Cyprus has now found himself in sunny York, and is allegedly already plotting his escape. Farewell to **Sgt Colin Pagette** who has left us for pastures new in Germany. Unfortunately the Troop was unable to go to his arranged leaving party in Lancaster due too the flood crisis, but we all got together for one final session in York before he escaped to Germany leaving behind charges of indecent exposure to a Police Officer. Also to **Staff Daz** 'Monty Burns' **Evans** who leaves us for some cushy job at ISM troop leaving **Staff Steve Swithenbank** to bravely step forward and 'take the reins', and to **Sgt Jim Davidson** who was last seen 'swaning' it at 242 Sqn (oops news update! Falklands Squadron) and finally a fond farewell to sandbags and water, don't come back, you won't be missed.

REGIMENTAL MOTOR TRANSPORT

MTO **Capt Rajandra**
MTSNCO **SSgt Mills**

The last couple of months have been a busy period for the regimental MT, with exercises, battle camp and adventure training. Aside from Ops the MT have also enjoyed a few social functions, unfortunately the latest was cancelled due to the regiment being on flood alert and sandbag filling. This was really a blessing in disguise, not for those that got wet but to those in the MT who under the guidance of **Cpl Findlay** who had suggested the MT go out for Halloween as super heroines (any thing to get into women's clothing). Also a few members of the MT deployed on Ex Arreade Fusion with 214/219Sig Sqns. After the initial move into Wildfleken southern Germany the MT was attached to 7 Sig Regt working under the watchful eye of **SSgt Phil 'Bag of Rags' Hay**. Who kept us busy once **Sig** 'Last one out of bed' **Shedden** and **Sig** 'Playstation' **Blundell** made an appearance, they were kept busy issuing POL and trips to the PX. There are a few farewells, to **Sig Coburn**, going to Civ Div, **LCpl Adams** also going to Civ Div, **Cpl Amrit** posted to 30 Sig Regt, **Cpl Ganesh**, posted to 30 Sig Regt on promotion to Sergeant (congratulations). Not forgetting **Sig** 'Muddy' **Mudd** posted to the School of Signals good luck to you all. Welcome to **Capt Rajendra** and family and **LCpl Brown** and family hope you have a good tour with us!

REGIMENTAL GENE BAY

IC Bay **Sgt Wyatt**

First I would like to welcome back **Sig Cleghorn**, **Tinker** and **Sworowski** from their six month jolly to sunny Bosnia now it is time to start working for a living again boys so coveralls on and knuckle down. Congratulations to **Sgt Jobson** for being promoted but commiseration's on being posted from a superb unit. We wish you well at 21 Sig Regt and hope it is all you want it to be. Congratulations also to **Steve Mitchell** on promotion to Lance Corporal a definite change for the better. We would also like to welcome **Sgt Stanley-Jones** into the close family of the Light Aid Detachment.

TORNADO TROOP

Tp Comd
SSgt **SSgt Neil Cooper**

Tornado Tp, not unlike the rest of the Squadron has had an extremely busy past few months ranging from normal mandatory Technical inspections both first and second line, to Battlecamp and Regimental deployments on Ex Arrcade Fusion.

EXERCISE ARRCADE FUSION

Exercise Arrcade Fusion for Tornado Tp was to say the least slightly different from the normal run off the mill Regimental deployment. With the requirement for only three Trunk Nodes, Tornado Tp was sacrificed and the Radio Relay Operators were split into the other Troops within the Squadron. This left the poor old Systems Op's and 'Old Faithfull' SW022 in support of 7 Sig Regt at ARRC Star. After the long drive from Ayreshire Barracks to Wildflecken and straight into an IBCP, the Switch crew manned by **Cpl's** 'Snoz' **Davis**, 'Cozy' **Cox**, 'Dangerous' **Shilton**, **LCpl** 'The Mouth' **Sibley** and **Sigs** 'Tug' **Bentley**, 'Fozzy' **Forster**, and 'Freakishly strong' **Holmes**, left for the ARRC STAR. They were closely followed by its PV and **LCpl** 'Matt' **Brameld** expecting to set up and then relax for the three weeks with shorts and flip-flops. On arrival at ARRC STAR it became apparent that SW 022 would in fact play a more crucial role than first expected, mainly due to the numerous problems being experienced by SW 098. With SW 022 now playing such an important role and holding most of if not all the communications links at ARRC STAR the crew soon earned itself an excellent reputation with 7 Sig Regt. With the escalating friendly banter between Switch crews growing daily, morale was of the highest standard seen for a long time on a Regimental Exercise, which made for a most enjoyable exercise. All personnel safely returned to York just in time to save the city from flooding!

CELTIC TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Dhan**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Dharma**

EXERCISE ARRCADE FUSION - *by Sig Greaves*

Ex Arrcade Fusion was a major Allied Rapid Reaction Corps exercise for the year 2000. 214 Sig Sqn was deployed on this exercise to provide a reliable Ptarmigan communications network in support of HQ ARRC. As the Unit furthest away from South Germany, it was obvious that we would be the first in by a week and the last out by a day, so come the end of the exercise we didn't want to go home MUCH! When we arrived in Wildflicken, the Radio Relay detachments deployed to build the network infrastructure whilst the Switches were involved in IBCP. Within a day of the Switch arriving in location, all the Celtic Tp links where holding steady. As a mixed race Troop the Chef, **LCpl Bed** had to cook different types of food to accommodate for people's tastes. Being a Gurkha himself, he made an excellent curry, which I had the pleasure of eating whenever I could! I think word got around and before long we had every man and his dog visiting. They all said that they were here to take a look at the Comms site but coincidentally they all managed to come around dinnertime! We were introduced to the nice, sunny weather that Germany

had been waiting all year to give us, all one day of it. The rest of the time you were lucky to be dry or be able to see past the end of your nose due to the foggy conditions. Despite the conditions the exercise was a success, the goals set by HQ ARRC were achieved, and as a Troop we learnt some valuable lessons, which helped us to gel together. Personally, I really enjoyed the exercise and I hope that anything in which I partake in the future, goes just as well, (not to mention the tasty Gurkha curry).

ROMAN TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Hodgkinson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Symonds**

Once again Roman Tp has had a busy period, with yet another successful ARRC exercise under their belt. It was a baptism of fire for the new Troop Commander, **2Lt** 'Hogdy' **Hodgkinson**, recently arrived from his troop commanders course, and **Sgt Paul** 'Airborne' **Coxon** from 12 Mech Bde, who both lead the Troop whilst **SSgt Chris Symonds** pushed out his EFP2. During Ex Arcade (Con) Fusion the Troop moved four times, even though this was supposed to be a static exercise. In true Roman tradition the Troop soldiered on, and put into practise all it's movement drills setting up in record time. Congratulations go out to **Sig** 'Zorro' **Adkins** for his promotion to acting Admin NCO, in the absence of **Cpl** 'Taffy' **Langley**. Recognition needs to go to **Sgt Sanu** for his sterling effort to visit the PX as many times as physically possible, whilst on exercise. He holds the record for the total amount of money spent in a single shopping trip and should be under investigation by the customs and excise for exporting goods into Nepal with PX price tags on them!

Not all the fun and games were to be had in the Node Home, the Relay site was named Misty Mountain, due to all the brilliant sunshine NOT! This location soon became known as the 'injuries Hill'. With afflictions such as **Cpl Andy Preen** having a coat hanger inserted up his nose, **Sig** 'Dangerous Brian' **Jones** poking a cam pole in his eye, **Sig** 'Brads' **Bradley** narrowly escaping electrocution doing something he shouldn't have. Also **Sig** 'Ash' **Ashcroft** suffering from some very suspicious friction burn from an unknown source! To keep spirits up Troop members were encouraged to allow the hair on their top lip to grow, some more successful than others, **Sig** 'Deno' **Dean** only managed a wisp, while true gringos sported some fine whiskers such as **Cpl John Galletley**, **Cpl Rick Rickard** and **Cpl Andy Preen**.

On return to York the Troop found themselves immersed in more ways than one in Op Water Fowl, supporting the local community during the floods along the River Ouse. Many of the Troop featuring on Sky TV and in the local papers. A job well done culminating in the Regiment being granted 'the Freedom of York'. After all the hard work the Troop is now beginning the backloading of the Ptarmigan equipment to Ashchurch, in preparation of Project Cormorant in the New Year. Roman Tp wish to say congratulations to 'Dusty' **Millar**, on selection for promotion to Corporal, and well done also to **LCpl Si Hopkins** on his promotion on posting to 21 Sig Regt as a Corporal. A welcome goes to **LCpl** 'Mac' **McLeish**, finally away from the Corsham Hub, and **LCpl Lester** from training.

VIKING TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt J. D. Noble**
Tp SSgt **SSgt K. Curlett**

The last two months have been an extremely busy period for the Troop including second lines, Battle Camp, plug ups, and some back to basics mil trg, as well as our deployment on Ex Arrcade Fusion.

EXERCISE ARCADE FUSION:

On 4 October we travelled from York to Hull to catch our five-star Cruise Liner to Rotterdam, an all expenses overnight journey with two free all you can eat meals, which went down well with the Pads. On arrival we then travelled to Ayrshire Barracks in Monchengladbach where we, at 2300hrs received another breakfast before commencing our onward journey to Rhone Kaserne in southern Germany. Here we spent two days on a plug up before deploying into the field to join the remainder of the Troop who had already set up their Radio Relay links. **Sig** 'Ayrton Senna' **Rees** decided to spin a rover in all directions and then park it in a ditch, obviously playing far too much 'Grand Tourismo' on shift. He is okay, unlike his wallet, which may feel slightly lighter by Christmas. The exercise got off to a flying start (not) with plenty of problems with SHF frequencies. However, with our excellent Tech support, all was in hand. **Cpl** 'Taff' **Livesey** is now a qualified SHF 'setter upper' and 'player wither', his expertise held the exercise together, so he says. The Relay Ops got bored and decided to lay down the gauntlet with a cycling competition 'The Viking Challenge' which was a 2km ride to the top of their location. **Sig** 'H' **Harper** holds the record of 9mins 21secs with protest from **Cpl** 'Andy' **Plumb** who got a cracking time of 9mins 19secs on his cracking unofficial bike. Sorry 'Andy' but we don't do suspension, that's official. On 12 October we were given a week's notice to move 20mtrs as 1 (UK) ADSR wanted our space. We offered to fight them for it but they declined as they didn't want to get themselves dirty. They remained a mere 24 hours before deciding it was not good enough and went, apparently due to the lack of Bio Boxes. We turned our attentions to the locals and football - '66 was revisited! This time they took a beating, literally, on their own turf. They lost by loads of goals to six. The following day we were treated to a Christmas shopping trip to the PX at Wurzburg, where all the Gurkhas went mad in the electrical goods section. Little did they know about the voltage difference, but they will find out soon enough! Our illustrious leader **Lt Noble** and **Sgt** 'Jim' **Mason** decided to get matching GI Joe haircuts, which is nice and they won't hear the end of it until it grows out. A well done goes out to the Switch Crew professionally led by **LCpl** 'Light-House' **Culver** as it did not crash throughout the entire exercise and still holds the title as the best Switch in the Corps. Another well done goes out to **LCpl** 'Andy' **Williams** and **LCpl 'Silver Fox' Culver** who came off the Lance Corporal - Corporal promotion board.

EXERCISE IRON FORAY

No sooner had we got ourselves established on Ex Arrcade Fusion then it was time to tear down and re-deploy back to the UK to join 3 UK DIV on Ex Iron Foray. This involved yet another long and tedious road back through Germany, in which **Sig** 'Jimmy' **Rees** demonstrated his complete inability to follow either the route card or the vehicle in front, and took the remainder of his packet on a scenic though short detour of southern Germany, nice one! Once back in York the Troop were then treated to approx 24hrs off before starting yet another long and tedious convoy to Bulford, to RV with 3 Div. On arrival we were taken to our locations (all cushy in barracks ones), with the exception of **Sigs** 'Andy' **Fee** and 'H' **Young** who had the considerable honour of deploying to the mud heap that was Beacon Hill, and remaining their for the rest of the week! The Ex was designed to test the Brigade staff more then anything else and subsequently we remained static for the duration, which meant Sandies coffee shop did a roaring trade in sausage butties! All went smoothly though and the Troop would like to thank 3 (UK) Div and particularly OSC 143 for looking after us.

HELLO'S AND GOODBYES

The Troop would like to say hello to **SSgt** 'Lamb Chop' **Curlett** who has just joined us from AFCO Newcastle and **Sig O'Toole** who has joined us from Torpedo (sorry, TORNADO) Tp. Goodbye to **Cpl Andy** 'But I Won That Race' **Plumb**, our Admin Tent Commander **Cpl** 'Bowser Boy' **Parkhill**, **Sigs Ben Campbell** and **Andy Fee**. This being their final exercise they will be leaving the forces in the near future. Thanks for all your hard work and best wishes for the future, you will all be sorely missed.

CORPS DINNER CLUB

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2001

TUESDAY 8 MAY 2001
Corps London Dinner
The Savoy
Black Tie

SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2001
Corps Luncheon
Blandford

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2001
Corps Luncheon North
Catterick

FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2001
Scottish Dinner
Glasgow

For further information contact:
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3(UNITED KINGDOM) DIVISONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col Phil Davies**
2IC **Maj Nick Bateson**
Adjt **Capt** 'Taff' **Watts**
Ops Offr **Capt Lloyd Golly**

Spot the odd one out from the above. Does odd shaped balls give you a clue? Yes you've guessed it, the Rugger B.....rs have hit Picton Barracks. I realised that our days as a running Regiment were doomed as the RHQ gossip turned to Inter Squadron 10's rather than PB's. Both the Colonel and the greased weasel Adjt pulled on their boots to great effect and with the new Operations man, **Capt Lloyd Golly** (just on the mend from long term injury) shouting encouragement HQ Sqn stormed to victory. The new men are now firmly establishing themselves in RHQ and I can see the 2IC's reign of Knowledge is Power rapidly coming to an end. .....What knowledge!ssed.

a. I thought I hadn't seen the Adjt's dog for a while
b. OC HQ - Maj Ken Bailie
Give him enough rope and he'll hang himself
c. The QM (A) Maj 'Blackie' Widdows holds back the tears as the Colonel departs

REGIMENTAL SPORTING HEROES

Cpl Jackie Davies is pictured having won the Army Heptathalon back in the summer.
She's the one with the Army 2000 strip on! She has now been selected to represent Great Britain in the Ladies Bobsleigh and joins SSgt Daff Clash (Down Hill on a Tea Tray) in full time winter training with the British Olympic Squad. Congratulations.

Cpl Thomas and other members of 206 Sqn helped with 1 Div's 'Silver Child 3' fund raiser for Hope House and Great Ormond Street Hospital

202 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj A. Long**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) J. McNaught**

Time waits for no man in today's army and this last couple of months has proven to be very busy. A busy exercise period with Regimental, Divisional and Army commitments have kept the Squadron out of trouble these past couple of months. Keeping antique armour on the road continually provides a challenge. Whether our 432's will start again after the Christmas break, though, is another matter entirely! Next year looks a busy one for the Squadron, with commitments to Kosovo, Bosnia and the Falklands. Current plan is to enjoy the December festivities with some quality family time and then hit 2001 refreshed and keen – see you there!

OVERLOON TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt** 'Gaz' **Irwin**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Big Bad Joe' **Rowe**

Starting with the Troop day out at Andover Go – Karting centre where we had a wacky races day, followed by drinking afterwards, obviously not at the same time! The Squadron then went on to Summer Camp from 4–8 September to the Isle of Wight. Activities included the normal selection of climbing and canoeing followed with copious amounts of alcohol being drunk, for some strange reason the residents seemed to like us.

We've had a busy last few months involving exercises in 202 Sqn, which we all naturally enjoy. This started with Ex Staff Ride from 11–15 September, then Staff College Demo from 16–20 October, then the Regimental exercise, Ex Red Tricorn from 23–27 October, and finally with Ex Iron Foray 30 October–3 November! Also during this period several people from the Troop deployed to Canada on Ex Iron Hawk.

The Troop would like to congratulate **Sig Dave Anson** on his marriage to **Rachel** back in September and also to **Sig Steph Bryant** and **Cpl Trev Evans** on their marriage in October. It's not unusual that we have to say goodbye to members of the Troop who are off to 'pastures new'. Or should we say 'civvy-street' among them are **Cpl Sean Bysouth** who left in November, **LCpl Nick Taylor** leaving December and due to leave in the next couple of weeks are **LCpl OJ Olejnik** and **LCpl Sid Marsh**. The Troop would also like to welcome **Sig Davies** who greeted his arrival by going on exercise to Canada straight away. We have also had several members selected for promotion to Lance Corporal so congratulations go to **Sig** 'Randy' **Hussey**, **Sig Steph Evans**, **Sig Rob Hocking**, **Sig Emily Knowles**, and **Sig Bob Rankin**. **Cpl** 'Kev' **Tharby** has also just been promoted to Sergeant and we would like to thank him as well. The Troop is now busy looking forward to Christmas parties and a well earned break!

BUSSACO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt** 'Colonial' **Lumley**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Big Mac' **McGuiness**

A big Bussaco welcome to **Sgt** 'Kev' **Dawes** who has recently joined the technical workshops from HQ Sqn, and a warm welcome to **SSgt Frank McGuiness** who has just arrived from 16 Air Asslt to take the post of Troop Staff Sergeant. Goodbye to **Sgt** 'Armour' **McNamara** who has left us to go to HQ Sqn, and a fond farewell to **SSgt** 'Howling Mad' **Howsen** who has left us to move onto bigger and better things. The Troop has been busy, as usual, supplying support for Ex Iron Hawk in Canada, and also Ex Iron Foray supplying the usual communications and life support for the Divisional HQ. More news in January 2001, following the Christmas mayhem!

Also it's goodbye to the two 'para-maniacs' **LCpl Mark** 'Fruity' **Fielding** if off to 249 Sig Sqn (doesn't he just love Bulford!) and **LCpl Andy** 'I never get naked' **Standing**. Although we are all very sad by their departure, life must go on – and it has.

The Troop performed to their usual high standard on the GOC's major exercise – Ex Iron Foray. The GOC's Tac HQ crew, under the command of **Sgt Jim** 'The hairiest man in NATO' **Gray**, has made quite a name for itself at its regular SORLS demonstration days and will continue into the new year to help in the recruitment of potential officers to the Corps.

Sgt Gary in a rare display of compassion

Aside from that, the seniors and soldiers of Bussaco Tp would like to wish everyone a Merry Xmas and a Happy Year – keep that drinking arm in use over the festive season and we'll see you all in 2001

206 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Adsett**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Smith**

MONS TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Gardner**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Fairfield**

EXERCISE RHINO WARRIOR – *by Sig Lynn Garrod*

Battle Camp, what an experience! Many thank to **Sgt** 'Rambo' **Richardson**, for his amazing portrayal of Mother Teressa, whilst rescuing two soldiers from the grips of Dartmoor. His strong man antics with three Bergens was very impressive. **Capt** 'Kamikaze' **Kemp**, gets a mention for his selective hearing, especially when route planning. This resulting in nine soldiers tabbing an extra 14kms resembling the cast of 'Dads Army', looking for an RV that **Capt Kemp**, had difficulty in finding. (Is **Capt Kemp** geographically challenged?). The Techs proved true to form, with the tactical sense of Chimps and the co-ordination of Lemmings, it was a good job the imaginary minefield was not real, or we'd have a few less Techs now. Get well soon **LCpl Andy** 'Water Wings' **Ackers**, the only NCO to pack a rubber ring in his webbing, (Next time take a fishing rod). For the final attack the sick, lame and pure lazy were deployed as an ambush party. They had a long wait as the Troop was waiting in the wrong place a couple of kms away in the wrong location. The section competition went well with **LCpl Abbott** leading his section to a very good win. The Battle Camp was rounded off with a good evening of presentations. **SSgt** 'Anchovy' **Angove** gave an excellent rendition of simply the best (although the mini dress and wig was OTT). Well done to all sections for pulling together and making the best of a bad job. Welcomes to the new members of the troop, **Sig Ross Walsh**, **Sig Matt Senior**, **Sig Steve Cowan**, **Sig Gavin Rakocevic**. Farewells to **LCpl Steve Wood**, **LCpl Kelly Buddle**, **LCpl Ash Vingoe** a sad loss to the Troop System Operators. Congratulations to **Cpl Andy Ackers**, **Cpl Paul Whenman**, **LCpl Kelly Buddle** on their recent promotions and to **Sig Sutton** and **Sig Townsley** on their selection for promotion.

INKERMAN TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Kemp**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Angove**

The 'Fighting Elite' have been kept busy recently. With the Divisional assets coming together for the first time in five years, Ex Iron Foray was a huge success, thanks to the lads and lassies of Inkerman Tp deploying with their rebros! After the exercise, the Troop started preparing for the wind-down for Christmas, but the squadron had other ideas. Off we all deployed to Okehampton. Congratulations to **Paul** 'Chubby Chaser' **Routledge** for 'Top Tom'. Also, well done 'Fighting Elite' for their outstanding karaoke talents, led by the illustrious, most sought after, 'everyone wants a piece of me' **SSgt** 'Anchovy' **Angove**. The comedy factor within the Troop has once again been provided by **Sig** 'I'm going on SAS selection' **Scott** and **Sig** 'I'm also going on SAS selection' **Thompson**. Well done for their re-run of 'Carry on Camping' in the Black Mountains!

Quite a few people within the Troop have been promoted recently. Firstly, congratulations to **Lt Kemp** on his promotion to Captain. Also, selected for promotion to Corporal were **LCpl** 'Duty Fat Kid' **Lewis**, **LCpl** 'Very Good' **Conlon** and **LCpl** 'Jim' **Kemp**. Selected for promotion to Lance Corporal were **Sig** 'Old Man' **Brown**, **Sig Dorey**, **Sig** 'Ewok' **Anderson** and **Sig** 'Westermouth' **Westerman**.

The Troop would like to say goodbye and good luck to the following people: **Capt Kemp** who is leaving the troop to become 2IC of the Squadron and **Sig** 'Dangerous' **Durwood** who is looking forward to civilian life up in Scotland. Also goodbyes go to **Sig Dorey**, who has set up home in Kent and **Sig** 'Westermouth' **Westerman** who will be arriving at 39 Inf Bde after Christmas. We would like to welcome into the troop **Sig** 'Porridge' **Rodda**, and **Sgt** 'Smudge' **Smith.** The Troop would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ADVENTURE TRAINING – EXERCISE DRAGON BERG SOUTH AFRICA 10–25 NOVEMBER 2000

After much planning and scheming to get a 3 fi week program into two weeks our intrepid explorers met at the Picton Barracks Guard Room on a cold and blustery Friday afternoon. They were all dressed up to face the weather between Bulford and Heathrow airport – all except **Cpl Paul** '140 Rand' **Coates** who, eager to hit the warmth of the Southern Hemisphere, arrived in a vest, beach shoes and a pair of jeans! After a pleasant flight listening to surround sound snoring, we arrived to a blistering 25 degrees at Johannesburg International Airport. We quickly moved to Avis car hire to pick up our red love bus before driving off to our hotel. Some then went shopping while the others enjoyed a spot of golf at the local country club.

The next was the drive down to Dundee and our battlefield tour of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift which was probably the most impressive battlefield tour any of us have been on. Wasting no time, we then drove down to the Drakensburg mountain range where we began our eight days of trekking. The eight days seemed to fly by and after swimming in the mountain rock pools, sleeping in caves, showering under waterfalls and having a close encounter with a rather sleepy two metre Python, we were on the move again. 800km later, we found ourselves in the sunny seaside city of Port Elizabeth where we were hosted by **Col (Retd) Brandt** of the SANDF. He treated us to a night of South African delicacies and Afrikaans music that no one could understand except **Lt Sean** 'Mr Lubba Lubba Mmmm' **Lumley** who is native of South Africa (in other words a 'Colonial'). The next day **Lt Riaan Brandt** took us to Group 6 Regional Reaction Force (SANDF). Here we were hosted by **Col Yam** SANDF.

Lt Sean Lumley receiving a plaque from Col Yam of the South African National Defence Force

We were taken around to see the cannons that defended the city during WW2, a little of the South African arsenal and the lookout tower that has been conveniently converted into a bar! The visit ended with an exchange of mementoes (a track link from a AFV 432 for a brass elephant's head – good trade). It was then back on the road toward Cape Town, but not before a little tanning on the beach (**Cpl Rob** 'Buddy Dude' **Hickley** and **Cpl Paul** '140 Rand' **Coates** – no sun bed fees out here – bonus!). On the way down to Cape Town, two important stops had to be made. The first stop was on the Bloukrans Bridge to do the highest bungee jump in the world (**Cpl Jim** 'Angry' **Annis**, you can't have a shirt if you haven't done the jump!). The second was a spot of Ostrich riding in Oudtshoorn – well done **Cpl Leroy** 'Gym Queen' **Wilson Cochrane** and **LCpl Andy** 'Get Naked, Who Me?' **Standing!**

Finally we arrived in our last port of call – Cape Town! **Cpl** 'Taff (What! It's not a Rugby Tour?)' **Morris** went off to visit some long lost relatives (upon returning he insisted that we call him by his birth name – Huw). Meanwhile the rest of us sampled the local shops and beaches. Before winding up the tour, we had to go on a wine tasting trip around the world famous Stellenbosch wineries where much wine was bought (and consumed). A few more shops and night clubs later (unfortunately without **Sgt Paul** 'Grandad' **Ashford** who was enjoying a few relaxing days in the sun) we headed for Cape Town Airport and our flight back to the UK. All in all, a top trip.

A little bit of heritage at Rorke's Drift

7 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col Richardson MBE**
RSM **WO1 Smoothy**

The most important news from the Regiment has to be that the Adjutant, **Capt Andy Aitken and** his wife **Phoebe** are celebrating the birth of their daughter, **Abigail Susan**. Many congratulations on becoming a family!

EXERCISE ARRCADE FUSION 00

Ex Arrcade Fusion is an annual deployment involving the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps Headquarters and some of its supporting Divisions. It is the major exercise of the year and enables 7 Sig Regt to exercise in its role in support of the ARRC HQ and Multinational Command Posts. This year these included Divisions in Turkey and Spain, as well as the STAR HQ concentrated around Wildflecken in Germany, all supported by elements of 7 Sig Regt. The majority of 232 Sig Sqn, part of 7 Sig Regt, deployed to Wildflecken to establish STAR HQ for Commander ARRC. The journey was long and once the troops had slept they set about the battle to claim the little real estate available for their vehicles. The site quickly turned into a German mud bath under all the movement and daily rainfall. The Squadron set up with the true professionalism that is always shown even in the most difficult and harsh conditions. Within the STAR HQ build, the squadron provided the communications that would enable the Commander to communicate with and control all the formations at his disposal.

The Turkish deployment started after eight days on an uncomfortable train before arriving in Ankara. With a police escort through the city centre the convoy eventually reached its destination for the next month, Mamak Barracks, which is home to the Turkish 4th Army Corps and more specifically the 1st (Turkish) Mechanised Division. For the duration of the exercise, Secondary Access Node (SAN) 874, under command of **2Lt Graeme Endean**, provided close CIS support to this headquarters. 15 soldiers from 7 Sig Regt, Krefeld, and five from 30 Sig Regt based in Nuneaton, UK, provided Ptarmigan, Video Conferencing and IAARCIS to the Turkish staff enabling them to e-mail and speak securely directly back to ARRC Main HQ based in Fulda, southern Germany.

Sig Preston working with the American Tropo Detachment

After a short delay caused by a French train strike SAN 870 loaded up and finally left Ayrshire Barracks, bound for Madrid to provide CIS support to the Spanish Rapid Reaction Division. It was located in Zaragossa, home of the Spanish Military Academy, where Spanish Officers spend five years in training, and more importantly the largest training area in Spain. Once in Madrid, the Signals soldiers began setting up and waited for the Spanish to follow. They arrived a few days later than the British. Once the staff had arrived and the exercise was in full flow, the Headquarters was very busy indeed, with **LCpl Bartlett** working hard to install and maintain the Iarrcis terminal. The Spanish

Signals Company had a similar set up and outlook to our own. Their assistance to us in many areas was superb, and we made many friends. The facilities were similar in all the Headquarters the Squadron supported. The Squadron also deployed facilities in support of the RAF, with the In Flight Reporting (Ifrep) Detachment being sent to Main HQ at Fulda. Aside from the Divisional deployment, there were a huge number of different nationalities working at 'EXCON', including British soldiers, Americans, French, Italian, Dutch and many more. The photographs show soldiers from 7 Sig Regt working with American soldiers from 268 Sig Coy, part of the 77 Sig Btn. The American 'Tropo' system, officially called the AN/TRC - 170 V3, was interfaced with the British Ptarmigan system. 'ZODIAC', the Dutch system, was also interfaced.

Sig Preston
is shown the American Tropospheric Scatter communications

Ex Arrcade Fusion was an extremely demanding and challenging exercise for all the Signals personnel that took part, not least due to the actual deployment to three separate countries. Also there was the requirement for the communications to be 'transparent', that is, permanently established, in order for Commander ARRC to properly test and exercise his Headquarters Staff and subordinate Divisions. 7 Sig Regt deployed troops from 229, 231 and 232 Sig Sqns, as well as large elements of its HQ Sqn, and the general success was certainly thanks to the enormous effort from everyone within the Regiment who took part.

WIVES BATTLECAMP WEEKEND - *by Sgt 'Drew' Drewitt*

Once upon a time .....Long, long ago, OC 232 Sig Sqn, **Maj Phil Baker**, came up with an idea for a wives weekend. What a fine idea agreed everyone, and who shall be lucky enough to run with this plan? After much soul searching and shoulder sloping it was decided that the individual (who can be named as **Sgt** 'Drew' **Drewitt** for slabbing reasons) was chosen from a list of ..... being the only Sergeant on the conference! The wives met on a sunny afternoon in late September, firstly introduced to the weekend by OC 232 Sig Sqn and **WO2 (SSM) Ian Carter**. The first activity they took part in was the pastime of the gods.....DRILL! - with the ever-young **SSgt** 'Steff' **Newton** in charge. After a fun time wandering around the Main Square of 7 Sig Regt, they were transported in relative luxury to Arsbeck Training Area, where the good stuff started. The list of instructors read like a who's who of training: **SSgt (SQMS)** 'Adi' **Chapman** (bashas), **LCpl** 'Bob' **Lovell** (rat packs), **Sgt** 'Drew' **Drewitt** (Ranges) to name but a few. The most impressive results though were saved for the ranges, where **Mrs Tracey Ritchie** scored an almost perfect 58 out of 60 from 100 m. It was at this time that the decision was made to substitute the wives for their husbands on the next APWT. After a short journey round the corner to the Training Area, the wives were introduced to personal cam. How we giggled when they believed that cam cream on the teeth was standard practice to hide the shine of a smile! Next on the agenda was trying to guide Bedford's and Landrovers into and out of various positions. **Mrs Rachel Laverick** and **Mrs Nikki Orr** deserve a mention, as being able to scare **Cpl** 'Jeff' **Sigston** is a feat rarely achieved by anyone. All too soon dusk arrived, and with it the move to the basha site. After trying to explain about defence and the positioning of the bashas the wives decided to go with their maternal instincts and sleep where they fell. Dawn came all too soon and at 0530hrs the ladies were awoken gently from their slumber, with cries of, 'I wouldn't feed my dog this.' and, 'My husband doesn't get up this early!' Suffice to say, the instructor's emergency rations greatly increased.

'Are you sure
we rub our tums and pat our heads when we do this?'
(L-R): Kerry Cousins, Niki Orr, Petra Bowman
and the evergreen SSgt Adi Chapman

During the navigation phase most of the spouses found out what fun it could be 'bimbling' across hill and vale. The NBC football was, as always, a great success. However, **Mrs Karen Williamson** wasn't so sure and just sat down. The final activity was X-Country Driving - let's just say that, 'You look nervous.' and, 'Don't worry we can pick it up on the way back can't we?' were phrases heard all too often. Finally the weary but joyful wives were taken back to camp and into 232 Sig Sqn bar, whereupon they regaled their husbands with their 'war stories'. The CO, **Lt Col Richardson MBE** was on hand to present the certificates and listen to some interesting anecdotes (whinges) from the wives. To be truthful, when I was first handed this task, all I thought was, 'What a nightmare!' That said, the enthusiasm and interest shown by the wives who attended made it all worthwhile. One final note, to all those people not named, (lucky!) but without whom this whole weekend would have never got off the ground, thank you.

ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE

This year's Armistice Day Service took place at Rheinberg Cemetery. Members of 7 Sig Regt and 280 (UK) Sig Sqn took part in the service of remembrance. **Cpl Bennett** was the Bugler, and the Piper was **LCpl MacDonald**, both from 16 Sig Regt. Guests at the service included the Deputy Consul General from the British Embassy in Dusseldorf, **Mr Richard Frolland**, and **Mr Robert Francis**, representing the Royal British Legion. **Chief Technician Allan** and his family were also attending, as **Mrs Allan's** father was buried in the cemetery. Wreaths were laid by **Sig Thornley** (the youngest soldier in the Regiment), the Commanding Officer, **Maj Harris** (Officer Commanding 280 (UK) Sig Sqn), **Mr Robert Francis** and the Deputy Consul General. Following the service, the Piper played a number of very moving pieces, whilst poppies were laid on each grave. Many individuals commented on how relevant and moving the service was, being held in the cemetery, surrounded by the graves of servicemen often the same age as themselves.

KREFELD TO PRSTINA SPONSORED MARATHON

7 Sig Regt, based in Krefeld - Leicester's twin town - have just completed a combined rowing and cycling race to raise money for a Kosovo school. The Regiment deployed to Kosovo last year, where one of its Squadrons, 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn, helped to rebuild Vllezrite Frasheri School in Vragolija which was badly damaged during the conflict. This August, the Squadron re-deployed to Kosovo to provide communications support to 3 Cmdo Brigade. They visited the school to see if they could offer more help. The teachers pointed out that the school was extremely overcrowded, and what they really needed was a classroom extension. **Sgt Dave Bain**, serving with the Regiment in Kosovo, came up with the money-raising idea of holding a sponsored race between soldiers in Kosovo and those soldiers back in Germany. The race would be on cycling and rowing machines, covering the geographical distance between Krefeld and Pristina, which totals some 1870km. Teams raced at both ends to see who could complete the distance in the fastest time. **Sgt Bain's** brother **Steve**, based in JHQ Rheindahlen with the RMP, joined the Krefeld team for the race, and the brotherly rivalry added to the competitive spirit between the two teams. Between them, the soldiers from 7 Sig Regt, and their families and friends have managed to raise some £4000 for the extension. Contributions have been pouring in from the most unexpected sources, such as £160 from some local Krefeld German residents, and even £1430 from RAF Bruggen, who have donated funds from their Balkans Aid Appeal. The people of Leicester, twinned with Krefeld, have also been helping: The Army Careers Office Leicester and the Lord Mayor's Office have both collected for this worthy cause. The effort to raise funds has been considerably encouraged by the prizes on offer, for most money collected. A huge vote of thanks goes to all those that have donated prizes - these include the following:

Cotswold Outdoor Company	£40 worth of Cotswold vouchers
P & O Ferries	Free return ticket (Calais-Dover) for a Car & two people
NAAFI Krefeld	Free case of wine
Station Welfare Fund	Camera worth DM250
PRI Fund	7th Signal Regiment Plaque

The team from Pristina were marginally ahead of the Krefeld team in a time of 13 hours. The people from the village of Vragolija, now re-named 'Lirragane', have sent a personal note of thanks to all who have helped, and it is perhaps best left in the way it was first written:

Capt Nicky James (pictured on the cycling machine)
is helped by her team mates

DEAR FRIENDS
Your entrance in Kosova cheered us very much and we don't have words how to thank you.
We are one village between two rivers.
We are little bit traumatised from the war, and we need time to stabilise our life's.
To you BRITFOR and to your soldiers we are very grateful, because with soft words you have respected us.
All the inhabitants of the village are wishing you a long life and successes, and from our harts thank you in the name of village Lirragane.

EXERCISE WET FEET II

Ex Wet Feet II was an Adventurous Training exercise based down at the British Mohnesee Sailing Club, near Soest, from 24-29 September 2000. Ten brave volunteers set out late on a Sunday night, little knowing the horrors that were in store for them the following morning – yes, it was the dreaded Swim Test! This was no gentle dip in a well-warmed swimming pool, nor was it with the help of wetsuits. No, it was simply 'Get your swimsuits on, walk into the reservoir, and swim out to the rescue boat and back'. Once bodies had returned from blue to pink, with the help of some thermo-nuclear showers, we were ready to do some sailing. Three of us had a bit of experience, having been on Ex Wet Feet I in April, so we rigged the Toppers as best we could, and set off across the water. Our memories must have been rather shaky, as **SSgt** 'Olympic Gold Snorer' **FofS Sutton** was seen drifting up a little backwater, re-tying his mast and muttering hard about amateurs .....!

The rest of the gang soon joined us on the water, and provided much entertainment for onlookers with the unpredictable steerage and efficient jibes – and that was before the lesson on jibing, too, as **2Lt Stewart Russell** found out. Ah yes, the two 'attachments'. We were fortunate to have **2Lt** 'Windy' **Russell** and **OCdt Steve Rouse** with us, on loan from Bristol and Shrivenham respectively. Piracy was definitely the order of the day, as they took it in turns to capsize each other. The girls, **Sig Nicky Lowe** and **Sig Sian Lane**, gave us some terrifying turns to watch, each time with the boat dipping closer and closer to the water – an impressive capsize, too. They were none too impressed when the Bosun race was joined by the **Fos**, **OCdt Rouse** and **Lt Evans** in the Stratus – who proceeded to overtake everyone, stealing all their wind. **Sig** 'Nabs' **Nabokow** did particularly well in the Laser, considering the boom was inches from the deck, and he had to lie flat along the boat each time he went about.

Capsize Drill (1)

The piracy continued, with **Sig** 'Shacks' **Shackleton** and **Sig** 'Steve' **Barber** linking up with another pair, **2Lt** 'Not beans for breakfast again' **Russell** and **Sig** 'Alex' **Kennett**. Their victim was **OCdt Rouse** in the Laser, but alas they chose the wrong sailor to ambush, as his swift dodging and faster sailing clearly showed. However he didn't count on the perseverance of **2Lt Russell**, who deserted his crewman, jumped ship and proceeded to swim over, capsize the Laser and hijack it – leaving **OCdt Rouse** to swim ashore from the middle of the Reservoir! Thanks to the expert teaching of **Sgt Andy Quinn Williams**, everyone returned with at least Novice I, and some Novice I and II qualifications. The evening entertainment included table tennis, basketball and a wide selection of DVDs from Rob the Windsurfing Instructor. The BBQ was a popular end to a highly successful week – roll on next Spring, for your next swim test, FofS!

(L-R): SSgt (FofS) Sutton, Sig Lowe, Sig Lane, Sig Nabokow,
Sig Barber, Sig Kennett, OCdt Rowse, Capt Evans,
Sig Shackleton, 2Lt Russell

229 (BERLIN) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj D. Webster** Royal Australian Signals
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. Burdge**

YANKEE TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Liz Williams**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Kenny MacPherson**

The month of November has proved to be yet another busy time for the Squadron, with most of the Squadron still on Ops in Kosovo. As a result of the recent Signaller to Lance Corporal promotion board, congratulations go to the following on being selected for promotion: **Sig Nabokow, Sig Phillips 996, Sig Giann, Sig Preston, Sig Phillips 684, Sig Roberts, Sig Johns, Sig Murray, Sig Wythes, Sig Lowe.** A hearty welcome to the two luckiest men in NATO, on their arrival in 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn: **Sgt Wood, LCpl McPherson.** We all hope you enjoy your tour. As always, when new people arrive we must say goodbye to some. These poor unfortunates are as follows: **LCpl** 'Hoppy' **Hopkinson** on promotion to 16 AAB, **Sig** 'Marie' **Butler** to 2 Sig Regt, **Sig** 'Sadie' **Kennedy** to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig** 'Steph' **Evans** on promotion to the 1st Civ Div.

X-RAY TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Caroline Evans**

Who are X-ray Troop? We are all members of 231 Sig Sqn who have been left behind to fly the flag whilst the remainder of the Squadron are sunning it in the Falklands. Whilst they are enjoying their six month R & R period we, the remainder, have been maintaining a fleet of 109 vehicles (three per man!) and providing any shortfalls in manpower that the Regiment (and Brigade) had on Ex Arrcade Fusion. Welcomes and farewells are too numerous to mention! The Troop strength started at 38 in June 2000 and even though we have had many departures the Troop strength now stands at nearly 80. When does a Troop change into a Squadron? We would like to congratulate the following on their selection for promotion: **Cpl** Andy 'Have you heard about my downhill' **Dawson** and **Cpl Mandy May** to Sergeant. Lance Corporal to Corporal – **LCpl Roger** 'What tram?' **Manns**, **LCpl** 'Ricky' **Curran**, **LCpl** 'Tim' **Mullett**, **LCpl** 'Muriel' **Wiggins.**

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Baker**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Carter**

ST.MARTINS DAY

On Wednesday 8 November 2000, 232 Sig Sqn volunteered to host this year's St Martin's Day Parade on behalf of 7 Sig Regt. The story goes that some centuries ago St Martin, a knight, was riding his horse along a country road on a frosty November evening. He came across an old beggar who was freezing cold, and without hesitation stopped, cut his cloak in two and gave half to the beggar. He became famous for his good deed, and this is now celebrated annually by a procession of children carrying lanterns behind St Martin, played by a man on a white horse. He parades around the local streets and finally ends up within Bradbury Barracks, where a bonfire is lit and the story of St Martin is replayed, followed by bags of sweets being handed out to local children. This year nearly 2000 German civilians attended the celebrations, and 850 bags of sweets were handed out to the children with the help of the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Richardson**. This year the short straw for organising the event fell to **SSgt George McGuire**. The job of collecting large numbers of pallets and other burnable material from around the Regiment and building the bonfire, fell to **Cpl Rose** and a few willing helpers, including **Cpl** 'Damian' **Gauchi**, **Sig** 'Jack' **Hawkins** and **Sig** 'Scouse' **Girvan**. On the night in question it rained as expected for a military event. There was no problem lighting the fire as **Cpl Sigston** made sure it went up, thanks to a splash of kerosene. In fact the fire went up so quickly we thought it might not last long enough. After the re-inactment, the children collected their sweets and went on their way. The night wouldn't have gone nearly as smoothly if it wasn't for other members of the Squadron like **Cpl** 'I get to wear a vest' **Johnston,** who was in charge of traffic control. Thank you also to all the squadron 'girls', who handed out most of the sweets, and everybody else who got cold and wet – cheers!

Lt Col and Mrs Richardson (L) and Maj Lawrence (SSO) (back right) with members of 232 Sig Sqn, St Martin amd the Beggar. The local people of Krefeld helped to organise the sweets

DELTA TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Allison**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Taylor**

There have been several changes to the Troop in recent months. Welcome to **Sig** 'Godders' **Godwin**, **Sig** 'Quality Left Foot' **Creighton** and **Sig** 'Baldrick' **Reynolds**, all from Blandford and who are now well and truly indoctrinated into the Troop. Congratulations to all those recently promoted from LCpl to Cpl on exercise – **Cpl** 'I'm off skiing for a month' **Buckle**, **Cpl** 'I hate MT' **Porter** and **Cpl** 'Fibre Wrecker' **Thompson**. From Signaller to Lance Corporal - Congratulations to **Sig** 'Chico' **Ankers**, **Sig** 'Wide Boy' **Entwistle**, **Sig** 'How's Your' **Harris** and **Sig** 'Biker Chick' **Turner**. The Troop also says goodbye to **SSgt** 'Steff' **Newton** and says hello to **SSgt Taylor**. The Troop has just returned from Ex Arrcade Fusion where we deployed SAN groups to Madrid and Ankara (yes, we do get to travel beyond Wildflecken). Whilst the Turkish SAN enjoyed the hospitality lavished on them including being pummelled by large Turkish masseurs at the Turkish baths, certain members of the Spanish SAN became navigationally challenged! Looks like we could be buying GPS (and electronic tagging!) from Troop funds soon. Unfortunately the Turkish SAN arrived back a little jaded after also spending their return journey without any power on the train (after negotiating through customs in several former Eastern bloc countries)– only seven days or so! The Spanish SAN managed to see a little of Madrid after the exercise, including a trip to a theme park, where we all went on the Play-Station tower which dropped free-fall about 75m, all except **Cpl** 'Para' **Porter** who said dropping from large heights was 'unnatural!'

HOTEL TROOP - *by Cpl Dunnington*
Tp Comd **SSgt Ironside**
Tp SSgt **SSgt McGuire**

Down the track and Hotel Tp is still immersed in hard work and sweat. Goodbyes have to be made to **LCpl** 'Taz' **Williams** posted to 3 Div in Bulford - his entertaining evenings will be missed. Bye also to myself **Cpl Rob** 'Muddy' **Dunnington**, I'm finally escaping the clutches of 7 Sig Regt for the heights of Blandford on my T1. We welcome with open arms a few arrivals to the Troop, **LCpl Mark** 'Fat Bloke' **Shirley**, straight into the Tech Workshops from his Class 3 at Blandford. Hello also to **LCpl** 'John Paul II' **Pope** - after a brief spell in TM Tp he joins our Tech workshops. Finally welcome to **Sig** Chris 'Nige' **Orr**, a Brand new Installation technician from Blandford. Quite a few members of the Troop have had new arrivals of their own. Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Just a few words' **Johnston** and wife on the birth of their son, to **Sig Kay Murphy** and hubby on the birth of their son, to **Sig Claire Porter** and husband **Dougie** on their new addition. A quick mention for **SSgt** 'Red Viper' **Ironside** - congratulations on his impending promotion and posting to 16 Sig Regt as Training Warrant Officer, early next Year.

The majority of the Troop's effort over the last couple of months has been centred round the main ARRC exercise for the year. For a brief spell we had the pleasure of **2Lt Vanessa Galloway**'s command and company. Hopefully her sunny outlook will not be lost when she returns from her Troop Commanders course early next year. It was a gruelling drive down to the exercise area in Bavaria but the Troop's vehicles arrived without problem and we managed a few winks before the hard work began. A sterling effort was made by all throughout the exercise ensuring communications at STAR HQ were second to none. Thanks go to the lads from TM Tp for their help and assistance at 'the sharp end', especially **Cpl** 'Bobby' **Hill**. The exercise culminated in a visit by the Chief of the General Staff, and luckily many members of the Troop got the opportunity to meet and talk with him in a semi-informal atmosphere.

Our time in Bavaria was not without incident. On one cold and wet night someone kidnapped my toy chicken. It was a low and despicable act carried out by cowards. They even cut off a couple of toes, sending them in an envelope and also a picture of the poor bird trussed and blindfolded behind bars. Now as Christmas fast approaches, the Troop prepares for the winter, vehicle and equipment maintenance being a priority at the moment. I think if **Cpl** 'Richy' **Wilson** has to check serial numbers one more time he'll flip. Finally a special mention has to go to **Cpl Jeff** 'JuicyLuce' **Sigston**, who complained he's never in *The WIRE*! Keep up the good work!

TAC TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Lawson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Griffiths**

TAC Tp welcomes the following new members to its ranks, **Sig** 'Milky Bar Kid' **Bowler** and **Sig Mears** from training at Blandford, and **Sig Lisa** 'Private Benjamin' **Matthews** from 21 Sig Regt. Congratulations go to **Cpl Gibbs** who has recently come off the promotion board and is now filling the post of Troop Sergeant, and **LCpl Ryall** who has been selected for promotion to Corporal. Thankfully the future of TAC Troop has been secured with the birth of **Gabriel** to **Cpl Steve** and **Vikki Gray** - congratulations to both of them. A big farewell to **Sig Andy Joynson** who having passed P Coy has been posted to 16 Air Asslt Bde and Sig Sqn. After returning from a well-deserved summer leave it was straight into exercise season with Ex Warrior III, the build-up exercise for Ex Arrcade Fusion. The Troop was split into two roles, providing both watch-keepers for CP 232, and our primary role of SAN 860, the Main Bravo element of ARRC Main Headquarters. The latter soon became know as the 'Gypsy' SAN with no home. We quickly became experts at testing out all the accommodation at EXCON and trained athletes honed and ready for the next Play Station Olympics. **Cpl** 'Zebedee' **Minto** spent his days springing throughout the exercise between the chilly STAR HQ and the luxurious carpeted accommodation of the 'Gypsy' SAN. The SAN managed to stay occupied and focused, by watching **Sig** 'The Body' **Fox** strutting his stuff for the girls on exercise. **SSgt** 'Turtle' **Griffiths** provided the entertainment when he did a very realistic impression of a turtle by taking accidental cover upside down in some bushes outside of the G2 cell at the Main Headquarters. **Lt** 'Chubby' **Lawson** would have been worried about Staff's health, however it was only five minutes till the fourth meal of the day and he was in a hurry! Troop PT was taken by **Sig** 'Sweet-cheeks' **Shillinglaw** who, after running people into the Medical Centre, played the American Signals contingent at basketball - they said she was 'Mighty Fine' (and not bad at basketball either).

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON - *by Sgt 'John' Brady*
Sqn Comd **Maj** 'Wally' **Drain**
SSM **WO2 (SSM)** 'Dean' **Ewing**

7 SIGNAL REGIMENT BONFIRE NIGHT

The annual 7 Sig Regt bonfire night took place in Bradbury barracks on 3 November 2000. This year the task was given to HQ Sqn, overseen by the OC, **Maj** 'Wally' **Drain,** and under the control of **WO2 (SSM)** 'Dean' **Ewing**. An awful lot of preparation had to be undertaken to ensure that everyone enjoyed the display (Most importantly the children) and that the safety aspects were approached in a professional manner. The setting up of the event was achieved in quick time due to the Regiment being stood down for a couple of days prior to the event. During the evening the children were very much involved raising the Guy to the top of the fire, and whilst the firework display reached its climax the strains of the 1812 overture dominated the scene orchestrated beautifully by the cunning SSM. The Anglo-German Society set up a tent selling Gluwien to keep out the cold, which proved extremely popular. There were also stands selling alcohol and soft drinks, run by **LCpl** 'Old one' Scotty' **Scott** and a bratty stand ran by **SSgt** 'Tam' **Buskie**. The PA system also had to be set up. This task was given to TM Tp, and was tackled in the usual professional manner. The SSM had a few worrying moments when the display team arrived late, however, the whole event went off with a bang (literally!). The CO's wife **Mrs Paula Richardson** presented prizes to the children for the best guy and a painting competition making the whole evening a huge success. A special mention should go to both TM Tp and MT Tp for the Saturday morning clear-up under the watchful eyes of **WO2 (SSM) Ewing**, **SSgt (SQMS)** 'Steve' **Behan** and **Sgt** 'Bri' **Sheard**. The lads worked tirelessly to get the place cleared up and were rewarded with a few beers from the OC and SSM.

QUARTERMASTER (ADMINISTRATION) DEPARTMENT
QM (A) **Maj** 'Pete' **Doherty MBE**
RQMS(A) **WO2** 'Neil' **James**

It's been a busy and successful time for the department, both on the working and sporting front. The long hours of work in preparation for the LSI paid off with an excellent result, with the water-wastage check register gaining a LAURA grade E. On the sporting side of life, the QM(A) recently won the veteran race in the Poppy Appeal Fun Run. Congratulations go out to **Sgt** 'Dave' **Howe** on his recent promotion. A quick hello to **LCpl** 'Jonathan' **Lovell**, who is attached to the department from TM Tp, and a very warm welcome to **Cpl** 'Des' **Lang**, who has moved across from the QM (T) via Bosnia.

QUARTERMASTER (TECHNICAL) DEPARTMENT
QM(T) **Maj Ray Cory**
RQMS(T) **WO2 Trev Henry**

Calling all Technical Supply Specialists, for promotion opportunities report to QM (T) Dept, 7 Sig Regt. Bumper promotion boards resulting in congratulations to **LCpls Clare Boswell**, **Adam Dunne** and **Bob Lovell** on selection for promotion to Corporal. Not forgetting **Sigs** 'Chalky' **White** and **Shirley Valentine** who have been selected for promotion to Lance Corporal, well done all.

Sport is buoyant within the Department. The **QM (T)** is busy organising orienteering with willing volunteers **LCpl Clare Boswell** and **LCpl Kerry Johnston**. Meanwhile for the gladiators within the department **SSgt Kev Scott** has finally got the Regimental 2nd football team regular fixtures, which accounts for the regular absence of **Sig** 'Woody' **Wood** and **Sig** 'PC' **Carter.** The **RQMS (T)** can still be heard talking about rugby whilst getting him to play is another matter. **Sig Thelma Marshall** has shown the gents the way forward by attending boxing training whilst **Sig Shirley Valentine** and **Sig** 'Geordie' **Ellis** are well and truely sick of being battered around the ring. Ex Arrcade Fusion, just prior to the LSI, put the department under added pressure, and thankfully the Sergeants came to the fore, well almost. Within a day of the exercise manning going to print, **Sgt Martin Didcotte** had been admitted to hospital quickly followed by **Sgt Dom Cooke** who was bedded down. Not a problem, the QM (T) could still call on **Sgt** 'Scottie' **Scott** - alas this was not the case, more sick chits followed. Thankfully the RLC saved the day with **Sgt** 'Skip' **Skipper** answering the call - URS(T) does it again.

With a young inexperienced workforce, on-the-job training is the order of the day. The QM (T) is hopeful **Sig Marshall** will eventually drive a Leyland DAF through a 16ft entrance without hitting the gatepost. **Sig** 'Slug' **Owen** is slowly coming to terms with his favourite ITD, moral understanding, whilst **Sig** 'Taff' **Pawsey** is slowly learning the value of understanding. As ever there are goodbyes, and as the year draws to a close it is time to bid farewell to the majority of our civilian staff: **Collette Devlin, Mick** and family are off to York to recover their house from the floods. Closely followed by **Emma Kinsey** and husband **Paul** who are off to the delights of Brawdy - a fond farewell to you all!

MOTOR TRANSPORT TROOP
MTO **Capt Neil Coatsworth**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Phil Hay**

There's been a lot happening within the MT since the last wire notes were submitted. We say goodbye to **Cpl** 'Taff' **Kinsey** who is posted to 14 Sig Regt on promotion to Sergeant. We wish him good luck for the future, and he will be missed by all in the MT. We welcome some new additions to the MT - **Sig** 'Rubber' **Carter**, **Sig** '2-Can Van Damme' **MacDonald**, **Cpl** 'Taff' **Lee** and **Karen Williamson** our new clerk. Congratulations to **Si Lees**, whose wife **Sgt Terry Lees** gave birth to a healthy baby girl named **Tia**. We've been very lucky with promotions this year: **Cpl** 'Taff' **Kinsey** and **Cpl** 'Daz' **Mawson**, both promoted to Sergeant. **LCpl** 'Bycycle Face' **Alderson** has been selected for promotion to Corporal. Also to **Sig** 'I Love Myself' **Watson** and **Sig** 'Big' Jack **Russell** have both come off the Signallers to Lance Corporals football season has started again and **Sig** 'Lisa' **Gavin** has been selected to represent the BAG female football team - well-done and good luck.

EXERCISE GOLDEN SANDS - *by Sig Russell*
(or EXERCISE EASY LIFE AND A GOLDEN TAN)

Sig 'Big' **Jack Russell** deployed for Ex Golden Sands on 15 August 2000. His first stop was Cyprus for an acclimatisation (just how long does it take to get used to drinking chilled lager!). Big Jack fitted in a mini tour of Cyprus and also visited the much-talked about Ayia Napa. The following week, **Sig Russell** deployed on the Army's favourite transport, the Mighty Hercules, landing at Alquatrana in Jordan. Big Jack was sent out on the advance party as the only UBRE operator. He was responsible for the comforts we all enjoy - i.e. power, lighting, attitude and humour. He worked closely with 62 SP Engineers and 1 Cheshires during the working day. The heat was intense, some days getting up to 47 C where the slightest movement had every one sweating to death. **Sig** 'Big' **Jack Russell** spent part of the exercise playing enemy for 1 Cheshire's 22nd Bn, fending off a company on his lonesome in his Russian trench (pretending to be a proper soldier). He also found time to be a spectator as both 1 Cheshire's and Jordan's Armed Forces (JAF) put on a fire power demonstration using various weapons. It was an enjoyable experience, which he will not forget for a long time to come.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP - *by Cpl Campbell*
Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS)** 'Tommy' **Steele**
Tp SSgt **SSgt (FofS)** 'John' **Hoyle**

First of all we'd better get started welcoming back **LCpl Austin** and **LCpl** 'I love myself' **Dennant** from a very tiring and hard working 4-month all-inclusive holiday in Split. Their trip was made all the more difficult with the early departure of **Sig** 'AA' **Taylor.** There was also a surprise return by **Sig** 'Jim' **Brampton** from the Falklands, which was welcomed by all in the Troop. There have also been a couple of new baby technicians fresh from the factory, TOT **Capt** 'Al' **Scott** and **LCpl** 'Carl' **Robinson.** Not forgetting 22 SAS look-alike **LCpl** 'Toothless Wonder' **Griffin** who accidentally bumped into the RSM and OC Squadron while sporting a full goatee. In the Troop, morale is very important and goes quite high on the priority list, so if you have any and would like to send some to us it, would be greatly appreciated. On a lighter note the Troop enjoyed a pleasant day playing pool at the local pool hall with some of the local produce being sampled. Unfortunately **SSgt** 'John' **Hoyle** must have had a late night and decided to get his head down for a couple of hours. The funny thing is though that no one bothered to wake him when they left, so the locals used him as a beer mat. Last but by no means least we have a few farewells to mention. I guess you should start by the most important **Cpl** 'Gogsy' **Campbell**. Young, fit, charismatic and courageous kind of guy that laughs danger in the face. No task is too hard to conquer; no situation is to tough to tackle. Overall a really great guy and one of the lads. (Note from Ed. - see author of this report for verification!) Also the Regimental Foreman of football 'I mean signals' **WO1**'Tommy' **Steele,** whom we should also congratulate on his Commissioning to Captain and last but not least the Technical Officer Telecommunications **Capt** 'I'm airborne and proud of it' **O'Brien** who is on his way home back to Hereford.

Why not visit the Royal Signals Museum?
For opening hours ring : 01258 482248

JOINT SERVICES SIGNALS UNIT (DIGBY)

ADMIN FLIGHT - *by WO2 (Supvr R) Dalton*

The Royal Signals presence in the JSSU Administration Flight has been bolstered by some high profile "handsome" chaps. Namely in the form of **W02 (Supvr R) Frank** 'Admin Boy' **Dalton** on promotion and the effervescent **Sgt Dean** 'Pot Supvr R' **Butler**, handling everything from flights to weapons and all things statistical - don't call us we'll call you! STOP PRESS. It appears that all those years of plying OC Admin Flight with free beers in the mess has led to **SST (Super R) Chris Cullington** finally getting a day job!

TRAINING FLIGHT - *by Sgt Wardrope*

Life in Training Flight continues at its usual hectic pace with all the instructors flat out running all sorts of courses and managing to fit time in for the odd 'fast ball' from **WO1 (Supvr R) Skelth**. He claims they're not 'fast balls' but 'career development tasks'. Goodbye and congratulations on a well-deserved promotion, to **WO2 (Supvr R) Frank Dalton** who is moving next door to become the 3 Sqn Co-ordinator. Hello to **SSgt (Supvr R) Tim Stevens** recently returned from a six month holiday in the Balkans and **Sgt Billy Wardrope** who joins us from Sunny Blandford. A big hello also goes to **Cpl Kerry** 'airwoman' **Smith** who comes to us from 1 Squadron and is overawed at once again being mentioned in an Army publication, **Kerry** has recently enquired about subscribing to *The WIRE* as she gets a mention in every issue, or so she claims! On the sporting front the Training Flight have managed to fit in the odd appearance with **Sgt Billy Wardrope** and **Cpl Kerry Smith** recently representing JSSU Digby in the East of England Army League Orienteering and the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships. Socially, we have also been very active and recently hosted (fast balled claims **Sgt Billy Wardrope**) the 3 Sqn sports afternoon where **WO2 (Supvr R) Frank Dalton** impressed everyone with his volleyball prowess and matching Ron Hill tracksuit (prototype version - very valuable!) very sporty!

SPONSORED SHAVE - *by WO2 (Supvr R) Phil Sandford*

June saw five of JSSU Digby's more hirsute personnel shave for charity. **W02 (SSM) Steve Booth**, **WO2 (Supvr R) Phil Sandford**, **SSgt Neil McQuoid**, **Cpl Mick Taylor RAFP** and **Cpl Stu Wilson RAF**, all agreed, with varying degrees of persuasion, to have their moustaches shaved off for charity. The Station hairdresser carried out the first part of the deed, but even she balked at the final shave, leaving the individuals to hurriedly purchase disposable razors and foam from the NAAFI, to rip the remaining hairs from top lips. Over six hundred pounds was raised for Downs Syndrome. As an aside, it should be pointed out that all top lips have since been restored to their former glory.

Before and After
(L-R): Cpl Stu Wilson, SSgt Neil McQuoid,
WO2 (Supvr R) Phil Sandford, Cpl Mick Taylor, Danielle Booth and
WO2 (SSM) Steve Booth

EXERCISE ICARUS SEAFARER

Ex Icarus Seafarer was a five day sailing exped in the Solent area, from 6-10 Nov, aptly whilst most of the UK was submerged in water. After initial briefings and some 'Bumps and Grinds' in Portsmouth harbour, the 7 intrepid members of the crew set sail to explore the hidden treasures of the Solent and the Isle of Wight. We immediately set an aggressive sailing stance as we ferry dodged (just) our way into open water. Nerves sufficiently frayed, we practiced tacking and gibing, for most of the day before heading for West Cowes, where a well deserved pint soothed some raw nerves, (ably sniffed out by **WO2 Roy** 'But it's opening time already' **Poulton**). The next day, we headed West, arriving after a thankfully uneventful days sailing, at Yarmouth. Tying up alongside the harbour wall was deemed not to be adventurous enough, so we tied up to the piles in the harbour (at the fourth attempt). Half an hour later however, having paid £1.50 for the privilege of having the harbour taxi ferry us the 20m to shore, we were regretting the decision. The final straw was discovering that the last harbour taxi ran at 2200hrs. To avoid a crew mutiny and save the last hours' precious drinking time, the dinghy was deployed for the short row to shore. Thursday proved to be the windiest day prompting **JT Janine Atkins** to enquire, 'Can we capsize this thing?' Arriving without incident back outside the entrance to Portsmouth harbour, we readopted our 'aggressive sailing stance' with **LCpl Olive** 'Ramming speed' **Freemen** at the helm. Deciding that power gives way to sail (although not when they're trawling!), she went after a fisherman kebab as she narrowly missed skewering three fishermen who seemed oblivious to the fact that a yacht had passed within three metres of their bow. A true testament to the argument that skippers shouldn't go below decks to make brews. It was therefore with some relief that both boat and crew arrived safely in harbour, ready to scrub down the decks and head out for curry and Karaoke down town.

Out on the rail are from front:
WO2 Roy 'I can see the pub' Poulton,
LCpl Olive 'Kamikaze' Freeman, JT Janine Atkins,
LCpl Stu 'I feel sick' Collins, First Mate LCpl Debs Jordan
with JT Jo Johnston on the helm

OFFICERS' TRAINING DAY

Being a joint unit, there are obviously different standards for annual military training across the three services. In order to amalgamate some of these, QM, **Capt Barry Spiers** decided to organise an Officer Training Day, in order that officers could as a whole complete their annual DTD's (Digby Training Directives). The day began with breakfast in the officers' mess, obviously to prepare for an arduous day ahead. First item on the agenda was a bit of weapon training, or rather shot gun training, as we departed for the clay pigeon range. Next up was some personal fitness training in the gym (potted sports). At last, the highlight of the day approached, 'driver (go-cart) training'. After three hours of some particularly vicious driving, **Flt Lt Gez** 'Shumacher' **Wood** emerged in first place, with **Lt Gary Davies RN** in second and **Capt Barry Spiers** coming in with third. The day was rounded off with a bit of NBC (Nice Bar-be-que and Carlsberg) training, back at the mess.

14th SIGNAL REGIMENT (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON (EW)

EXERCISE IRON HAWK - *by Lt Laura Halpin Int Corps (V)*

For seven weeks between August and October 2000, 237 Sig Sqn (EW) deployed to British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS) on Ex Iron Hawk with 3 (UK) Div. At a squadron level the mission was to conduct progressive training on ODETTE, the very recently issued ESM equipment. By doing this we were able to support the wider missions of Lead Recce Task Force and Lead Aviation Task Force and ultimately that of 3 (UK) Div, whom we supported for the final Tactical Engagement Simulation Exercise (TESEX).

The sheer scope of the exercise ensured valid training for every level of the Squadron, many of whom had not previously experienced a protracted war-fighting exercise. A live OpFor gave the soldiers some excellent training opportunities in both EW and military skills; with over 4000 troops on the prairie, all speaking English within the same frequency band and using similar call-signs, the boys had their work cut out. Added to which they were contending with defending their dets against OpFor, whose unpredictable nature added a significant realism to the whole scenario. How much more realistic can you get than coming face to face with the enemy just when you thought the mission was over, and it was time to hang up the DFWES (Direct Fire Weapon Effect System) kit and relish some imminent tea and medals? We can relive the thrilling skirmish through the following extracts from **Sgt** 'Taff (Sassoon)' **Willumsen's** -

OC 237 Sig Sqn, Maj David Drinkall
standing infront of a TUM outside the Divisional Electronic Warfare
Command Cell (DEWCC) in the snow!

Memoirs From The Frontline:

On a crisp September morning, as the sun rose slowly in the east, the lads at ESM 2 of the fighting 237th were unaware (as was the Divisional EW Command Cell) that every other frontline unit had retreated back past their location under direct orders of the Brigade Commander. Now being the spearhead of the Battle Group, they were to prove their combat effectiveness and earn the respect of both the Commander and some bloke in a Red Top Gazelle.

Having just consumed a brimming washbowl of **Cpl Tommy** 'India Lima Uniform' **Tucker's** curry, the lads were in good spirit and morale was high. Out of the blue a cry of 'Stand To!' was chorused around the det by **Cpl Mick** 'Dead Eye' **Haltam** (as no one took a blind bit of notice of the original call from **LCpl Nick** 'Back Pay' **Harvie,** who was on guard at the time). Under the watchful eye of **Sgt** 'Taff (Quick Draw)' **Willumsen**, the detachment was dispatched into its fire trenches. All that is, bar **SSgt Stan** 'Full Mags' **Buxton**, who remained in the det under guise of destroying the crypto, card tables and his blue SF bobble hat. **Sig Bob** 'Tracy' **Fraser** was the only person throughout the whole exercise who got to say 'contact' without being crated (eh YofS?). By this time, **SSgt Jaffa** 'Is this my Rifle?' **Martin** realised that the enemy threat was larger than first thought and in fact came in the form of Armoured Recce Troops. Four CVRT to be precise. This was not a problem for the well-drilled Forward EW Platform. **Cpl** 'Bus-Stop' **Garner** and **Sig Eddie** 'The Hammer' **Green** engaged their target and the kill was inevitable. On the south flank, **Cpl Mick** 'I'm 30 now' **Haltam** and det chef **Cpl Tommy** 'The Ladle' **Tucker** engaged a second Scimitar and confirmed a second kill to the EW boys. Resistance proved more stubborn on the northern flank and aggression was the order of the day if the enemy were to be routed. **Sgt** 'Taff (Rambo)' **Willumsen** and **SSgt** 'Jaffa (Jumbo)' **Martin** sprang from their fox holes oblivious of their own safety and carried out pairs fire and maneuver on the two remaining armoured vehicles. God only knows what the enemy vehicle commanders were thinking as the gruesome twosome notched up a third kill, forcing the fourth vehicle to rapidly retreat!

Butler Matrix Antenna/DF Antenna

As **Sgt** 'I'm still 29 Mick' **Willumsen** checked ammo and casualty states, **SSgt Stan** 'What's All The Racket?' **Buxton** emerged from the tent in order to inform us that it was all to no avail, as the surviving vehicle had only retreated in order to avoid the arty bombardment that he had called in on our position!' You will be pleased to know that the lads all survived to dig even deeper fire trenches and grow even longer stubble and 'taches - but not as long as those of the three 'moustakeers' of Ech, **Sig Pete** 'Freddie' **Russell, Cpl Seth** 'El Gringo' **Campbell** and **Cpl Kevin** 'Ainsley' **Thomas**.

The Rebros may not have seen quite this level of action, but what they lacked in live action, they made up for with home-grown entertainment. Risking life, limb and clutch to visit the outposts in the black of the prairie night, I, **Lt Laura** 'How many batteries does a Cylume take?' **Halpin** and my erstwhile driver, **Cpl Rob** 'Combat Clerk' **Lloyd**, got more than we bargained for at RRB 2, as we entered the det, clutching the mail and the fresh which we had struggled to procure from EXCON. It was no mean feat to tear ourselves away from Austin Powers, drag ourselves through the sweltering building, bat a freshly- showered eyelid at the SQMS - me, not **Cpl Rob** - and help ourselves to the fridges overflowing with fresh). We were greeted by a natty threesome in teeshirts adorned with what appeared to be white mine tape cut-out communicators and pips. Led by Capt Jean-Luc Picard aka **Cpl Tom Wise**, we were invited to sit down by Mr Spock, aka Sig Ryan Parker, sporting a pair of pointy mine tape ear extensions. The surreal entertainment didn't end there; 'Lt Uhura' in the shapely form of **LCpl Eddie Banks** then emerged from the back of the TUM bearing exquisitely prepared refreshments. Cheese spread and pate took on a whole new, futuristic appeal, displayed with geometrically- arranged biscuits fruit and brown on an empty egg tray (so fresh was getting through?). Chuckling indulgently and glancing round nervously for the incriminating underpants and pencils, while furiously planning our escape back to the sanity of the DEWCC, **Cpl** 'Wish I'd stayed in BG HQ' **Lloyd** and myself then found name tags being planted over our own. In the form of 'Capt Kirk' and 'Scotty' we were drawn haplessly into the charade - I know we're supposed to get in there with the troops, but

wishing them good luck for tomorrow's theme of the 'A Team' (**LCpl Banks** was to get his own back in the form of 'Mr T'). Unlike **Sig** 'Where's the OC's Rover?' **Bastable**, we managed to locate our vehicle and bid a hasty and relieved retreat. Fortunately I remembered the mine tape pips and name tag just as I was entering 3 Div HQ.

Clearly the rigours of Odette training, defending and entertaining the dets were taking their toll on 237 Sig Sqn and so there was some very welcome R&R and Adventure Training to be had both mid exercise and after ENDEX. The adventure training was based out of Trails End Camp at the foot of The Rockies and soldiers got away to enjoy the stunning scenery while canoeing, riding, climbing and paragliding. **Lt Fraser** 'Basha' **Reid** enjoyed the scenery of British Columbia at particularly close quarters as he got intimate with a large tree during his inaugural paragliding flight. R&R saw us taking the Rockie Highway to various destinations such as Banff, Edmonton and Calgary, where the OC, **Maj Dave** 'Stetson' **Drinkall** won his spurs in the line-dancing arena.

Ex Iron Hawk was a tremendous success for the Squadron in terms of deploying with brand new equipment within a war fighting scenario and performing individual, team, collective and command training within that context. The opportunity to experience The Rockies through the adventure training packages offered by Trails End, and R&R greatly enriched and gave a good balance to the whole Suffield experience. BATUS comes highly recommended!

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col Mike Lithgow MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Al Higgins**

VISIT OF THE COLONEL IN CHIEF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL TO 30 SIGNAL REGIMENT 17 OCTOBER 2000

On 17 October 2000 **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal** visited 30 Sig Regt. The aim of the visit was to give **Her Royal Highness** a feel for the role, importance and commitments of the Regiment in the usual relaxed and professional style expected of 30 Sig Regt. The programme was based around three Squadron demonstrations, the Families Centre, LSGC and Warrants presentations, a buffet lunch for all ranks in the Officers' Mess and concluding with an Operational Training demonstration. Below is an account of the various stands and the performances of various soldiers!

250 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

As part of the visit, **Her Royal Highness** was introduced to 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn commanded by **Maj Cole**. Here, **Her Royal Highness** was given the opportunity to meet several members of the Squadron and to receive a brief overview of some of the many tasks that 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn fulfils. These we split down into three separate phases. Firstly, **Her Royal Highness** had the opportunity to receive an outline from **Sgt Mahendra** and **Cpl Om** as to the part played by personnel from the Squadron on operations in Kosovo. This detailed the equipment, capabilities and manpower that had been deployed in theatre, as well as attempting to set the scene as to exactly what life in an operational environment is like for soldiers from the Squadron. In order to assist visually with this stand, one of the Regiment's satellite assets, a 501 Det, had been deployed complete with camouflage and sentries so as to set the picture. On completion of this demonstration, **Her Royal Highness** was introduced to members of the Squadron who man the tasking for Operation Scarab/Apollyon. Here **Lt Morris, Cpl Mohan, Sig Charnock** and **Sig McClean** were aided by other members of Victor Tp in detailing this specific tasking. **Her Royal Highness's** final insight into the Squadron came from her visit to the Trailwalker stand, manned by **Sgt Nanda**. Trailwalker is a commitment run by 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn and comprises of organising a 100km race over the South Downs every year in order to raise money for charity. The specific charity that this event raises monies for is the Gurkha Welfare Trust, which is concerned with helping ex-servicemen, their families and communities as a whole. This is done by sponsoring projects such as building wells and schools in the communities that Gurkhas come from and retire to on leaving the British Army. This year a total of 263 teams entered and raised a total of £50,000 for the Trust. Since first starting Trailwalker has grown and is now an international event being run in countries as far afield as Australia. **Her Royal Highness** has the opportunity to meet several members of the Squadron who had taken part in the Sydney Trailwalker, and incidentally won, as well as other members of 250 dressed in typical Nepali attire. Those personnel introduced to **Her Royal Highness** included **LCpl Buddi, LCpl Tham, Sig Basanta, Sig Bharat Mani** and **Sig Ratna.**

258 SIGNAL SQUADRON

On the day, the Princess arrived in Hanger 2 at approximately 1130hrs to be greeted by a host of SHQ personnel including the OC Sqn, **Maj** 'at LAND they called me Mr. Sheen' **Deans**, who escorted **Her Royal Highness** around the two stands displayed by 258 Sig Sqn. The first display was the Delta Tp stand, where she had explained to her the Regiments role on Op Basilica and Op Langar. While receiving her brief **Sig Ian** 'Furry Cup' **Marsden** wishing to show off his globe trotting talents tried to impress **Her Royal Highness** by saying, 'I was in Australia – look; here I am,' pointing to his picture on one of the display boards with a giant smile. We are all sure **Her Royal Highness** was impressed, being Royal she has probably never been there. REALLY! After the Delta Tp stand **Her Royal Highness** moved round to the Spearhead display where she was greeted by **Sgt** 'Big Gay Al' **Barker** who explained that he had deployed to Egypt on Ex Bright Star with a similar set-up where he worked his magic with eleven other nations. The Spearhead equipment was displayed, the systems where described, then onto the three roles of the unit, Strategic, Operational and Tactical which where expertly described by **LCpl Aaron** 'Dot Com' **Donnelly, LCpl Matt** 'Skeletor' **Green** and **Sig Ian** 'Minirod' **Andrews** respectively who finished off the 258 display. A select few headed to the Officers' Mess for lunch with **Her Royal Highness**. Practising to say 'Mam' as in 'ham' as in 'spam', **LCpl Tony** 'Taff' **Gallagher** greeted **Her Royal Highness** with 'Good afternoon MUM'! Following a swift kick from his wife, **Julie** (that is a crate from your wife **Tony**), 'Prince Taff' went red and proceeded to fumble his words and ended up only being able to say one word, 'YES'. 'So how long have you been here **LCpl Gallagher**?' 'Yes.' (Unlucky **Tony** that's got to be a crate).

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

As part of **Her Royal Highness's** visit program, 256 Sig Sqn was given the task of taking Her Royal Highness through the medium scale headquarters that deployed to Sierra Leone in support of the Joint Task Force Headquarters. With the BFT (Big Tent) set up all was going to plan with troops to task, and an impressive comms infrastructure being installed. Just as everything had almost been put into place, another short notice JTFHQ task to Sierra Leone took the lion's share of personnel, equipment, and tentage, leaving the rest of the Squadron to re-assess and rebuild the format. The setup was now about a quarter of the size, with all the tentage and communications provided, coming courtesy of Alpha Troop's Exercise Battering Ram plug up. **Lt** 'The Director' **Dagless** was now responsible for auditions, rehearsals, and choreography as **Her Royal Highness** was to be taken through the various stages of the Sierra Leone deployment without the singing and dancing that normally comes with 'the big top'. Having practiced a few times so **Cpl** 'W Wi Wil Willy' **Wilcock** could get all his words out we soon found the big day was upon us all.

Her Royal Highness was introduced to the 256 Signal Squadron stand by **Capt Owen** '2IC, stand in OC, Ops, Movements Offr, and general juggler' **Finnie**. **LCpl** 'I'm about the only one from C Tp not deployed' **Rose** was the first to speak on his deployment to Sierra Leone, having been the ORLT team commander and one of the first soldiers into Freetown supporting the JTFHQ commander. Having spoken for a few minutes **Her Royal Highness** was 'winged' across to **Sgt** 'We benefited a lot' **Shuck** and **Lt** 'Scoff' **Dagless** to talk about the Spearhead Land element's deployment with 1 Para and 42 Cdo. **Her Royal Highness,** having been taken through the build up, was then taken through the meat of a medium scale deployment. **Flt Lt** 'Rear Details' **Pearce**, and **Cpl** 'Not a problem' **Scott** spoke about the Information Control System, and why a Crab should be attached to our Royal Corps. Having been shown the exits here, here and here, **Her Royal Highness** then went on to see **Sgt** 'Smiler' **Ebdon**. He gave an overview of the technical side of the deployment, she then went on to an impressive power demonstration by **Cpl** 'P Pow Power' **Wilcock** who managed to talk without hesitation or repetition for 'just a minute'. 23 Pioneer Regt were to finish off the display with an impressive talk of dare, emphasising not only their vital life and artisan support, but also the guard and security demands of deploying to the front line. **Sgt Blenman, Cpl McGregor**, and **Pte Dacey** showed once again the close bonds that have been built up between our units.

Everyone who took part here, and subsequently, were thoroughly proud of what they and the Squadron have achieved so far this year. With **Her Royal Highness** at the helm of her entourage that snaked its way through, all were pleasantly surprised at how warm and genuinely interested she was. This made all the effort worthwhile at the end of a great day. Special mention should go to **Sig** 'Wisp' **Wood** for pinching all the hors d'oeuvres, and to **SSgt** 'Mad' **McNair** for pinching all the wine at the Officers' Mess Luncheon, that still had the smell of fresh paint.

OPERATIONAL TRAINING DEMONSTRATION

On the final stand of the day, **HRH The Princess Royal** visited the 501 Club to witness a Military Training demonstration. The Training Officer, **Capt (Tfc(R)) Chris Moye**, briefed her on the range of Trade and Military Courses provided by the Training Wing. The demonstration lasted 15 minutes and was based upon the Regiment's involvement on Op Palliser in Sierra Leone earlier this year, where a detachment of soldiers from the Regiment were tasked with supporting 1 Para with securing Lungi Airport and provided communications using a UK VSC 501(E). **Her Royal Highness** watched the detachment come under attack from a small insurgent force that had broken through the airfield perimeter. After winning the firefight the detachment used fire and manoeuvre tactics to dispatch the enemy before withdrawing tactically from their compromised location. After the display **Her Royal Highness** met **Lt Blaydon Morris** and **WO2 (SSM) Young** who had both provided the commentary. She then met the participants who were ably led by **Cpl** 'Freddie' **Starr**.

CONCLUSION

The visit was a complete success and the Commanding Officer would like to thank all personnel for the time and effort that was put into the visit. The feedback that Regiment received was that **Her Royal Highness** was very impressed with the professionalism and dedication from the personnel in the Regiment, especially with the level of commitments and Operations with which 30 Sig Regt are tasked.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj R. H. Gladwin**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Young**

The Squadron says farewell to **WO2 (SSM)** 'Andy' **Young** this month after two years hard work as the Sergeant Major of Support Squadron. The Sergeant Major is leaving to take up his new appointment as the RSM of 31 Sig Regt (V) and a well deserved 'rest', at least that is what it seems like!

REGIMENTAL MOTOR TRANSPORT

MTO **Capt G. Johnson**
MT SSgt **SSgt Nanda**

As we enter the cold season, a few changes have been evident – nothing new there then – including a move from SQMS role to Gene Bay SSgt of **SSgt** 'I'm not SQMS any more' **Crawford**. Welcome onto the ration roll **Pete** and congratulations on your recent wedding. Gene Bay has started to flourish quite well now, although still no sign of **Cpl Hari**.

Maj 'Rod' Gladwin presenting WO2 (SSM) 'Andy' Young with his farewell gift of a silver swan

The lads have started to work well as a team and have produced some quality work, sufficient in fact to earn a sports afternoon from the MTO. Of course, the MT remain busy, what with our involvement in Ex Purple Iliad taking us as far as Lyneham, but taking the rest of the Regiment to Florida. Not all is doom and gloom however, and we did manage to send **LCpls Bishop** and **Hill** to Kenya on Ex Grand Prix (via Lyneham). Don't even try to tell us it was a nightmare out there, you could have stayed behind and end up in, well Lyneham. Thankfully the nations fuel crisis didn't quite hit as protesters had planned. Just as well really, as we would have struggled to get all the details to Lyneham sorted out.

It's not often we get to announce promotions in the MT, but much deserved congratulations go to **Sigs Neil Grainger** and **Andy Middle** who recently came off the Signaller-Lance Corporal promotion board. All those details to Lyneham **Neil**, we told you it would see you promoted. Also congratulations to **LCpl** 'H' **Aitchison** who came off the Lance Corporal-Corporal promotion board (thanks again to Lyneham). MT Tp could be forgiven for thinking that there was a representative from Lyneham on the promotion boards! Happy days in MT Tp, as we took to the football field to play the Pay Packets from TM Tp. Sadly TM Tp were short of a couple of players (too busy down the bank we think), and the MTO **Capt Johnson** showed his loyalty and said he'd play for the Pay Packets. Goals from **Cpl** 'Feddie' **Starr** (4), **LCpl** 'Ronald' **Pierrpoint** (2) and **Sig Neil Grainger** helped us to run out worthy winners by seven goals to two. **Sig Prabin** was gutted he didn't play – he was in Lyneham.

Lots to look forward to in the next few months. The Regimental Safe and Skilled Driving Comp being run by **Sgt** 'Ash' **Ingham** is starting to take shape, and we have our Xmas Function being run by **Sig Andy Middle**. Just check with Lyneham first though, Andy, that 6 December is OK with them before you start to book things.

EXERCISE RUNNEL STONE 2000 (27 – 29 OCTOBER 2000)

Exercise Runnel Stone is a Danish Home Defence Exercise. This year the Regiment was tasked to deploy a 10-man team to act as 'enemy'. Our mission was to plant an explosive device on two separate targets. On arrival in Denmark we were split into 2 x 5 man sections and each allocated a Danish reservist. After a short journey, by Bedford 4 tonner, we were dropped off to recce our objectives. Patrol Callsign 1B was led by **Sgt** 'Awsome' **Burdus** and Callsign 1A was led by **Cpl 'Freddy' Starr**. After both carrying out successful night recces of our objectives, which included a bonus prisoner for **Cpl Starr**, both patrols laid up during the next day. This time was spent finalising our plans so that when nightfall came, we were ready to move out (surprisingly no chopper was available). Patrol 1B successfully completed their mission gaining much praise from the Home Guard. Patrol 1A on the other hand, had a much rougher time of it. When making our way up to our objective, we found it guarded by every man and his dog. As a consequence the patrol was split and **Cpl** 'Freddy' **Starr,** was left to be 'the one that got away'. The Mission was finally achieved (while sustaining heavy GPMG fire), but we got there in the end. The most satisfying moment came at the de-brief when we heard that some of the Special Forces had been caught and that 30 Sig Regt were the only unit to take a prisoner. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the exercise, and all that is left to say is role on 'Runnel Stone 01'.

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. W. Cooper**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Keen**

SQUADRON MOTOR TRANSPORT

LCpl Comery organised a 24hr sponsored row in October to raise money for a talking aid for **Marc Raven**, a young man suffering from a one in a million condition that has seen his health deteriorate. The event participators were **Capt Finnie, WO2 Blade, LCpl Mason, LCpl Slade** and **LCpl Comery**. The money raised was sufficient for the talk aide and we thank the Regiment for their generosity in sponsorship.

The Sponsored Row Team

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Flt Lt Paul Pearce**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul Storey**

Ex Purple Iliad was a PJHQ led war-fighting exercise involving the JTFHQ staff, supported ably once again by personnel from around the Regiment. The main headquarters was located at MacDill AFB, Tampa Bay, Florida with outstations situated at New Orleans, Atlanta and South Carolina. The Exercise was conducted during the period 28 October 2000 – 22 November 2000 and, as you will read here, war really is hell. The big day had finally arrived with the advance party setting off in the early hours of the morning of 28 October 2000 to catch their 36-hour flight to MacDill AFB, Tampa, with a brief stop over in Gander, Newfoundland. On the night of 7 November with everybody now in Tampa, it was the done thing to get the scenic tour of the HQ from the Ex SSM, **SSgt Paul Storey** and then head for the Enlisted Club for a few $5 Pitchers of Bud. **SSgt Dave Oliver** seemed to enjoy his golden midnight shower from an unknown night-stalker, although **Sig Daz** 'I'm A Sex God' **Lewis** was quickly sent to New Orleans the next day with **Sig Dean** 'Testosterone' **Roberts,** for the remainder of the Exercise. Also on the first night of the Exercise, a few of the lads decided to take it upon themselves to choose where they slept. This involved a few lads sleeping with Staff Officers or waking them up all night asking them if they were called **Chris**. This applies particularly to **Sig** 'Lets Look At The View' **Jones, Sig Al Neesam, Sig Tom** 'American Psycho' **Beerling** and **Sig Chris** 'Howay Lads' **Beattie.** On the social side of this very hard and tiring exercise, there were plenty of activities on offer for the long days spent on camp. This included a beach, a golf course, a shopping centre and Restaurants. One of the most popular attractions were skiffs (a very low powered speed boat) that could be hired for a small fee. **Sig Dave** 'Lucky' **Rodwell** and **Sig** 'Lets Look At The Views All Night' **Jones** enjoyed these boats the most. They broke down and were drifting for seven hours in shipping lanes until they were finally rescued by the coast guards (nice one lads).

To briefly touch on the working of the Exercise, I would like to say a big thank you to everybody who worked on the SFCC detachment. This was by far the hardest working det on the Exercise (Oh really!? – OC Tp) led by **Cpl Brett** 'I've Been To Every Ladies Bar' **Grist,** myself and **Sig Dave** 'Lucky' **Rodwell.** Because we worked so hard throughout the ex we

decided to treat ourselves to some R&R at the end. We all packed our bags and went off to South Beach Miami, where we found it hard to sit down and chill out with all the lovely ladies walking passed. **Cpl Brett** 'I've Been To Every Ladies Bar' **Grist** found it harder than most so he took a few pictures of the lovely ladies; forty-two pictures in one bar actually. **Sig Dave** 'Lucky' **Rodwell** was grateful of only being 20 years old and not being able to drink, saving his money with an early night back at the hotel. Better luck next year 'Rodders'!

Back to the main exercise. For those off-duty, **Sgt Gaz** 'Moneybags' **Shuck** set up a Squadron Bar in one of the hangars on-site, ably assisted by **Cpl** 'Willie' **Will-Cock, LCpl Phil** 'When Was The Last Time I Was Sober' **Dransfield** and **Sig Prakash**. This quickly became the meeting place before going on to the Enlisted Club and a great place to rip-off the staff officers. The Quiz Night was definitely one to remember. Where **Cpl Slim** 'Military Cabbage' **Scott** got the questions from is anyone's guess. We still can't believe that 'Chicks on Heat' won first prize, why **Sig Stu Hemming** was on their team and why **Cpl V** 'CO's Buddy' **McIntosh** decided to trash her own room. Generally though, the night time activities involved going down town to Ybor city or, as the Techs found out, there were plenty of 'other places' to go. The Tech bullies included **Sgt Mark Ebdon, Cpl Barney Grey, Cpl Craig Anderson,** and **Cpl Gina Atkinson.**

A well earn't end of Ex beer

JFHQ Sig Sqn and US support at the end of Ex Beach party

A big 'Thank You' is extended to the 501 Crew commanded by **Cpl Dave Macdonald, Sig** 'Taff' **Colwell** and **Sig Chris** 'Have You Met My Mate, The General' **Beattie,** for getting the footy scores on Saturday. This helped decide a much debated bet over the Middlesborough and Newcastle match; a big waaaaaah goes out to **SSgt Paul Storey,** and well done to **Sig Chris** 'Howay Lads' **Beattie** for getting your day off and saving your shirt from being burnt.

A job well done to all the telemechs under the supervision of **LCpl** 'Fergie' **Ferguson,** with **LCpl Smith, Sig Whalley** and **Sig Richardson.** The main comms asset on the exercise was JOCS worked by **Cpl V** 'Maniac' **Mcintosh, Sig Colin** 'Action Man' **Robertson** and **Sig Kate** 'This Is Good' **Marsh.** The ICC was run by **Cpl** 'Slim' **Scott,** and included **Cpl Harrison** (258 Sig Sqn), **Cpl Barker** (258 Sig Sqn), **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clarke, Sigs Stu Hemming, Leanne Fenton, Kelly MacLean** (258 Sig Sqn) and **John** 'Lurch' **Roberts.** All in all it was the best Exercise I have personally been on in my career, I really recommend South Beach Miami to anyone going, the ladies are unreal!

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt John Dagless**
Tp SSgt **SSgt McNair**

Having finally stood down from the R1 and R-1 commitment the Troop now finds itself in a supporting role. Having been at R1 for over ten months, deployed on two Operations, and stood too for a dozen others it comes as a bit of a culture shock to step out of the unknown and into the chaotic Regimental exercise program. No sooner had we handed the JTFHQ1 task over then we were straight onto the Regimental Shooting Camp run by the Training Wing. This was a fantastic opportunity to let the snipers amongst the Troop get onto the ground and make the most of the facilities and opportunities that this full range package offered. Unfortunately the entire Troop was not available to do this, as we had already deployed a number of teams onto other tasks.

Sgt 'Scouse' **Parry**, and his crew were on their way to Kenya as part Ex Grand Prix in support of 1 Battalion Scotts Guards, having already proved themselves, holding the Regimental leg on Exercise Cygnet Globe at Bramcote. **Cpl Bri Wilson** in the meantime was in Corsica on Ex Arrcade Fusion in support of 16 Sig Regt. In the mean time the rest of the Troop on their return from battle camp would be getting ready to deploy to America. Ex Purple Illiad, (or Internal Look depending on what country you come from) was a JTFHQ Exercise designed to establish and test our working relationships with our American Allies. This resulted in dets being spread throughout the Deep South of America. B Tp was tasked to support the Maritime, Logistic, and Land Component Commanders Headquarters for the exercise. Effectively this meant one team supporting a small two star headquarters in Atlanta, another supporting 102 Log Bde in New Orleans, and a third team supporting a bunch of sailors in Tampa. The Americans proved themselves to be very enthusiastic, and helpful. The out Dets worked particularly hard, having deployed later, and having to rely for the main part on American bearer systems that the Dets found themselves mastering into order to trouble shoot for the Americans. Help was always at hand over the phone from Tampa. Just as they all worked hard they played hard also in the last few days in America.

A warm welcome is sent out to **Sig Allen** and **Sig Lado** who join us from 7 Sig Regt and 19 Mech Bde respectively, and goodbyes to **LCpl Cooper** who is posted to JCUNI, and **Dickie Davis** and **Theresa Hampton** as they join Civ Div.

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp OC **Lt Lucy Pim**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Phil Joyce**

Having been out of role for a couple of months, Charlie Tp took on the role of Spearhead Tp. We all looked forward to a trip somewhere new and exotic and waited with baited breath for the pagers to go off. Well, that lasted all of five minutes, then reality set in. The message came down from on high that we weren't going to add a new stamp to the passport, but instead would have the pleasure of returning to Sierra Leone, to set up the Joint Task Force HQ Mk 2! **Cpl** 'It's not my tent' **Nolan** was particularly pleased at the thought of seeing the dreaded JTFHQ tentage again! When we landed in Lungi it was as though we'd never been away – the kid who'd hung around the gate at the old HQ, came and hung around as we waited to deploy to the new HQ – nothing like a familiar face to make you feel right at home! This was the first time we had made it past the gates of the airport, so seeing the surrounding area was enlightening to say the least. After a night on the RFA, we were up early to head off and start the build of the HQ. The tent erection went like clockwork, despite the heat; and within 48 hours the HQ was all singing, all dancing. Outstanding!

Life in Sierra Leone had definitely improved since last time, from our point of view. Before, we were living in 12x12 'on the edge of the jungle', and now we were neighbours with the President: air con, TVs, gym kit and a swimming pool (empty) included! Things were certainly a bit more bearable! When we arrived at DHQ in Freetown a Troop from 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn were already there, providing comms for the IMATT and Combined Ops Cell. So once the routines settled in, we started the job of integrating the Gurkha Tp into the HQ – the cunning plan being to hand-over to them, and escape! Thankfully all went to plan, and the majority of the Troop is now back in glorious Bramcote!

Congratulations and welcome go to **LCpl Nath Hadley** on his arrival to the Troop and on coming off the board (and on squeezing an Op in already!). Also, a warm welcome to **LCpl Aaron Garside** and **Sig Claire Elkins** on their arrival to the Troop. And a big round of applause to **Sigs Si Powell, Gaz Shaw** and **Jo Wood** on well deserved promotions! Charlie Tp now face preparations for whistle-stop tour in Kosovo at the beginning of next year; and we are all looking forward to the chance to relax next year as part of the out of role Squadron. Bags of adventure training and the like on the cards!

258 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj P. Deans**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Forrester**

Our preparation period for taking on JTFHQ was curtailed by the Regiment's commitment to Sierra Leone and as 256 Sig Sqn deployed we took on the Spearhead Lead Elements and Joint Task Force Headquarters 2/Shadow. Amidst this busy period, **WO2 (YofS) Knight** and family finally deserted 30 Sig Regt to lend a hand at PJHQ – so the 'tasked' becomes the 'tasker'. His replacement is **WO2 (YofS) Goodlife** who has escaped from 250 GSS. In addition, the Squadron have received tremendous results from the Signaller to Lance Corporal and Lance Corporal to Corporal Boards – a 'Well Done' to everyone concerned.

DELTA TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Chris Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jim Lyons**

After a great two weeks in Gibraltar on Ex Cygnet Rock, a Troop level exercise to practice medium range HF communications, we returned to start preparing for the R1 Role as JTFHQ Signal Squadron in December. Due to 256 Sig Sqn re-deploying to Sierra Leone we immediately took on the Spearhead role at the beginning of October. After the Troop prepared itself for the Spearhead Lead Element (SLE) role we were also tasked with providing a JTFHQ 2 Headquarters as well. This involved the Troop putting together a HQ complex and preparing the remainder of the Troop to be at R1. We were then called out to Aldershot to demonstrate our readiness and capabilities to Comd 12 Mech Bde who was obviously very impressed. Following our call out, the Troop deployed on Ex Sarum Bear as JTFHQ 2 for a week in the field on Salisbury Plain, which was a very successful exercise where much experience was gained. Following the last two extremely successful promotion boards, the Troop would like to congratulate the following people on promotion to Corporal. **LCpl** 'M J' **Holt, LCpl** 'Andy' **Wright**. Also congratulations goes out to **Sig** 'Ian' **Andrews, Sig** 'Ian' **Marsden, Sig** 'Neil' **Climpson** and **Sig** 'Richie' **Maybank**, on promotion to Lance Corporal. Finally this month we would like to say, 'Farewell,' to **Sgt** 'Billy' **Kidd** who has left the Troop to spend a short time in the crypto cell, before leaving Bramcote for Brunei. We wish him and his family all the best for the future and thank him for all the support he has given to D Tp in the past.

ECHO TROOP – *by LCpl Stu 'Bubbles' Engleby*

Tp OC **Capt** Karl **Jeeves**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** Alan **Combe**

It's been a busy period for Echo Tp with a host of new faces arriving and some of the older ones leaving for pastures new. So it's 'Hello' to **Capt Karl** 'Curtains' **Jeeves** fresh from recruit training and to **SSgt Al** 'Screaming Skull' **Combe** who joins us from 216 Sig Sqn. We have bidden farewell to **SSgt** 'Doc' **Halliday** who has left to teach all the nice Navy boys down at HMS *Collingwood*. Also it's been goodbye to **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Bevan** who has left for NI after completing his re-trade, to **Cpl Dave** 'Crater' **Carter** who has also left to go over the water. There are also goodbyes to **Cpl Lynsay** 'Xena Warrior' **Howson** who has made the step to civvy street, **LCpl Lee** 'Pickle' **Nicol** who is off to Blandford to impart his knowledge in Radex Tp. Finally, goodbye to **LCpl Stu** 'Belly' **Engleby** who departs for 21 Sig Regt.

We have also had a the good news of promotions in the Troop with **LCpls Jeff** 'Jeffers' **Ford, Tony** 'Big Arms' **Gallagher,** 'Big' **Fred Hazard** and **Lee** 'pickle' **Nicol** all coming off the Corporal Board. Also **Sigs Mick** 'Blinking' **Allan, Michelle** 'Cilla' **Black, Dion** 'Celine' **Fotheringham, John** 'Kebab' **Lawrence** and **Lee** 'Simmo' **Simmons** all getting the first foot on the ladder with promotion to Lance Corporal. In summary - Echo Tp isn't that bad a place to come! Further congratulations are extended to **Sig** 'Cilla' **Black** and husband **John** on the birth of their baby daughter **Shannon.**

To celebrate the passing of the members of the Troop who are leaving us **Cpl Pete** 'Winker' **Watson** organised a trip to the local bowling alley. **Sgt Al** 'The Gay One' **Barker** excelled himself with the amount of dirt he could find on those who were leaving and then it was time to start bowling. **Cpl Lynsay** 'Xena' **Howson** took great pleasure in chastising several members of the staff when her lane developed a temporary malfunction. A good time was had by all.

EXERCISE ABLE ALLY

Ex Able Ally is an annual SHAPE Exercise that is usually to be accompanied by a number of 'hiccups' and this year did not disappoint. It started with the ferry crossing from Ramsgate to Ostende being delayed by 16 hours due to the horrific weather at the end of October. So the Ramsgate Branch of McDonald's was duly eaten out of Big Macs and 'Lard' Fries. Nevertheless, the crossing was extremely choppy to say the least (everyone had to go and lie down!), but we eventually arrived in the exercise location in one piece. After the shaky start, the exercise went well (it's the first time that it's worked in ten years), although the auto tracking on the VSC 501 didn't work properly so the crew was reduced to manually re-pointing the dish (hard luck). Recovery to Bramcote was another very tiring journey but we made it back at 0530hrs on the 11 November to be met by **Sgt Barker** at the Guard Room who said, 'It's always nice to see a friendly face, lads!'

FOXTROT TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Mogs Southern**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Stu Fiddler**

HALES AND FAREWELLS

This month we say hello to the following new arrivals: **Cpl** 'Neil' **Harrison** from 15 Sig Regt, **Cpl** 'Ronnie' **Barker** from TACP, **LCpl** 'Joe' **Krikorian** from the Comsec Monitoring Team, **Sig** Clare **Louden** from RSS Blandford. Lastly, also from 15 Sig Regt, to **Sig** 'Beef' **Kirton,** welcome to you all. I hope you have a successful tour with us. We are saying a lot of goodbyes. Best wishes for the future go to **LCpl** Kate **Deal** who is posted to JCUNI, **LCpl Ian Richardson** and family, **LCpl Si Dennison** and **LCpl Gav Sayers** who all leave for civvi street – good luck to you all.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following personnel are congratulated for being selected for promotion: **LCpl Jim Stewart** on promotion to Corporal, **LCpl Andy Armitage** on promotion to Substansive Lance Corporal, also **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith, Sig Danny Thwaites** and **Sig Kelly MaClean** for promotion to Lance Corporal – well done all of you.

NEWS IN BRIEF

It has been a hectic time for the Troop of late. A couple of months ago the Troop were decimated by the deployment to Op Basilica in Sierra Leone. Approximately half the Troop deployed whilst the other half remained in camp. The tour turned out to be a real eye-opener for some (those not operationally qualified), with the hostage situation and Operation BARAS being thrown in – at least we were not bored! At last the Troop are all back together for what seems to be another very busy period ahead of us. We are now in preparation to receive the JTFHQ en masse from 256 Sig Sqn at the end of November, this will only give us a few weeks to prepare ourselves for the forthcoming exercises; at home and away.

51st BIRTHDAY IN BALKANS - *by LCpl Sim Chochangi, Kosovo*

The Queen's Gurkha Signals celebrated its 51st Birthday in Balkans on 23 September 2000. Originally the Regiment was established on 1 May 1949 in Malaya, which marks the formation of the Regiment and has served with the Indian Army as the Indian Army Signal Corps in twenties and thirties. However, the Gurkha Signals were granted permission to wear a Corp Badge, on 23 September 1953 in Lumjung Camp, Kaulalumpur. In 1977 Her Majesty the Queen granted her Royal title of Queen's Gurkha Signals. In 1983 the unit was reconstructed up to a Regiment Level, consisting of RHQ and four Squadrons in Hong Kong. Further detachments was set up in Brunei, Nepal and the UK. After the hand-over of Hong Kong to the Chinese authority, the QG Signals has been reduced to a single Squadron level, currently based at Bramcote as part of 30 Sig Regt. 30 Sig Regt is an operational unit, which provides secure strategic satellite communications back to UK for British Forces and NATO Forces from any conflict areas. Since the beginning of the Kosovo crisis, 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn deployed in Op Agricola with an intention to provide secure communication for HQ BRITFOR and HQ MNBC (Multi-National Brigade Centre). As our 51st Regimental

Birthday was approaching closer and closer, we QG Signal personal decided to celebrate it in theatre. Therefore, on 23 September 2000 we all played football and basketball which was organised by **Cpl Hari Gurung**. At 2030hrs the birthday cake cutting ceremony took place in which our Troop OC, **Lt Booker** and Troop Staff Sergeant, **SSgtNarayanbahadur Bhandari** were involved. Some guests were also invited. When they all gathered around, **SSgt Narayan Bhandari** gave a short brief about the Regimental History. Tipan Tapan started right after the briefing with two pints rule, followed by buffet. Finally the celebration ended up at around 2330hrs.
Jai Queen's Gurkha Signal!

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SSgt Narayan Bhandari and Lt Booker
Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony

32nd (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO	**Lt Col J K McKee MBE**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Hilborn**

51 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd	**Maj Morna Strachan**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Davey Crocket**

CONGRATULATIONS

There have been a number of reasons to celebrate in the Highland Squadron over the past three months. Congratulations go to 'Cabby' **Henderson** on his promotion to Corporal and to our chef **Christine** 'Delia' **Simpson** on her promotion to Lance Corporal. Also promoted recently were **Michelle Rettie** and **Dave Davidson**, both to Lance Corporal, well done. Celebrations and nappies abound in the Taylor household with the birth of **Ben** to **Sgt Claire Taylor** and **Cpl Richard Taylor**. Finally, congratulations also go to **OCdt Colin Bruce** on passing the Territorial Commission Board. We will of course be taking every opportunity from now on to 'test' his officer potential.

LCpl Simpson and Cpl Henderson

LCpl Rettie and the CO

LCpl Davidson and the CO

REGIMENTAL ANNUAL CAMP

The Squadron enjoyed considerable success at annual camp, performing well in both Ex Saltire and Ex Horseshoe. Ex Horseshoe saw our NCRS dets scattered around the north west of England and south west of Scotland. The Squadron CP was located at Longtown, with our OC, **Maj Morna Strachan**, **Capt Linda Duncan**, **SSM** 'Davie' **Crockett** and PSI, **SSgt** 'The Scottish Scouser' **Leach** providing traffic and various incidents, assisted by Regimental Recruit Training Team staff and recruits.

Things were going well all round until **Lt Milne Weir** and **OCdt Davidson** of 52 Sqn volunteered to act as refugees. Setting off on their own, having not waited to be fully briefed on the rules of engagement, they proceeded to visit B2 detachment, located at Carlisle Airfield. Their first mistake was trying to steal rations and equipment from the Det, commanded by **Sgt Mike Webb**. **LCpl Michelle Rettie** immediately sent a sit-rep to the CP while **Sig Ricky Melia** and **Sgt Mike Wills** gave chase. While trying to evade **Sgt Wills** - quite a feat in itself, **Lt Weir** had not noticed **Sig Melia**, and took refuge in the dets conveniently sited portaloo, upon which **Sig Melia** promptly locked it from the outside - leaving the said **Lt Weir** in the - well an awkward position. **Lt Weir** was eventually freed from his hideout at which point he decided to call ENDEX on the scenario for some unknown reason, although the thought of ending up 'blue' was evident in his face. We wish **Lt Weir** all the best and hope he will soon be 'regular' again.

35 (SOUTH MIDLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

XXXV

SLIP SIDING AWAY

Looking out of my office window at Rugby TAC during the early evening of Friday 24 November watching the preparations for our deployment on Ex Silver Buzzard I took comfort in the fact that the weather was reasonably calm and the prospect of a dry exercise was looking good!

This was doubly reassuring as our second line inspection was to begin immediately after the exercise and the thought of our technical equipment caked with mud filled me with horror. I allowed myself the luxury of relaxing for a while until I over-heard the weather forecast on the radio and as I listened intently the colour drained visibly from my face.

The calm before the storm
Sgt Martin Walton (R) with the Regimental FofS

Storms had once again been forecast for the West Midlands and Worcestershire – our deployment area, and were likely to persist for the whole weekend, so the exercise area was bound to be awash with mud and other hazards. I tried to remain calm and keep the news from our detachments that were now waiting patiently at the Main Gate for the order to move. I then decided that in the interests of maintaining good morale to keep the news to myself but drew back from promising them a comfortable exercise and relied on the old chestnut that the weekend was going to prove ideal to improve all of their comms and personal skills. I bit my tongue in a desperate effort to stop myself from saying that some survival skills would also come in useful during the weekend, but this thought fizzled out as the vehicle engines ignited and I was engulfed by a cloud of exhaust fumes. As I waved them a cheery farewell I returned to the comfort of my office feeling a little guilty. Ex Silver Buzzard was our first Commex for many months it was therefore essential for it to take place to shake out the cobwebs that had gathered on both manpower and equipment and practise unit level comms procedures, which had not been tested since Annual Camp back in June. Despite the appalling weather the exercise was deemed a huge success by the Regimental Ops staff and the CO, **Lt Col Stephen Potter**, and his Ops Offr, **Maj Chris Edwards**, were visibly relieved and commented that many important lessons had been learnt. Everyone had performed well despite the limitations imposed by the weather and morale was boosted when the CO declared an early endex so that the recovery back to TACs could run as smoothly and safely as possible. Fortunately everyone returned safe and sound if not a little weather beaten to be greeted by yours truly and a hot meal. Well this was the least I could do before they tackled the enormous task of removing half of Worcestershire from our vehicle fleet, cables and equipment. Viewing all of this with a detached air that could almost be described as excruciating and despairing was our solo Tech **Sgt Martin Walton** who commented that the biggest mistake he made was not locking the gate before deployment and throwing away the key. To say that he was mortified when the hot jet wash failed after only three vehicles had been steam cleaned is perhaps an understatement – not even his immense technical skills could resolve that problem, although in desperation he did try and almost sent the steam cleaner into orbit! He need not have feared the second line inspection, although highlighting many problems – not of his making I might add – went as well as could be expected in the circumstances and he is now back to his old self. Well at least he was until the Landrover he was given to carry out a Regimental task the following week broke down in the middle lane of the M6. Cursing and swearing and with a major sense of humour failure, he managed, more by luck than mechanical expertise, to get the vehicle going again and continued on his journey. To add insult to injury a few miles further on he was pulled up by the police for having a faulty brake light! Happy New Year **Martin**, things can only get better!

FUNDRAISING FUN ON THE GREAT NORTH RUN

The Regiment is renowned for its fund raising activities especially for those charities local to the West Midlands and in particular the Princess Diana Children's Hospital. This year we had a slight change in direction in raising money for our traditional charities and turned our attention and main effort towards raising enough money for a Guide Dog for the Blind. All we had to do now was find a suitable high profile activity that would guarantee maximum support and the Great North Run fitted the bill exactly. Twelve members of the Regiment initially sponsored by 89 Sqn, who provided the entry fee for each runner, entered the event, which took place in the Newcastle area on Sunday 22 October. The team entry was deftly managed and controlled by **SSgt Andy Egan** who received tremendous support from all team members in securing adequate sponsorship and pledges. An unprecedented 36,822 finishers, including the regimental team, crossed the finish line and whether or not you were first or last the sense of achievement and fulfilment was exactly the same. While it would have been nice to have got a team member in the first twelve places (which were reserved exclusively for the World's greatest marathon stars), **Cpl Adrian Proffitt** in particular was more than happy with his 13,641 position finishing with a triumphant sprint. We now share something in common with the Great North Run as both of us have now come of age. The Great North Run has now grown into Britain's most popular road race and the World's biggest half marathon while the Regiment has now extended its charitable efforts over a much wider area embracing many national as well as local charities. Pledges are now being collected so if you owe the team money please make good your commitment. Early indications show that we should raise in excess of £2000 and early in the New Year we expect to make a special presentation to the Guide Dog Charity and hope to receive some valuable publicity for the Regiment at the same time. Continuing with the fundraising efforts the Regiment is also pleased to report that members of 48 Sig Sqn, who are maintaining their support for Ward 9, raised the magnificent sum of £500 for the Princess Diana Children's Hospital and a cheque was presented to the hospital on Saturday 9 December by **Sig Neil Colledge** and **WO2 Carol Eden**.

SIMPLY HAVING A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME

While composing these notes, I couldn't help thinking how quickly the year has gone by and we are already into the festive season and the frantic efforts have begun in earnest to prepare for and frequent many functions. Once again I also find myself with a tight deadline to meet as these notes must meet the Wire Christmas deadline or no turkey for me this festive season. As usual with the TA all functions are very much a family affair and old, new and honorary members share fond memories while enjoying good food, drink and hospitality. I do find myself reflecting from time to time that like others throughout the Regiment, here I am organising my own major function with a small but dedicated team and I ask myself is it all really appreciated. Is everyone fully aware of the painstaking efforts required to ensure a successful function and are my own personal endeavours worthwhile? The only analogy I can use is that it is similar to buying a Christmas present for your children. You don't really know if they are going to like it until the moment they open the present, you watch with

nervous anticipation while waiting for that reassuring shriek of joy and the smile on the face that says it all. Then your confidence and self esteem is destroyed as you watch them discard the expensive and thoughtful present and play with the box instead! Functions are a little like that and I find myself waiting nervously for the smiles and laughter to emerge before I allow myself the luxury of relaxing – will it be Mistletoe and Whine or Eat, Drink and be Merry!

Fortunately this Christmas, so far, has been full of successful functions and as usual started with the Council House Dinner (superbly organised by **Maj Richard Hemmings)** which took place on Saturday 2 December in those illustrious surrounds of the City of Birmingham Council House. Special guests included the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Birmingham, **Cllr Teresa Stewart** and her escort, the Master of Signals **Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling, OBE**, Comd 143 Bde, **Brig Andrew Meek,** Comd 11 Bde, **Brig Jonathan Cook** and the Chairman of the West Midland Reserve Forces Association, **Brig John Patrick**. The Honorary Colonel, **Col Brian Foxon** and the CO, **Lt Col Stephen Potter**, welcomed all of our special guests. Much to the surprise of the recipients, the CO also took the opportunity during the evening to announce three promotions to the rank of Captain, and we extend our warmest congratulations to **Capt** 'Skip' **Walley, Capt Carolyn Daly** and **Capt Chris Lewis** on receiving their early Christmas present. On Friday 8 December both HQ and 89 Sqn held their Christmas functions in their respective TA Centres and by all accounts had a hugely enjoyable time. In 89 Sqn their master of theatrical design **SSgt Charlie Walker** excelled himself this year when he presented a circus theme for their annual bash.

With his deft theatrical skills he managed to transform the Squadron Training Hall into a Big Top complete with menagerie and many obscure attractions including a 'Man Eating Fish' and even managed to encourage **Sig Kez Rea** to don a Gorilla Suit – no jokes please that the Squadron is full of animals & clowns anyway! This evening was so successful that the traditional Santa's helpers failed to materialise the following morning for Operation Clean Up – but as I said before as I was mopping the floor, cleaning the tables and building a mountain out of the sacks of waste, I drew comfort from the knowledge that they opened the present shrieked with joy, laughed and smiled all night, danced until the early hours and put lots of money behind the bar and that was good enough for me – now I must hurry because I have that deadline to meet!

The Hon Col with Sgt Dave Butlin

RECRUIT PASS OFF PARADE

Recruiting is occupying our minds almost on a daily basis these days as regular recruiting provides the lifeblood of any TA unit. Early next year will see a major recruiting initiative and campaign and we hope to gain many new recruits as a result. In anticipation of this the Regimental web site is now up and running and is currently being updated by our resident web master **Sgt Martin Walton.** We also have a new and rather elaborate induction brochure (complete with new trade structure) that has just been released for its final print. This will also be released to the Regimental and Squadron Recruiting Teams early in the new year much to the relief of the CO who is no doubt thankful that the West Midland RFA have agreed to pick up the additional cost of printing. The brochure following its release will be issued to all of our recruits during their Phase 1 training which leads me nicely to give a report on the final pass off parade in 2000. The final pass off parade took place at Canley on Sat 11 Nov and was rather unique in that only four potential recruits had survived out of an earlier induction of almost twenty. In the absence of the CO, OC HQ Sqn, **Maj Ricky Logan**, conducted the pass off parade.

He presented the award of Best Recruit to a delighted and justifiably proud **Sig Brian Gale** of 95 Sqn.

The Course Photo

37 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col P. J. Grogan**
RSM **WO1 M. C. Fisher**

EXERCISE HORSESHOE 1

The Regiment has been through some major changes in this last reporting period, with the most important being the practice of our new role, this culminated in a Brigade FTX know as Ex Horseshoe 1. This Exercise was to train and evaluate the Brigade's ability to deploy NCRS in support of a national UN deployment, following a series of work up Comms and military training exercises. With briefings and language training completed the day came to deploy 37 Sig Regt to the Peoples Republic of Duart (Scotland & Northern England). The Regiment established a forward mounting base at Barry Buddon in the Cairngorm foothills, after a successful road-move, all detachments arriving safely and avoided Duarty import tax at the border. The Regiment was blessed by the padre and then blessed again by the RSM's in-theatre training package.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. Riley**
SSM **WO2 G Frazer**

Day 1 - The arduous journey to the far reaches of the East Coast of Scotland took place on Saturday 9 September 2000. A journey that took over 24 hours with a 4-hour stop on that well known M6 car park and an over night stay in the five star campsite of Warcop, a much sought after venue. Noted for its beautiful scenery, flora and fauna. If you're really lucky you can hear the delightful songs from the lesser-spotted 5.56, accompanied by the sweet music of busy traffic of the babbling A66. After settling in and building our tactical over night shelters (with the exception of **WO2 (SSM) Frazer**). The night passed peacefully or should I say as peacefully as it could.

Day 2 - After a hearty breakfast we set off suitably refreshed (not) from our over night stay for the second leg of the journey. Armed with our sumptuous (bursting at the seams) haverbag we endured another gruelling six and a half-hours at the wheel. At last by 1130hrs we reached Barry Buddon Camp to a well-organised reception. After settling in unloading of stores/weapons etc we attended one of many briefings. The CO's opening address was followed by a Drum Head service, with HQ Sqn providing excellent choral support. With the briefings over, everyone retired for the night in readiness for the Military Training Phase of camp

Day 3 - Monday 11 September 2000, saw the start of **RSM Mo Fisher's** Military Training Phase of which the Squadron was providing Military Training Instructors for NBC, First Aid, Ranges, Fieldcraft and Tactics during the next three days. The inclement weather did not dampen our spirits, soaked our skins yes, but morale remained high, in the true professionalism of the Squadron. The Regiment was split into 12 Sections and then divided into two groups. The REME LAD represented the Squadron ably assisted by **Sig** 'Dorph-Photogenic' **Lewis**. The REME team, Lead by **Sgt** 'Jaffa' **Rutter, Cpl Steve** 'it is' **Gladwin, LCpls** 'Moose' **Ferguson,** 'Temple' **Walshe** and **Cfn** 'Radiator Cap' **Coombes**. Advised by **SSgt Phil** 'It's my Foden' **Oliver, SSgt Paul** 'Honest I'm not an Australian' **Freeman.** Military Skills was the order of the day, comprising of NBC, Command tasks, Section Battle drills, FCO and Hygiene in the field. The sections then moved to Sqn RVs to move into Harbour areas ready for the night time activities. Due to the extreme weather conditions, the Squadrons were brought back into camp. The evening tasks still went ahead with a cut off time of midnight.

Day 4 - This was the range package with CQB, Section in Defence shoot, and MMTT. The weather had greatly improved and morale was high. The skills learnt and refreshed in the previous days activities were put into practice during the various activities at the range stands.

Day 5 - A Military Skills competition was the highlight of the previous days training. The LAD were honing their skills in preparation for Western Approaches. The RSM issued a battle groups worth of AMMO and pyro and then lots more, (where did he get all that pyro) he gave a brief and then the competition started with an assault onto an enemy position. The SSM ably assisted by **Cpl** 'What's this wire for?' **Hastings** were acting as enemy for this first stand. 'Tasty' **Hastings** is now the Sqn Trip Flare expert. 1000s of rounds were converted into empty cases, with each section adopting different approaches to the assault. The LAD assaulted the position with gusto and all guns blazing.

Contact-can anyone see the enemy?

Maj Gen Grant Peterkin GOC 5 Div shares a joke with Cpl Clarke

Maj Hall is introduced to the Mayor of Dudley

March and Shoot, after catching their breath from their successful assault they moved off to Stand 1. A brisk march around the training area followed by a falling plate competition. Stand 2 – Vehicle Comd Task, due to the late start and the unfair advantage our team missed this stand out, or was it because they couldn't face the embarrassment if they got beat by another Squadron. Stand 3 – Battlefield First Aid Ex, OC HQ and **SSgt** 'GI Jane haircut' **Hughes** put them through their paces, they did well considering by this time they were 'chin strapped'. Stand 4 – NBC Exercise, **SSgt** 'Paul' **Freeman** greeted the team by lobbing an orange smoke grenade and shouting, 'GAS! GAS! GAS!' The smoke landed under the bonnet of the Land Rover the OC Sqn was driving. Every one emerged from the rover as if they had been tangoed. The OC was not amused. **SSgt Freeman** is now enjoying his cookhouse fatigues! All in all a hard but valuable three days training.

Day 6 – Exercise Preparation, much of the day was spent setting up Ech Ops and preparing B Ech for deployment.

Day 7 – 13 – The Exercise Phase, Ech Ops was manned by OC HQ, **WO2 (SSM)** 'Get the Tea on' **Frazer, WO1 (MTWO) Jim Smiley, SSgt (SQMS) Dennis** 'Can I park this Astra here' **Wood, Sgt** 'Sue are we on Zulu or tea-timings for shift change' **Machin.** Radio Det - manned by **SSgt** 'Sigorni' **Hughes, Cpl** 'Honest, I only buy these magazines for the interesting articles' **Fitzpatrick, Cpl** 'Tasty – Tea Boy' **Hastings**. Resup – **WO2** 'John' **Downie, Sgt** 'Nige' **Haldron, Cpl** 'Clare Kit-Kat, Where's that noise coming from' **Brain, Sig** 'Dolph toothache' **Lewis.** Line Support – **SSgt** ' Paul' **Skelton, Sgt** ' Twanny – Isn't this a nice cafetier' **Borg.** QM's Department - **Capt John** 'DPM- I don't care I'll be in Cyprus' **Byrne, WO2 (RQMS)** 'Graham - GPS' **Bond, Sgt** 'Pete' **Savage**. Chefs – **SSgt** 'Al' **Permain, Sgt** 'Ian' **Ross** and **Cpl Powell**. Medics – The very able **Sgt** 'Tea and sympathy – zero' **Westwood.** REME – **SSgt (PSI)** 'Phil' **Oliver, SSgt** 'Paul' **Freeman, LCpl Walsh, Cfn Coombes.** Mess Manager – **WO2** 'Eddie – PC' **O'Cconnor.**

WO2 'Sharp Shooter' Joe Krikorian discusses dress sense with WO2 Eddie O'Connor and WO2 John Downie

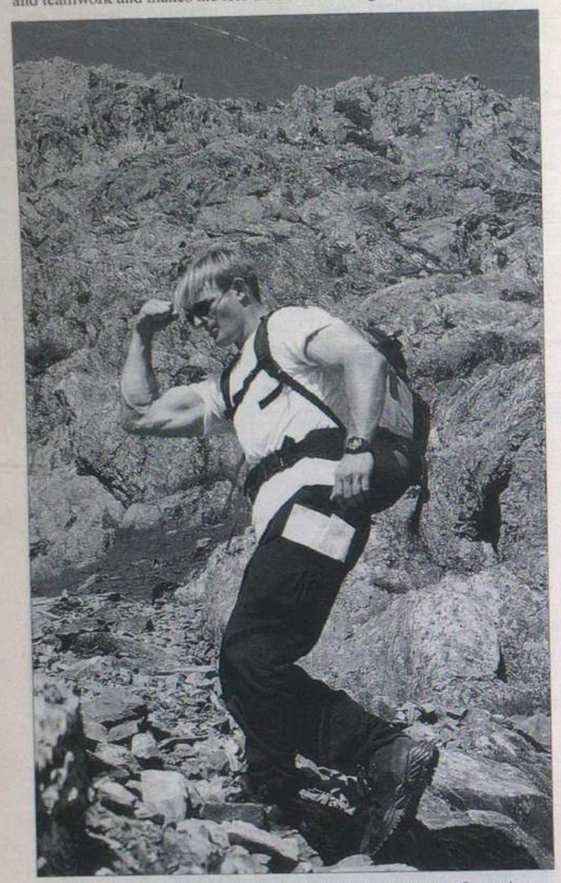
The Exercise started fairly slowly with not much tasking due to poor communications. The mobile phone network was soon humming. Taskings soon came in and re-sups got under way. The most interesting recovery request was from C/S Hotel 4 commanded by **LCpl** 'Burn that clutch out' **Dunn,** 'I seem to be geographicaly misplaced. Get me off this hill please.' In summery the Squadron worked very hard in what was a new Regimental role and it was enjoyed and valued by all.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
EXERCISE GOLDEN LION 2000 - *by Maj John Riley*

The Squadron deployed to North Wales for this annual exercise to conduct arduous training over the weekend of 4 to 6 August 2000. Once again the venue used was the Naval Air Command Mountain Centre Lodge, which is situated near Bethesda. This Centre is ideal for small groups offering basic accommodation with kitchen facilities at a reasonable cost. The aim of the exercise was to practice map navigation and route selection over difficult terrain on the Saturday and watermanship on the Sunday. For new members to the Squadron this was the first time that they had undertaken any outdoor pursuits and they were in for an experience. **Capt (PSAO) Dave Cooper** and **SSgt (PSI LAD) Phil Oliver** had organised the weekend, which was to comprise of climbing over Snowdon and surrounding mountains for one group whilst another group tried their hand at mountain biking.

I decided to take the group for mountain biking, thinking it was the easier option; whilst **Capt Cooper** took the mountain walkers. I soon realised that mountain biking wasn't easy and now know why cycles are referred to as 'push bikes' as both **WO2 Eddie O'Connor** and myself seemed to spend most of the time pushing the bikes uphill and then freewheeling downhill. Next time I agree to do mountain biking it will be in Holland and with an extra padded seat! The mountain walkers enjoyed the day with superb weather conditions, which enabled some effective map reading to take place. **LCpl Steve Martin** being extremely fit, after recently attending his PTI's course, was keen to show off his muscles and physique. **Steve** gained an 'A' grade on his course so now he can have the 'T' shirt to go with the pose, why are all PTI's so vain? Well done on gaining the high grade.

The Squadron travelled to Llangollen on the Sunday to take part in white water rafting on the River Dee. This was a fantastic experience and involved teamwork to remain afloat, at times the team didn't work and we got wet. The instructors at the Centre were excellent and knew the river and how to deal with different aspects of negotiating each rapid. They were enthusiastic in passing on this knowledge and important lessons were learnt. Everyone finished the day very tired and wet but with new knowledge and more importantly with a heightened respect for the potential dangers on fast moving water. It is essential that Territorial Army personnel have the same opportunity as their Regular counterparts to take part in arduous pursuits, as it is an effective way of building confidence and teamwork and makes the less attractive training more bearable.



LCpl Steve Martin doing his Hercules impression on Snowdon

53 SIGNAL SQUADRON - EXERCISE VIXEN OUTING

This was the final Exercise before camp at a very unusually sunny Sennybridge! The CO flew in by Gazelle to talk to everyone regarding the Exercise and future changes within the Regiment. The Regiment was deployed at various locations operating NCRS and MIVs. There was a delayed start from 53 due to vehicle problems on the way to Brecon. Once set-up good communications from all - another successful comms exercise for 53!

ADVENTURE TRAINING IN WALES

Set in the beautiful St David's Bay in Pembrokeshire, coasteering, kayaking and water-skiing were on the agenda. The coasteering proved to be the most popular event - wading around the coast and jumping off rocks left everyone exhausted but with huge grins on their faces. The group was split into two for the kayaking - half took the sea kayaks and the remainder took the regular kayaks. All met up on the beach for a BBQ and beers around the fire - an excellent night! Day Two saw seven of the group allowed to try water-skiing, without a great deal of success - a brave effort by **Sgt Adrian Sharman**, the only one who managed to stand up! The other group took to the waves to try body surfing but ended up in the local! Another successful and enjoyable Exercise organised by **SSgt Graeme Smith** - thanks to the PSI for getting us there - NOT!

ANNUAL CAMP AND THE 53 SQUADRON EXPERIENCE

During the second week of camp, the new OC, **Maj David Munson**, took over command of the Squadron allowing the 2IC a moment of relief, having completed masses of work in preparation for camp and enduring a very positive first week.

Capt Giles briefs the SSM on his plan,
'Over there. Not the end of my finger.'

93 Squadron after the Platoon Attack – 'Can we do it again?'

The weather tried its utmost to dampen the atmosphere, but spirits remained high and everyone pulled together and got on with their tasks. The following inset is an account of life on board E2 NCRS through the eyes of **Sgt Dave Jones**.

'The summer camp exercise was a mixed bag of delights for E2. We traveled to five different locations, worked with another Regiment, liased with the RAF, (albeit the Police) and stayed in two mental hospitals (sadly now in disuse).

It all started innocently enough. E2 comprising of **Sgt Dave Jones, Cpl Pete Thomas, LCpl Mike Colley, Sig Chris Pollard** and **Sig Nick Carter** were tasked to RAF Leuchars. Our task was to establish NCRS comms at a site adjacent to the main runway. Alarm bells should have rung with the signs, 'This way to the Air Tattoo' placed on every roundabout en route. On arrival our site had been turned into a civvy car park for the Tattoo the following day. Enquiries with the RAF MP established that no one knew we were supposed to be there. **Cpl Pete Thomas** established comms to inform what had happened, his only problem being the Italian Air Display Team in formation 50 feet above our heads. While waiting for our move we were treated to the whole programme, which was quite spectacular even though we had to wear our ear defenders for the whole afternoon.

The next move was with 39 Sig Regt, to Kirk Newton Airfield, then to East Fortune Hospital. This site had a varied history. It started off as an airship airfield. A hospital was built alongside the airfield, which was then changed into a mental hospital. We had an enjoyable few days here before being moved back to Kirk Newton. Again we had to set up a full working NCRS site next to an airstrip. Wide-open spaces, fresh air — wrong, massive rubbish dump about two miles up wind. We had no sooner set everything up than we were told to move again (phew), this time off to the Bridge of Earn to another disused hospital. We actually spent our rest time in one of the wards. Our cooking area and beds were laid out amongst the debris left by the vandals who had had the last ten years to smash everything they could. It looked like something out of a war zone. Still, 53 Sqn kept the flag flying high. We kept comms throughout the exercise. **Mike's** cooking kept our moral up (after a fashion). **Cpl Pete Thomas's** map reading got us there (in the end), **Sig Nick Carter's** stories of Saudi Arabia kept us amused and **Sig Pollard's** sense of humour kept all our spirits up. Roll on next exercise! A long but enjoyable two weeks - only a few teddies managed to find their way out of the cot! Ending on a high note - 53 Sqn won the March and Shoot, collected by **SSgt Steve Parry** - an excellent achievement by all.'

93 SIGNAL SQUADRON - THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE 2000

by Sig Paul Clayton, 93 Sig Sqn

During June 2000, **Capt Marcus Cosgrove, SSgt Geoff Small, SSgt Robin Fitzpatrick** and myself **Sig Paul Clayton**, undertook the national Three Peaks Challenge for the Neurofibromatosis Association, which included the highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales. We started off with a night ascent of Snowdon and we completed the climb in less than four hours. We then went onto Scafell Pike, which has the reputation of being the wettest place in England, and it certainly lived up to its name. We all endured six hours of none stop gusts of wind and rain along with wind chill and exhaustion from the first peak, in fact as I was walking off the summit the mountain rescue had arrived and were turning people back (we all complete Scafell - just!) We then moved onto Ben Nevis. This was without doubt the best climb. We started off in brilliant sunshine then moved up into the clouds and finally onto the plateau and the snow. Once the Ben had been climbed we set off for our beds and party. This was most welcome after spending two nights and two days on a coach. The final total for our collective sponsorship was over £2,000 and a few blisters.

38 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNALS REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

ANNIVERSARY HONOUR FOR LEANNE

Cpl Leanne Snow, who serves with Nottingham's TA Unit, 87 Sig Sqn and her husband, Sgt Darren Snow

Nottingham Territorial **Leanne Snow** was thrilled to be celebrating her paper-wedding anniversary with a silver honour from The Queen. It was two years to the day since the 30-year-old part-time soldier had walked up the aisle with the love of her military life. She was delighted that her husband **Sgt Darren Snow** (32) was there to watch as she received the medal for ten years outstanding service. The award was again presented on behalf of **Her Majesty the Queen** by **Sir Andrew Buchanan**, Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire. **Leanne** said, 'Joining Triumph Road-based 87 Signal Squadron totally transformed my life. The best part of all was meeting **Darren**. He was my instructor when I enlisted, in 1989. I was so proud to have him there to see me get my medal.' **Cpl Snow**, a graphic designer, said that part-time soldiering had opened up a whole new world for them both. She said that soldiers in her Squadron were able to travel all over the globe. The opportunities included everything from skiing expeditions in Scandinavia, to short tours on operations with regular army units in the South American jungles. She added that the Territorial Army had also given her husband a whole range of technical and management skills. They had proved as useful in civilian life as on maneuvers.

Sgt Snow serves with 87 Signal Squadron's Derby-based sister unit. Both are part of 38 Signal Regiment (V). Their role is to provide emergency communications for the military and civil authorities in the event of a regional or national crisis.

OUR HERO

Family Pride – medal winning TA Signaller, SSgt John Dye, from Ripley, with his wife Vanessa and his four daughters

Four young Derbyshire ladies were thrilled to bits when their soldier hero won his 'medal from The Queen'. Everyone in Territorial **John Dye's** Royal Signals unit was delighted when the award for outstanding service was pinned to his chest. However, no-one's smiles could compare with those on the faces of his daughters, he said having the girls there to see the ceremony made it a day he would never forget. The 39-year-old, from Ripley, was given his award by **Sir Andrew Buchanan**, Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, on behalf of **Her Majesty the Queen**. **SSgt Dye** said, 'There were no fewer than 11 of us being presented with medals for long and valued service. It was a great night for 38 Signal Regiment. But the best thing of all was having my girls there clapping along with my wife, **Vanessa** (35).'

Capt Ken Scott said, 'We couldn't believe our luck when **John** transferred to our unit, in 1999. He brought his whole Signals Platoon along with him after their old Territorial Army infantry unit was disbanded - they're all terrific soldiers.' **Capt Scott** said people like **SSgt Dye** were playing an increasingly important role in the community. They were always on standby to provide emergency communications for the civil and military authorities in the event of a regional or national crisis. They could create a network for voice and data transmission that could cover an area the size of Wales. **Capt Scott's** regiment has detachments at three TA Centres in Kingsway, Derby, Triumph Road, Nottingham, and Ulverscroft Road, Leicester.

71 (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT BEXLEYHEATH

CO **Lt Col C. H. Turner**
SM **WO1 (RSM) C. D. Tait**

The Commanding Officers study period 2000. The topic this year was recruiting and retention. After the initial brief from the CO the various syndicates broke up to discuss and then come up with the solutions to the various questions posed. Already 55 minutes behind, a quick rethink of the timings soon had us back on schedule for the COs Scrap Yard Challenge. Each syndicate was given a box of bits and a brief to construct a weapon to accurately project a wooden bolt 25m. I have seen many awesome weapons in my time but I can honestly say some of these designs should have been included in the Janes Defence Manual. After lunch, the discussion groups continued and then it was time for the 'Shoot out'. Syndicates were given a target and four shots to hit the bull, the winning team managed to hit the target three times but also cut the outer bull line, well done. After 45 minuese of Unihock and a light tea it was time for the combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner. This

was an opportunity for the Regiment, and in particular the Officers to say a fond farewell to the CO, **Lt Col Charles** 'Bus Driver' **Turner, Capt (QM) Bobby Andrews, WO2 Dave Norris** and **SSgt Andy Raynsford**. We were entertained by 'Double Tap' a very interesting ultra violet drum band. The culmination of the night was the RSM's games night which included a Golf game, Bowling, identifying 50 pictures and of course some falling down water. The competition was won by 265 Sig Sqn, well done. Sunday morning came very fast and it was down to the Padre, **Maj John Scott** to get all the souls back together for the Drum Head (or was it bad head) service. Finally a briefing from **Major Derick Harwood MBE TD** from the Greater London RFCA, on the RFCA's recruiting strategy and RPIT. A very successful study period with a great deal of information and ideas to digest and implement.

The Regiment sadly says farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Parle,** who has been posted back to Liverpool, 33 Sig Regt to regain his scouse accent we think? We wish you and the family all the very best in your new posting. One RQ out and in pops another, we say a huge welcome to **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Slanney** all the way from Chicksands and hope you have a successful tour with the Yeomanry Signal Regiment (will he still be here after the LSI ?).

HEADQUARTERS
(KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY)
SQUADRON – BEXLEYHEATH

OC	**Maj Pam Suddens**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Andy Church**

The period just after camp is usually a quiet time for the TA. Members of Headquarters Squadron, however, are always active. **WO1 (RSM) Dougie Tait** led a joint team from HQ Sqn and 107 Cdt Sig Sqn to give a presentation to a local Cub Scout pack. We started with a basic lesson in First Aid. First Aid Trainer **Sgt Julia Davenport** showed the cubs how many bandages you need to turn one small boy into a mummy. Master Chef, **SSgt Dougie Arterton** amazed the boys with a demonstration of field cooking where he introduced the cubs to delicacies such as biscuits AB and corned beef hash from a 24 hour ration pack. Two expert cadet instructors led the final element of our presentation. **WO2 (CSSM) Nina Martin** and **CSgt Robert Jenner** turned the Scout Hut into an impromptu drill square, and the cubs into a fine body of soldiers. The cubs clearly enjoyed being soldiers for the evening and made us feel extremely welcome. We look forward to further collaborative ventures with our local Cadet Force.

SSgt Dougie Arterton left the cubs to go into the field and demonstrate his culinary skills in a survival scenario. The Squadron deployed in the woods and practised life without the field equipment that we normally take for granted. **SSgt Dougie Arterton** demonstrated that he is as expert a chef when using an open fire as he is with a Number 4 cook set. Equipped with fresh rations - freshly killed chickens – and the mark one bonfire, our gourmet chef ensured that no one went cold or hungry. HQ continued to maintain our high public profile on Remembrance Weekend. On the Saturday, a team deployed to Bexleyheath Town Centre where, as part of our meet the public brief. **LCpl Christina** 'The medic' **Bienek** gave a guided tour of the Ambulance and **Sig Paul Swaffield** made a valiant attempt at convincing the local youths that his radio equipment was more fun than their Playstations! The following day, Remembrance Sunday, with highly polished boots and shiny new OC, the Squadron joined the other uniformed services for the traditional parade in Bexleyheath to remember our fallen comrades from years gone by. This was the first opportunity for **Maj Pam Suddens** to lead HQ Squadron since she assumed command of the Squadron.

THE END OF AN ERA

It is with some sadness that the Regiment now says goodbye to **WO2 (QMSI) David Norris**. Dave has served with the TA for over forty years. (He has to retire, as there is no room left on his TA Efficiency Medal for any more bars). He is the final remaining member of the regiment who has been serving since the regiment was first formed.
WO2 Norris, joined the RAPC in 1971 he was posted to 94 (BY) Sig Sqn. As he finishes his service, **WO2 Norris** is a member of 68 (ICCY) Sig Sqn where he has expertly prepared the officers mess accounts. **Dave** will not be leaving the Royal Signals family, as he is a staunch member of the Reading Branch of the Royal Signals Association. We all wish you and your family all the very best for the future.

'The highlight of the training year for the Territorial Army is Annual Camp. This year we set off for Camp for 9-23 September. These dates may ring a bell as the period of the 'Petrol Riots' We normally expect the exercise scenario to develop eventually resulting in the TA being deployed and dealing with riots and various other incidents. This year, we had a real scenario including food and petrol shortages being reported on TV and in the newspapers'.

PHASE ONE

Consisted of a Mobilisation Exercise and an UNTAT training package. This included an insight into the services offered by the Mobilisation centre at Chilwell, a mines awareness package and a series of advanced practical First Aid scenarios.

PHASE TWO

The exercise phase, we deployed to the English version of the Somme, (aka Rabbit Wood) and prepared for any incidents, real or exercise. We did not have to wait long for the first incident – an emergency childbirth - Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Midwife' **Chopper Twose** on the delivery of his first exercise baby, ably assisted by his partner in crime, **SSgt (SQMS) Ian Lapidge.** Other incidents include tech **Sgt Mick Weeks** who was involved in a spectacular blue on blue incident. The esteemed tech paid a visit to the portaloo which exploded as he sat down. Incidents tooked many forms, another started as vehicle with a puncture and was escalated to reveal a fully fledged mine field.

THE END BIT

During the last year, HQ Sqn successfully hosted the Courage Trophy. The OC, **Maj Corfield,** has captained the Regimental shooting team which won nine trophies at the 1999 TA SAAM. Whilst it is obviously a matter of great pride that we have achieved such success, it costs us a fortune to engrave so many cups. HQ Sqn team members included **Cpls** 'Charlie' **Woo, Mick Charter** and **Jackie Smoker** who achieved the best female shot.

LIGHT AID DETACHMENT REME

OC LAD	**Capt Julie Kiggell**
SPSI	**SSgt Ian** 'Teflon' **Tomlinson**

The SPSI, **SSgt Ian Tomlinson** and **Sgt Pill Green** have spent much of the last few weeks concocting ideas for the COs Scrap yard Challenge as part of the COs Study period in Longmoor. There devious plans were put to the test and some very interesting ideas came from the items they provided. Other news from the LAD was **Cpl Mike Charter** who received the trophy for the most consistent shot within 71 Sig Regt. This is no mean feat when you consider that the Regimental shooting team, of which **Mike** is a member, won nine trophies at the 1999 TA SAAM. **Cpl Hursey** received the 'Q Cup' for the year 2000. This is an annual award, which is presented to an LAD member for commitment and achievement within the unit.

70 (ESSEX YEOAMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
CHELMSFORD AND HARLOW

OC	**Maj Craig Tallents**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Paul Humphreys**
PSI	**SSgt Jason Barsley**

The Squadron has been through a busy period over the last few months with Squadron Training, Trade Training, Remembrance Weekend and a visit by the Brigade Commander.

BRIGADE COMMANDERS VISIT

The Brigade Commander, **Brig N. C. Jackson MBE**, visited the Squadron on its Training Evening on the 17 October 2000. During his visit to the Chelmsford and Harlow TA Centres he kindly presented three Kosovo Medals to **LCpl Kelly Cloughton** and **LCpl Brown** for their six-month tours with the Regular Army.

SQUADRON TRAINING

Ex Autumn Wind was a Squadron Comms Exercise conducted in the East of England area. The PSI, **SSgt Jason Barsley** confirmed that all the Exercise Objectives were achieved.

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

The Squadron paraded it self in Chelmsford for the Remembrance Day Parade. Having marched through the town centre they paid their respects at the Memorial. A curry lunch was laid on for all after the Parade at the TAC. The Hon Colonel, **Col D. S. Casstles TD DL** presented various decoration and certificates to members of the Squadron during the course of the day.

70 (EY) Signal Squadron marching through Chelmsford on Remembrance Day led by Maj Craig Tallents

TRADE TRAINING

Members of the Squadron attended a well organised nine day trade training course at Bexleyheath during the latter end of October and the beginning of November 2000. **Maj David Swann** who is the Squadron Traffic Officer led the team of Instructors on the course.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following have recently been promoted within the Squadron: **Cpl Laskey, Cpl Liddle,Cpl Smith, LCpl Brown, LCpl Nugent, LCpl Vanson, LCpl Cambron** and **LCpl Gatward**. The following have been awarded decorations:

Sgt Perry	The Lord Lieutenant's Certificate
LCpl Brown	Kosovo NATO Medal
LCpl Cloughton	Kosovo NATO Medal
LCpl Gatward	Bosnia NATO Medal
LCpl Nugent	Kosovo NATO Medal
SSgt Fensom	VRSM
SSgt Malyon	VRSM
Sgt Middleton	EM(T)

Members of the Squadron who received Decorations on Remembrance Day
Front Row (L-R): LCpl Gatward, LCpl Nugent and SSgt Malyon
Back Row (L-R): Sgt Middleton, Sgt Perry and SSgt Fensom

The OC, **Maj Craig Tallents** at long last tied the knot with **Kate** and all ranks wish them all the best for the future. We also wish **WO2 Mark Bell** and **Tracey McKenzie** who are late 265(KCLY) Sig Sqn a long and happy marriage.

NIJMEGAN MARCHES

Members of the Squadron who raised money for Charity by completing the Nijmegan Marches presented a Cheque for £1100 to the Royal British Legion on 7 November 2000. The team was lead by **SSgt Jason Barsley** our PSI.

Presentation of the cheque for £1100 to the RBL
Front (L-R): Mr Paul Tucker (RBL), Cpl Joe Smith and Mr Eric Seymour (RBL County Secretary)
Back (L-R): SSgt Jason Barsley, Sgt Natalie Gilby, WO2 Richard Pieper, SSgt Jim Swain, LCpl Kelly Cloughton and LCpl Ross Nugent

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Starting with Adventure Training, the Squadron had a tremendous weekend at Lydd where the activities consisted of arduous cycling and rafting with a Bar–B–Q on the Saturday night. The rafting was particularly good fun as the Squadron were split into teams and they had to build their own rafts and then cross a lake. There are tales heard in some quarters that **SQMS John** 'Squirrel' **Fensom** slept through the entire weekend.

Preparing their raft
(L-R): Sig Gill, LCpl Rouke, Sig Brown and LCpl Pilcher

On the water
(L-R): Pte Raynor, LCpl Nugent, LCpl Cambron, Sgt Catlett, Cpl Young

ANNUAL CAMP

The Squadron deployed on Annual camp to Wathgill in North Yorkshire. The first week comprised of a Mob Exercise, UNTAT Day and a Squadron Exercise for thirty-six hours. The second week was a Brigade Comms Exercise. All in all the Squadron thoroughly enjoyed their time in Yorkshire where they managed to have a day 'off ' in York. We would like to state for the record, 'The rain does not fall mainly on the plain'. Also the Squadron would like to mention to **SSgt James Swain** if you pack a trailer for camp, it's a good idea to take it with you?

Camp 2000
Back Row (L-R): Sig Nugent, LCpl Marshand, Sig Godfrey
Front Row (L-R): Cpl Farn, LCpl Cambron and LCpl Cloughton

FINALLY

Very many thanks to **Margaret Nutbeem** and **Ted Mcallister** our AO and Civilian Storeperson for their endeavours in the Office while we were having fun on the Yorkshire Moors.

265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY)
SIGNAL SQUADRON - BEXLEYHEATH

OC	**Maj Kieth Duffy-Penny**
SSM	**WO2 Stuart McHenery**
SPSI	**SSgt John Lynch**

ANNUAL CAMP 2000

Well, it had finally arrived 'The Millennium Camp' for the Yeomanry. We were fortunate enough to have as our guests for the duration of Camp 2000 two United States National Guard SNCOs, namely **1st Sgt Richard** 'Top Dick' **Stockley** and **Sgt William** 'Billy Joe' **Kopsa**, who both hailed from IOWA. Things started to run smoothly for our new Squadron members once we had secured the use of a UN translator (not for us but for them).

Camp got off to a pleasant start particularly for the newly promoted **LCpl Sean** 'Just started to shave' **Walsh**. The drive from Bexleyheath to Wathgill was long and arduous with the NCRS trailers peaking at a speed of 32mph, arriving in Catterick at 2300hrs with the rain lashing down, bringing credence to the then OCs favourite phrase that, '..if it wasn't raining it wasn't training!' The first day at Wathgill the Squadron was mobilised snaking through the normal stands of Health and Hygiene, Safe Driving, Theatre Brief, Intro to Foreign Weapons, Pay and Crypto. To cap the day off the elusive Combat '95 was issued to all and sundry. Then it was off to Whinny Hill OBUA for an UNTAT Training Day, covering Safe Driving, BFAT, Heli-Handling and mines awareness. The mines

awareness periods certainly focussed the mind, especially as it was the first exposure for most pers. The Heli-Handling was made more interesting by the lack of Helicopter, although there were a few swooping ravens that we tried to bring in to land.

EXERCISE SHARP SIGNALLER II

The next couple of days saw the Squadron depart to the Catterick Training Area to participate in the infantry phase of Camp. The PSI **SSgt John** 'Bet' **Lynch** took centre stage to revise the Sqaudron in basic section attack skills, ably assisted by the PSI Tech **Sgt Darren** 'Daz' **Lane**. The duty Pl Commander for the Exercise was **Lt Alex** 'Pistol Pete' **Downing** and the Platoon Sergeant was **Sgt Dave** 'Wavey' **Pryke**. The cobwebs were soon blown away with a series of mini-skirmishes, with all concerned raising a tidy sweat. Much enjoyment was had with this back to nature approach to training and the PSI's teddy bear was only seen flying through the air once or twice during the whole morning.

By lunchtime all skills were suitably refreshed in preparation for the full blown Pl Assaults that were planned for the afternoon. On cue for these festivities the rain came down! The assaults soon started to run like a well-oiled machine with our National Guard guests performing outstandingly as the enemy, even using several new phrases that they seemed to have picked up from the Squadron, most of which we are not allowed to print. Some 'Private Ryan' performances were evidenced throughout the afternoon as soon as the red mist had descended, notably from **Sig Joe** 'Mad Dog' **Parente** and **Sig John** 'Why me? Do I have to do this?' **Harvey.** Then it was back to the Pl harbour area to settle into routine and await further orders. Surprise, surprise, to everyone's shock and amazement, a night recce was called for. **Cpl Paul** 'Yorkie' **York** was the successful candidate to lead this much sought after affair. (Once the patrol had departed a gentle snoring could be detected from the harbour area, although it was alleged that this was due to a rogue badger). The patrol returned having been undetected and successfully receeing the required loc, in preparation for a Pl assault the next day.

Spirits were high the next morning as the troops realised that come nightfall it would be time for Squadron Smoker. All concerned were pumped up and ready for the forthcoming Pl assault. Orders were disseminated from the Pl commander to the section commanders and then the somewhat inexperienced section commanders passed the info down to their sections. It was at this stage that the Squadron Quote Book had to make an appearance when one of the section commanders, who shall remain anonymous, reached the heading of Service and Support and said 'We have no service, and we have no support.' It's understood that **Lt Richie** 'Chrome Dome' **Woodhams** is still chuckling. (Perhaps SHQ had unwittingly been sussed). The final Pl assault came as somewhat of a shock as it was all uphill (what cunning DS), much to the amusement of **Cpl Pete** 'Bigfoot' **Alsop**. The enemy was given a good hiding even though they had meticulously set up depth positions. The day was a runaway success if only to see **Sgt Emmett** 'But I'm Squadron Yeoman' **Vincent** charging menacingly uphill.

SQUADRON SMOKER

It was expected to be a low-key affair after two days in the field with minimal sleep. How wrong could a prediction be? The beer flowed freely, even if the barman was a little unconventional with his service. We knew it was becoming a success once the Olde English cider, which no sane sober person would touch, started to be sold. The evening was rapidly becoming more and more raucous. Then **1st Sgt Richard** 'Top Dick' **Stockley** started to challenge all and sundry to an arm wrestling contest. This was seen to be easy meat to the young thrusting Squadron members, especially as our guest was at least 55! But how wrong could they be as the Yank cleaned up without loss, at which point he decided to buy the whole Squadron a drink, apparently just to keep us happy. The predicted finish time of 2230hrs from our recently arrived PSAO, **Capt Mike** 'Ned' **Kelly**, came and went swiftly followed by a potato salad eating competition between **LCpl Sean** 'I'm an NCO now' **Walsh** and **LCpl Liz** 'Buffy' **Blaber**. **Buffy** romped home by two mouthfuls winning a Squadron sweatshirt in the process. The evening was topped off at around 0230hrs by an impromptu game of table tennis, with dustpans for bats and bred rolls as Ping-Pong balls.

RNR

The RNR day was spent sampling the hostelries of York and brass rubbing in York Minster. It was heavily rumoured that the Officers spent the day on a ski slope in Catterick??

EXERCISE HORSESHOE 1

Now it was time dust down the NCRS trailers and earn our money. We would be deploying a NMC and three out stations for the duration of the Exercise. The first port of call for the NMC was Cordilleras Farm complex on Catterick Training Area. An almost purpose built location for a NMC consisting of farm buildings around a gravel quadrangle. Once again, on cue, the heavens opened just as we started to set up and even though all pers had the now issued Gucci Goretex everyone ended up doing a passable impression of the man from Atlantis throughout. As per usual **Cpl Mandy** 'Jonny' **Shannon** and **Cpl Pete** 'Fanny' **Sturman** had done wonders in setting up their 24 hour Transport Cafe, like a veritable home from home.

No sooner had we got settled when we got the order to move to Otterburn Airstrip. A short 4-hour drive with the sprightly NCRS trailers. On arrival it was noticeable just how open the area was to the elements, although this was not too much of a concern as we were all well aware of how homely **Johnny** and **Fanny** would make the place. Spirits were high especially among the EDs, who always seemed to be plotting something especially **LCpl Ian** 'Zippy' **Liscoe**, who had arrived at camp shortly after having exploratory surgery on his wrist. Fortunately for two of our more junior members, **Sig Quentin** 'Jock' **Mitchell** and **Sig Danny** 'Have you seen my Greek girlfriend' **Baird**, a flight in a Gazelle beckoned. The picture on their faces rivalled children at a fun fair and later it would take a pound of lemons to wipe the smiles off their faces.

Open All Hours
Cpl Mandy 'Johnny' Shannon and Cpl Pete 'Fanny' Sturman

On their return we got the nod to move to Shaiba Bivi area at Catterick. So it was all hands to the pumps to take down 'Billy Smart's Cricus' and move with all speed back down the A1. The new loc was a god send with building galore and real sinks and toilets!! The comms assets were set up in double quick time by a merry band of nomads from three different Troops. Then disaster struck when it was discovered that a 110 Land Rover pulling an NCRS trailer had left the road near Skeeby Bridge. Transport was dispatched to the scene, where a rather sheepish **LCpl Colin** 'McCrae' **Marshall** was alleging to have been forced off the road by aliens. Fortunately all involved in the accident were uninjured, apart from pride. It's unsure whether the skid pan skills of **LCpl McCrae** endeared him to the local inhabitants as the main road from Skeeby to the A1 was shut for two hours, during their peak period!! All then returned safely to Wathgill Camp.

FAREWELL

On return to Bexleyheath it was time to say farewell to the OC, **Maj Hugh** 'I'm all choked up' **Robertson**, with hardly a dry eye in the house as he delivered his farewell speech. Then it was time to hand over to **Maj Kieth** 'DP' **Duffy-Penny** then up to the bar to celebrate. Once again the Squadron surpassed itself on the partying front. The piece-de-resistance coming from **Cpl Tris** 'George' **Swain** and **Cpl Ian** 'Zippy' **Liscoe**, with their rendition of the old children's favourite Rainbow. A night to be remembered forever.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not ask for photographs sent for publication in **The WIRE** to be returned, unless they are really irreplaceable.

Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing photographs which cannot be replaced.

Contributors should also be aware that unless digital photos are saved to disk at a minimum of 300 dpi mono and 400dpi coloured, they will not be used.

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

20 ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (200)

OC **Maj I. G. Standen**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. Lawes**

WELCOME

20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200) would like to welcome **Sgt Croughton** our new Master Chef and say goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Punshon** in his new venture.

ALPHA TROOP - *by Sig Weller*
Tp Comd **Lt S. Hughes**
Tp SSgt **SSgt R. D. Burrows**

Alpha Tp would like to welcome **LCpl Cowley** from 1 (UK) Armd Div who has joined us. Farewells go out to **Cpl Robins** who is posted to 1 (UK) Armd Div to be with his wife and **Sig Smith** who is posted to 16 Air Asslt, good luck to you both in your new units. The last couple of months have been busy with exercises taking up the majority of time. During our recent exercise in Poland we spent a lot of time towards the end of the exercise digging.

(L-R): Lt Robinson RA Sig Smith and Spr Jones Why didn't the Engineers dig these holes for us?

The Brigade HQ was dug in and the largest cam net I have ever seen was spread over the entire complex with trenches linking one complex to the next. The exercise had tired the soldiers out!

LCpl Evans an alert guard force!

Some of the officers obviously had too much time on their hands!

Lt Hughes in pole – and!

As did the technicians who proved that equipment care is definitely their business!

MOVING OR POSTED
DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW

(L-R): SSgt Yates, Lt Acton, Capt Gough, Cpl Daley and FofS Dawson

The technicians proving that equipment care is their business!

We then deployed on Ex Arrcade Fusion (or was it Confusion!). The exercise seemed to last for months but after three weeks we were back in camp to find that everything had been packed away and ready for our move to our new barracks.

EXERCISE ARRCADE FUSION - *by LCpl Collins*

Ex Arrcade Fusion was the final exercise on the calendar for us this year. The first hitch was when we turned up to the railheads to load our vehicles to be told that we were not expected until the next day. We eventually arrived in Fulda after a four-hour move when the temperature was about three degrees. Packet Two had an unscheduled stop at Mc Donalds due to the REME recovery 434 breaking down! – Well-done lads. We arrived in our new location, a police training barracks, at around 0400hrs. The next few days were spent preparing for the arrival of the DSG staff. With the arrival of the staff the pace increased (slightly) and everything ran smoothly. **Capt Gough,** the Recce Officer, had recced well due to the fact that the police training barracks had its own small café on the camp. (The locals seemed to like him as well!) Our next location was in the field where it rained constantly and this made the DSG Staff unhappy, (especially those that had forgotten their bivvie bags). After a few days in the field we moved back to Fulda airfield where we experienced gale force winds and used the REME wrecker to hold down the cookhouse tent. **Lt Acton** used to have a skull cap beret that resembled a swimming cap until **Cpl Dunbar** and **Cpl Reardon** got their hands on to it and moved quickly to ceremonially burn it.

Lt Acton with his 'flaming' Beret

Lt Acton and his 'flaming' beret caused much amusement. Good luck to 1(UK) Armd Div when they run the DSG next year!

TOUR OF BATUS - *by Sig Jay Martin*

On the Thursday I was told from a cast of thousands I had the chance to travel on the Sunday to Canada. Two days later I was on the 9-hour flight with **LCpl Glenn Sheppard** to Calgary. We arrived around midnight and after a 2-hour drive arrived in Ralston. I had forgotten to take my skis and it was snowing heavily. The next day I was told that I would be working in 6 Group; known as the worst group to be in – first in/last out. Working with all different cap badges we all managed to get along very well. Our job was targetry and bat sims, which was an exciting job to get as we got to follow Challengers and Warriors on live firing exercises and being in the Corps this opportunity does not arise everyday.

Sig Martin 'Can this be my personal weapon?'

We thought we had bad weather in Germany, however, it was nothing compared to the radical weather changes in Canada, one minute it was winter and then the next it was summer. We dropped our skis and picked up our suntan cream. We worked hard and played hard. I've got plenty of stories to tell but they'd never get through the vetting. If you ever get given the opportunity to go out to Batus then go – but don't get married!

EXERCISE LONG LOOK - *by Cpl Reardon*

One of the soldiers had dropped out and the Squadron had to find someone to go to New Zealand on Ex Long Look for four months. Seeing this as a chance in million I jumped at the opportunity. Thanks to the RSM and the Admin office I was whisked away to the land down under (or just next door to it at least!). Being Welsh it was a dream come true, from Germany to rolling green hills and 20 million sheep to look at.

My adopted unit was 3 Sig Sqn. When I arrived I was shocked to find that the Squadron was only 30 strong. Supplying comms for 3 Land Rover Gp and anti-terrorist comms for the south of the island. Work was different as they are jack-of-all-trades and they do not specialise in one area. Their equipment is a bit older than ours using Series 3 Land Rovers and radios from the Vietnam War. Their webbing was also from the Vietnam era, wearing steel helmets like those used in the 'Private Ryan' beach landing scene. I took part in the Anzac day Remembrance Day parade. Starting at dawn with a parade then making our way to the RSI (Returned Services Institute) and talking to the old boys, letting them swing the lantern and tell their war stories. Like the Spitfire pilot who was shot down seven times, without shooting down a single enemy aircraft. He was then moved to bombers where it was a lot safer. We also pulled up a sandbag to listen to the Vietnam vets.

During my time in New Zealand I spent one month on exercise learning about jungle tactics and a multitude of hand signals which I managed to confuse the MT Section with. I was given a week's leave and managed to cover the whole of the south of the island. I also managed to get some bungee jumping and sky biking in. The kiwi soldiers are a good bunch of lads and like a laugh. If anyone is thinking of going on Ex Long Look I would recommend it. However, don't forget your webbing, helmet and NO.2 dress!

RUGBY SEASON SO FAR - *by Sig Pete Armour*

The Union Season began today (14 November) with our first training session. Most of the old masters, **SSgt Burrows, SSgt Yates** and **SSgt Low** dusted off their boots and made an appearance alongside the new talent! – No not you **Sig Brown**. With our sights fixed firmly on the semi-final match in under four weeks, **SSgt Burrows** began the intro to the rugby ball for the less seasoned members of the team (**Cpl Doyle** and **Cpl Thubron**). Meanwhile the rest of the squad managed to do a very convincing impression of a team with little organisation and no talent.

After an hour of continuous passing drills we decided to cut our losses and head for the tackle bags. After we brushed the cobwebs off, we managed to separate the fairies (no names) from the rampaging monsters **SSgt Yates** and **Cpl Reardon**. As the light faded, along with our talent we headed for the showers to reflect on what is sure to be an interesting season with the inspirational speeches from the RSM. To quote, 'Clearly we need to train or we are going to get embarrassed in the cup. However, if we win then we can go back to the UK – that's your incentive if you need one.'

The rugby league season has ended (for those that it began in the unit). The highlight of the season was the involvement of **Sgt Bean, LCpl Levi, LCpl Collins** and **Sig Armour** in the final of the BAG Cup Final as they represented the Sennelager Stags. Unfortunately we were beaten by the RRW in a closely fought match. We did however get on to the TV as the match was televised! Congratulations to **Sig Armour** who managed to score a hat-trick of tries (and got a crate for it), while **Sgt Bean** as the Captain put up a valiant fight in the after match report which was aired on BFPS (I haven't seen any evidence of a crate yet).

SURFING WITH THE ARMY – *LCpl Gaz Roscoe*

Having just recently been posted into the Squadron, I was given the chance to attend a sport, which I enjoy – a relatively new sport in the Army – surfing. I took part in the Army Winter seeding meet, which was held on the south coast of Wales in the middle of nowhere - a little place called Brawdy – aka 14 Sig Regt. The meeting took place from 1-6 November 2000. The first few days were spent doing some friendly surfing giving some of the guys and girls a chance to catch up on some practice, which I definitely needed. The competition took place over the weekend. The heats were held on the Saturday with some good waves in the morning but dropping off in the afternoon. On Sunday the finals were held. Overall the week was a great success, and the members of the ever increasing club, improving their social skills – not forgetting the surfing of course!

SKIING WEEKEND - *by Sig Ferris*

As Austria is only eight hours away in a minibus we decided to go away for the weekend and we hit the slopes. I had never skied before and I was looking forward to the challenge. We arrived in our lodge on the Friday evening – waxed up our skies and hit the bar! Early o clock we eventually headed off (after waking **Capt Gough** up!). We arrived at Pitztal Glacier and as I received private lessons the rest of the group disappeared up the Glacier. I soon mastered the snowplough and was heading down the blue runs with ease! By the end of the first day I had mastered (shakily) the red runs and by the end of the first day I was skiing down with the rest of the group. The nickname 'Bambi' was due to my left leg doing its own thing! Just as I thought I was doing fine the rest of the group decided to do some jumps – not for me, well not just yet anyway. **Capt Gough** (on his snowboard), **Lt Acton** and **Sig Bogart** decided that jumps were the way ahead. **Lt Hughes, Cpl Harris, Sig Armour** and **Sig Armour** decided that egging down the slope was more fun, (when they were not on their backsides). All in all it was a fantastic weekend – good luck to our team in the forthcoming championships

THE GREAT NORTH RUN 22 OCTOBER 2000

by Cpl Dave Robins

Returning from Ex Arrcade Fusion on a damp October, Thursday, morning **WO1 (RSM) Lawes** and **Cpl Daley, Cpl Thubron** and **Cpl Robins** met up with **WO1 Berry, WO2 Beech** and Admin Man, **SSgt Cappleman**. After the initial travel problems the group began the long journey to South Shields via Calais. The M1 on a Friday night proved to live up to it's reputation and the decision was made to stop overnight in York. Thanks go out to 2 Sig Regts Duty personnel that night, **SSgt Paul Gardner** and **Sgt Pete Preece** for finding us some accommodation at such short notice. Saturday saw the group finally arriving at Whitburn Ranges, which was to be our home for the next two nights. Before we knew it Sunday morning was upon us and there we were in the centre of Newcastle, 200 metres from the start, black keep warm bin liner on and 49,000 other runners disappearing off into the distance behind us. **Jonathon Edwards** started the race and we were off, **Jimmy Saville** waving at us as we eventually ran past the start point. 13 gruelling miles, several OGGY OGGY OGGY's and frantic waving at BBC TV cameras later it was all over. Grab a T-shirt and medal, wrap yourself in baco-foil and it's off to the local pub for some post run sustenance. The conversation only broken by laughter at those members of the team suddenly hit by cramp. The return journey to Paderborn proved to be less eventful than the outward trip and all that remains is to collect the sponsorship money off those good enough to sponsor us in the first place. Roll on next year.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt J. Acton**
Tp SSgt **SSgt T. Gibbins**

Bravo Tp would like to welcome **SSgt Gibbins** (and all his marine talk) and say goodbye to **SSgt Crabb**. The Troop had a good shake out exercise in Poland. It was good to get away from Sennelager Training Area. After Poland we had a week to turn our vehicles around and prepare for Ex Arrcade Fusion. The exercise period is now over and we are preparing to move barracks.

LONDON OTC VISIT - *by Sig Anderton*

The visit of the OTC gave Bravo Tp the opportunity to view the potential officers. For two days we instructed them in antennas and gave them an insight in to the Royal Signals. We also gave them the opportunity to drive armoured vehicles, motorbikes, DAFS and Land Rovers cross-country. They thought they could rival **Colin McKay** but we thought they could challenge driving Miss Daisy! After a long nerve wrecking day the instructors relaxed with the OTC in the Squadron bar. The Troop enjoyed instructing the OTC and we all enjoyed the visit.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Maj M. G. P. Bohanon**
Tp SSgt **SSgt H. Cappelman**

Over the last few months the QM's Dept has been very busy preparing for yet another Squadron move to Talbot Barracks whilst providing support on Ex Prairie Eagle and Ex Arcade Fusion. The department would like to say congratulations to **LCpl Neil Crawshaw** and his new wife **Sheryl** on the birth of their son **Ieaun** and good riddance as he's posted to 7 Sig Regt. We also would like to say good bye to **LCpl Mooney** and his wife **Mirrelle** on their posting to 280 Sig Sqn. Also welcome to **Sig Carr** and **Sig** 'I want to be a rally driver' **Mulligan.** The whole Department deployed 'for a change' to Poland on Ex Prairie Eagle. All the vehicles eventually arrived after a long 2fi day drive even **Sig Jones** made it in the gas truck. During the Exercise the Department saw a few highlights.

Somehow if there was a toilet to dig, **Cpl Tyrrell** was always on the scene. **Sig Mulligan** managed to stag on for an extra two hours one night but made up for it the next day and slept most of it. Congratulations to **Sgt Northeast** and **LCpl Mooney** on their reversing techniques (in daylight) for getting stuck in the same trench twice. **Sig Jones** and the OC Sqn both fell in the 'FULL' swill pit. One night the DCOS and master driver tried to bump the Ech (without much success) as they were last seen with tails between their legs making a hasty retreat, closely followed by the QM, **Maj Bohanan**. The only problem was he only managed to catch **Cpl Antell** who was one of our guys.

The Department returned from Poland to deploy on Ex Arcade Fusion a week later. The Department Deployed on Ex Arrcade Confusion with a small amount of the manpower well done to **Cpl Tyrrell** on his efforts on the DSG Admin area. With his sidekick **SSgt Low**. A final mention to **Sig Carr** for all the extra stags he did.

4th ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (204)

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Sqn Comd **Maj G. R. Norton**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Craig**

FAMILIES DAY AND WELCOME BACK PARTY

by Sgt Leadbeater

After many phone calls between Osnabruck and Banja Luka the date was finally set. The day started at 1400hrs with music and karaoke for the kids and the legendary Squadron bouncy castle and kiddies' carousel. Looking after both the bouncy castle and carousel was **Sig Lucy Corlett** and **Sig Nicky Earl.** The weather was superb and the food done to a treat. The day wound down at 1730hrs with both kids and a few adults ready for their bed. The evening started at 1930hrs with **Cpl Nige Stiff** and **LCpl** 'Stan' **Standish** keeping the refreshments flowing at the bar. The disco played some good, old tunes that soon got the crowd going. Later, it was on to karaoke with **Cpl Pete Dugmore** and **Sig** 'Little Voice' **Earl** the stars of the Squadron. Good food, good company and a great atmosphere, a great time was had by one and all. A huge vote of thanks goes to all that attended, especially to those who helped build, maintain and serve. Without their help and hard work, the day would not have been the success that it was.

4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204) Families day

Wives and soldiers of the Squadron relaxing and enjoying the company and entertainment.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - *by Maj (Retd) Pat Maloney*

There was no Garrison Drumhead Service this year with so many units away, however, the Service in the Garrison Church was attended by representatives of the serving and former Corps. The local Old Comrades retired to the Royal British Legion, where members of the local German Armed Forces Reserve Association also attended the traditional curry lunch. In the afternoon a Service of Remembrance was held at Sage War Cemetary (90km North of Osnabrueck). Wreaths were laid on behalf of RN, Army, RAF, Royal British Legion and the Bundeswehr. After the main ceremony wreaths were laid, and the Corps Collect said, at the two Royal Signals graves. **Maj Graham Norton** and **Capt Ben White** represented the serving Corps; **Maj (Retd) Pat Maloney**, **Ex-Cpl Sid West** and **Ex-LCpl Robert McGilvary** attended as Old Comrades; and OstFw a.D. Dieter Bockelmann represented Lw Fm Regt 11 (the German Air Force Signal Regiment who man many of the static locations to which we send signals). **Sig David Fairgrieve** (from Bonnyrigg in Midlothian) of 51st Div Sigs and **Sgt Walter Hay** of Guards Armd Div are buried at Sage. If anyone has any memories or details of them please send them direct to myself.

After the laying of the wreaths at Sage War Cemetary

OSCAR TROOP - *by Sig Scott Walker*

Tp Comd **Lt Paul McTurk**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Olly' **Oliver**

The Troop returned from Bosnia safely and we now find ourselves secure from tours for at least a year. We wouldn't have got back from the Balkans so quickly if it hadn't been for the studious labours of the 7 Sig Regt augmentees who bolstered our numbers so big thanks need to go to them. Oscar Tp would also like to say hello and thank the fortunate augmentees who are still out there.

Congratulations are in order for **Sgt Stu Mcneil** on his promotion from corporal as well as **LCpl** 'Smudge' **Smith** and **LCpl** 'chip butty head' **Goodwin** for coming off the board. **Sig** 'thicket' **Mockett** and **Sig** 'stick it' **Ashmore** for coming off the coveted Signaller – Lance Corporal board while we were on post tour leave. All members of the Troop marked the return to Quebec Barracks with a cry of despair once they realised the extent of the workload that was to be carried out. The weeks immediately preceding post tour leave were a culture shock to many who had been skiving away on the hill top sites and allowing their sense of graft to deteriorate but now, further down the line, Oscar Tp is making good progress and who knows? We might even be ready for such hazards of the training year such as RSIT and 2nd Lines.

Sad farewells go to **LCpl** 'Mac' **McKenna** who is off to help blow things up at 11 EOD. **Sig** 'Ash' **Ashmore** and **Sig** 'Scott' **Walker** who are off to make their fortune in Civ Div. Grateful hellos go to **Sig** 'Whizzer' **Whitham** and **Sig** 'Martine' **Mcutcheon** straight from 11 Sig Regt.

PAPA TROOP - *by Sigs Tooke and Ward*

Tp Comd **Lt Mike Parke**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul Davis**

The last half of October and the first half of November were spent having a well-earned break on post-operational tour leave after Bosnia. The Troop returned from this well rested and ready to go straight into another hectic period. Well most us did anyway, **Sig Nicky Earl** returned with a broken ankle. **Sig Lee Ward** returned slightly later than the rest, hence the following telephone conversation (heavily edited) on our first day back from work between him (at his home) and the Tp OC. **Sig Ward,** 'Hello Sir I hear you've been trying to get hold of me, what's the problem?' Tp OC, 'Hello **Sig Ward** why are you at home in England and not here in Germany at work?' **Sig Ward** 'Oh you're joking Sir I could have sworn it was next Monday.' Well done **Lee** for yet another successful return from leave!

After only a few days back in Osnabrück the Troop deployed to Hohne to support a Duke of Wellington's Regiment exercise under the watchful eyes of **SSgt** 'Old Man' **Davis**. This exercise was to help them prepare for a forthcoming Op Tour. At the end of it some lucky members of the Troop got to see a firepower demo involving RAF Tornadoes and Artillery. Whilst the Troop were exercising the Tp OC, **Lt Mike Parke,** deployed to the local German Hospital to recover from his **Sig Ward** experience. Only joking, it was in fact for an intense and forced introduction to German food and TV, whilst the finest of German physicians tried to make his nose into an object that can be breathed through, and not just an eyesore to look at. This turned into something of a 'Carry on' experience with lots of Matronly type German Nurses scolding him for not speaking German, whilst he desperately fumbled through an English-German Dictionary trying to find words for 'bed bath please' etc.

As for the remainder of the Troop who didn't deploy (all four of them), there was **Sigs Dan Tooke** and **Lee Ward** who are on the driving course trying to get their 'H' Licence under the expert instruction of **Cpl Nige** 'Windswept' **Stiff**. Also there is **Cpl Charlie** 'Chaz' **Henson** making helmet covers in the stores. After a year and a half of dodging the driving course we have finally been introduced to the pleasures of track bashing. We have only broken a wagon a week so far, the first one being a brand spanking new 432 which **Lee** 'Legohead' **Ward** ripped the steering unit out of. The second died due to contaminated fuel that is suspected to be a legacy of our Kosovo days of 1999. Finally we are now back on the road causing massive amounts of unnecessary stress on German drivers with **Sig Steve** 'Hasslehoff head' **Potts** trying to drive us off a bridge.

CONGRATULATIONS, HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop has had lots of successes recently with promotion boards, firstly on the Lance Corporal-Corporal promotion board congratulations go to **LCpls** 'Scotty' **Rose,** 'Charlie' **Forsyth** and **Neil McElhinney** on being selected for promotion. On the Signaller-Lance Corporal board congratulations to **Sigs Jamie Masters, Steve** 'Woggle' **Moran,** 'Gus' **Crawford** and **Lucy Corlett.** Our other big success is with **Sgt John Swanston** who has been selected for promotion to Staff Sergeant. Well done and congratulations to all of you! We have had a couple of additions to the Troop recently so a big massive welcome to **LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robertson** who has joined us from 3 Div, and the same goes to **Sig** 'Tish' **Stevenson** who has joined us from that lovely place Blandford. Unfortunately we have also had to say farewell to **LCpl** 'Drunken' **Excell** who is off to 16 Air Asslt Bde, to **LCpl Craig Eden** who is going to 2 Sig Regt, and to **Sig Jimmy Findlay** who is off to NI. Good luck to you all, you will be sorely missed!

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Pete McElwee**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul Buckley**

MOTOR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT - *by Cpl Paul Maguire*

With the work in Bosnia coming to an end it was time for the Ops team to plan the return journey back to Osnabruck. The QM **Capt Pete McElwee** informed the squadron that a Board of Officers would have to be completed before the Squadron started to leave the wonderful Banja Luka Metal Factory. **Cpl Paul Maguire** whom at this time was detached to the Metal Factory Multinational MT was seen to be pulling his hair out, as our friends from the other nations had not heard of a Board of Officers. It must be said that all was well and it must be mentioned that **Paul** had a great time. August was the month that **Sig Jamie Smith** was awarded the driver of the month from the GOC, **SSgt Paul Buckley** is now wondering if that was a good idea due to the fact that **Jamie** drove for **SSgt Buckley** whist he was on his DDE retest. It must be said that **SSgt Buckley** has never marked anyone for 26 minor faults, and two serious faults. On arrival in Osnabruck, it was work as normal for the first two weeks, before we started our well earned break for up to four weeks. The Troop have since returned from post tour leave and at this point we have four people who are supplying support to the Duke of Wellington's Tessex Exercise. We would like to say farewell to **Sgt Mick Pryce** who leaves us for sunny Aldershot, and a sad farewell to **LCpl** 'Chalky' **White** leaving the Army in January. Congratulations to **LCpl Kurt Molden** who has been selected for promotion to Corporal and is going to Cyprus in February. **Sig** 'Marlon' **Brandon** was selected for promotion to Lance Corporal, well done to you both.

Q MATTERS - *by LCpl Lee Peacock*

The deployment to Bosnia was a typical Army move ' Hurry up and wait', all in all a smooth and well rehearsed move. Once we had settled in we realised the task that was ahead of us. The task ahead was to back load around 75% of the equipment that was in the Banja Luka Metal Factory and from the hill top sites. This was not going to be a problem due to the fact that I was a Radio Operator by trade and my best mate **SSgt 'Olly' Oliver** had transferred me to the QM's Department for the tour. Working with the Dutch was a bit of an eye opener for me, especially when I am 5' 4" and one of them was 6' 9". The Department would like to say farewell to **Sgt** 'Spike' **Hughes** and his family. 'Spike' left us for 14 Sig Regt and a well deserved promotion to Staff Sergeant. A big welcome goes to **Sgt** 'Scholly' **Martwich** and **Sig** 'Bob the Builder' **Steel**, we hope that you enjoy your time here. Finally, The tour went well and due to the time off that I had during my time in Bosnia, that I have now decided to re - trade as a stores accountant.

12 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (228)

This period has been one of a dogged determination to succeed. The Squadron remained focused throughout and training was conducted at all levels beginning with troop level training and ending with the successful Divisional exercises in October, Ex Iron Foray and CAST(S) which saw all of the hard work come to fruition. We also managed to 'Stand To' almost 50% of the Squadron at R1 for the JTFHQ tasking from LAND. Since the successful completion of the exercise we are now concentrating our efforts on the deployment on Ex Lion Sun in Cyprus and the requisite training is well underway with all ranks being rigorously prepared by the PTIs and SNCOs. Concurrent activity for this period is the preparation for the RSIT inspection shortly after our return from Cyprus, which is being driven by M Tp and the FofS. We are also in the process of handing over our old Barracks and handing back the equipment from the JTF HQ call up. Also high on the agenda is the LSI preparation by the QM's Dept, which is upon us shortly after the leave period. As you can see, if it is a challenging life you are after then a posting to 12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228) is the job for you.

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS TROOP

We are currently recovering from our busiest time of the year, the annual Staff Personnel Support Inspection and are now getting prepared for the Christmas break period. **Pte Cheryl Roberts** and the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Steve Owen**, are sorting out leave passes for anybody that wants to be at home for Christmas and the New Year. **LCpl Jitendra** 'G10' **Shakya** has recently completed the Inter Troop Orienteering competition along with the Chief but he sadly ran out of time and was disqualified unlike the evergreen Chief who achieved third place (from last) well done you! We are now revving up for Christmas and for the imminent deployment to Cyprus on Ex Lion Sun. The clerks will leave their dens and join the rest of us in the field for a change where they will be fully tested in military skills, leadership and adventurous training ability - and not a paper clip in sight.

ALPHA TROOP - EXERCISE IRON FORAY

Ex Iron Foray was the Brigade final exercise in SPTA over the period of 30 October to 3 November. It was the culmination of a series of Troop, Squadron and Brigade training exercises that had been conducted over the previous weeks. The exercise started well with hurricane winds and a torrential downpour as is normal for all major exercises. This was greeted with a mixture of emotions, ranging from the complex, **Cpl** 'Dog' **Barker** thinking that he was having a nervous breakdown (as his career rested on the briefing tent not blowing away). We then had **Cpl** 'JC' **Whitworth** crying with laughter whilst re-enacting the rain scenes from Forest Gump as he was stagging on in a Stage 3 swimming pool. The Squadron performed exceptionally well, despite having to overcome freak weather phenomena, a vertical learning curve and numerous teething problems.

We moved about Salisbury plain with surprising skill (for a first shot) and ever increasing speed (inside the speed limit of course) during the exercise, and we were learning all the way. Bets were eventually taken as to how long it would take to set up Main but we still don't know who won the bet. The OC thinks we can move, set up, communicate and cam up within 25 minutes including a 10km drive, we will succeed in the end I am sure. We may even throw in a quick meal just to show off our newly acquired skills. This subject has been hotly debated ever since. We also discovered that if we speak nicely to the Royal Engineers, they dig far larger trenches far quicker than any lineman can but using a tractor of course.

Wet 432
We told you it rained on the plain didn't we

There are far too many humorous tales to tell here about what happened during the exercise. A couple do spring to mind such as the 432 driver **(Sig Dan Fallows)** who in his rush to leave a location during the Squadron demo exercise for the wives visit, left his back door open much to the amusement of the assembled spouses. And finally special thanks go to the Squadron Public Relations rep, **LCpl** 'Not so Dangerous' **Armstrong** who adopted a no-mess policy informing the COS that he would have to sleep on the particularly boggy floor. He pointed out that there was only one camp cot and sadly it had Dangerous written all over it, and he wonders why he is called 'Dangerous'. Also of note is that after the exercise **Cpl Barker** was given a public dressing down in front of the Squadron before being promoted to Sergeant. So I guess all we have to do is make sure our tents do not blow away and promotion is in the bag.

Wives and families open day on the local training area

Following the six-week exercise period, which for the many 'Armour Virgins' among us was a steep learning curve, the Troop is now struggling to develop some form of routine. There is still plenty of work to do but the pace of life is nowhere near as frantic. Everyone is now looking forward to a Christmas at home and not in the Balkans, which is where we all had our Christmas Dinner last year. Straight after Christmas leave, we spend a short month in Cyprus on Ex Lion Sun 1 - 2001 to start the coming training year on a high note. Some factors remain constant, however, and the Troop Staff Sergeant's spending habits are no exception. **SSgt Dicky 'Town Crier' Dyer** still parts with absolutely no money at all; he's a genuine Cornishman who loves Tesco's Blue Stripe lager. Congratulations to **Sgt Roy Davies** and his wife on the birth of his new son **Owen**, who now replaces his adopted son **Sig Simon** 'The Sailor' **Goundry**.

The Squadron boxers are training hard under the RSM's watchful eye in order to attempt to hospitalize 9 Parachute Squadron RE in the inter-Squadron boxing tournament. **Sig Dan** 'Half the man he was' **Fallows** has stopped his daily subscription to Gingsters' and lost five stone in a fortnight. The other boxers: **LCpl Chris** 'Whippet' **Kelly-Rutherford, Sigs Al** 'Matchstick' **Webb, Al** 'Mega Head' **Sweet** and **Chris** 'Monkey-Hanger' **McGeorge** are all looking much fitter now than they were before the RSM got his hands on them. The Troop wrestler, **Sig Matt** 'WWF' **Grochowina**, decided not to box when the RSM told him that leotards are definitely not allowed on the night. Our Troop Christmas outing this year was paint-balling. A resounding success, the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was surprising to see how many of the Troop exaggerated their paint-balling prowess when swinging a lamp afterwards in the pub. The Blue Team won the fight easily due to the poor tactics of the opposition. For those who couldn't make it, you missed an excellent day out and we will be back.

BRAVO TROOP - *by Cpl Biddle*

EDUCATIONAL BREWERY TRIP

As part of a morale boosting tour Bravo Tp departed on a Brewery Trip to Alton (Bass) Brewery under the watchful eye of **SSgt Pete Mullen.** The day got off to a wonderful start as soon as the two ladies escorting us around realised we were more interested in 'Beer Tasting' than walking around the Brewery. Although a quick tour was conducted and **Cpl Keith Langan** and **Sig Phil Williams** inwardly digested all the facts and figures for the quiz in the bar later on. Once in the bar **Sig Chris Dunkin** got off to a flying start but was soon flagging towards the end after visiting the toilet a few times! Once the finger buffet had been served and the Troop had totally demolished the food, the Troop presented a plaque to the brewery and **SSgt Pete Mullen** held a quiz all about the Tour promising the winners a late start to a morning in the not too distant future. Funnily enough the biggest group won consisting of **Sgt** 'Dog' **Barker, Cpl Sarah Guthrie, Cpl Keith Langan** (recently promoted to Sergeant), **LCpls** 'Geordie' **Wharton, Paul Ford, Ross Williams** and **Sigs Katie Shrubsole** and 'Tasha' **Fussell**. The beer tasting was over much too soon but the Troop had the opportunity to visit the historical town of Alton afterwards, tasting and testing other local beverages. Many thanks must go to the two minibus drivers who had the patience of saints for the whole day **Sig Paul Denham** and **LCpl Phil Green**. Of course they done it all for free out of love and respect for their fellow soldiers. It must also be noted that B Tp were also involved in Ex Iron Foray but A Tp have written long and eloquently about the subject so I will leave that alone.

SUPPORT TROOP - *by Sig Fairbrother*

When I first arrived in 12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228), the majority of the unit was still serving in Bosnia on Op Palatine and life was very pleasant. Then they all arrived home and 'bang' things started to happen. Support Tp was a nightmare; we moved from Arnhem Barracks to T5 and just got settled, then moved again to T3 (another building). I had brushed plenty of boots but had not done any real Stores Accounting as yet. What a challenging time that was! Everyone from the QM down to me looked as if their heads were going to burst and I thought to myself, what a huge mistake I have made in joining the Army, surely every job cannot be like this? Soon the moves were finished and life started to settle into a routine, but not for long. I did not understand the cries ' lets get ready for exercise', sewing cam nets, putting on skirts, putting up endless configurations of tents and learning how to launch the chimney of a puffing Billy over T3. Rumour amongst the Toms was that we were in for a shock and as it would be the first exercise for the new Squadron and the OC had been told by the Brigade Commander that he was going to measure us against 1 and 19 Mech Bdes, no pressure then.

That's unfair I thought they have been together for many a year and I had been saddled with a group of moaning old Paras; they were very fit, but did not know one end of a 432 from the other. Many nights of no sleep, wet everything (and I mean everything), standing on guard, pan bashing, being told to do this and do that, and do it in this order, this way, yesterday, cam this, dig here, patrol this, deliver this, count these. How many of these do we have, 'I will rip your face off if you do that again, well done, try harder, good work', and the exercise ended. The Brigade Commander paraded us all in some old hanger at Luggershall and said, 'Well done! I am content, but not satisfied'. Well I can tell him I was impressed with myself, and so were Ming, Mong and Ding, the rest of the Troop's toms. We were all still alive although some nights we doubted even that. I had done bits of my trade and now felt I belonged to a formed up and professional Squadron. **Sgt Mullen** started to call me 'Doris 2' and seemed to trust me with limited tasks! We now look forward to Ex Lion Sun, a month in Cyprus military training and before that watching **Sig Mike Hunt**, box against 9 Para Sqn RE.

CHEFS - *by The Chefs*

We in the kitchens have had one hell of a time during the past few months, what with Exercises, CAST (S) and working in a kitchen that falls below the standards required in Bosnia to feed the refugees. **Sgt Trotter** has left and **Sgt Wilson** has arrived; us worker bees thought we were ridding ourselves of an Airborne Marine who believes in a 10 mile run for the chefs after breakfast. We hoped we were getting one of the normal variety, but, no, we get a slim Jim Army Basketball player who believes 10 miles is good after lunch. Sometimes watching the Welsh Guards' chefs existence looks good, until they do 10 miles on the drill square every afternoon, 'Ladles get on parade!' To add to our woes the QM has decided to borrow chefs from the rest of the garrison and send us all on Ex Lion Sun as foot soldiers! What's that all about? Next he will be expecting us to join in with the Adventure Training, or even be one of the crew for the Squadron sailing expedition to sunnier climes. With all this going on we will probably forget how to burn the supper, or worse still, forget about portion control on exercise.

242 SIGNAL SQUADRON

It is some time since we saw the move of HQ 2 Div from York to Edinburgh as a direct result of SDR - and the demise of HQ Scotland. This greatly expanded the population of Craigiehall and we have had a very busy, but productive, time both prior to the move and since looking after all the moves, changes, installations and IT that a major movement of staff generates. As ACISG becomes more involved with IT systems we have been busily expanding to support the Networks, system administration, asset tracking and service desk areas. Since June this year, when **Maj Neil Stevens** handed over to **Maj Peter Stephenson,** we have seen many personnel come and go. We wish all those who have left every success in their future and welcome those who have arrived, wishing them a happy and successful stay with the unit. June and July saw the normal upsurge of PA tasks and of course the build for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Mid July to mid September were taken up with this show - a spectacular this year for the Millennium.

THE END OF 240 SIGNAL SQUADRON

On a dreary day, Thursday 31 August, a short and simple ceremony was held at Carter Bar (The Scotland/England border on the A68) to mark the amalgamation of 240 and 242 Signal Squadrons. Our picture shows the 2 x OCs Major Peter Stephenson and Major (Tfc) Fred Calvert, with the respective squadron pennants.

Since 1920, 240 Signal Squadron (in its various guises) has been based in York. The amalgamation with 242 Signal Squadron is a direct follow on from the move of HQ 2nd Division from York to Edinburgh. 242 Signal Squadron now supports the full 2nd Divisional area from the Humber and Mersey to the Shetland Isles. This means that we are well dispersed with personnel based in Craigiehall, Glasgow, Kirkcudbright and Barry Buddon in Scotland and personnel at York, Catterick, Otterburn, Warcop, Leconfield and Preston in the North of England. This is a huge 'patch' and it is to our relief that travel sickness is not a main feature. We now find ourselves involved in a major cable and IT installation in Fulwood Barracks, Preston that has necessitated deploying military and civilian manpower from several locations. Looking back the Squadron has undergone a great deal of change and our area, responsibilities and manpower have increased. Looking forward there is change round the corner but where that will lead is ill defined.

RETIREMENT

One certain change is that our Chief Clerk **Mrs Jean Livingstone's** last day at work, after over 21 years with the Squadron, is to be Thursday 24 May. Any person wishing to join us, here in Craigiehall, on that day should contact **Maj (Retd) G. A. Carmichael** on 0131 310 2267.

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON (AIR MOBILE FORCES (LAND))

Sqn Comd **Maj David Hudson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ken Marsh**

It has been yet another busy period for the boys of 249 Sqn. The touring of Europe and the world has continued with members of the Squadron gallivanting off to Canada and the whole Squadron deploying to Greece for a three-week Exercise. There has been the usual amount of departures and arrivals, particularly **Sgt Pete Lawn** who left on promotion to 3 Div – we know where you'd rather be! A hearty farewell goes to the footie mad 2IC, **Capt** 'Gwaa' **Stokoe**, who loved to remove his clothes in public from time to time! Congratulations must also go to **Cpl Matt Tones** on his pre-selection to Sergeant. To **Cpl Matt Tones** on his selection as a potential YofS and, you've guessed it, **Cpl Matt Tones** and **Sgt Frank Baker** on selection for the IS Op roster. Hello to the new QM, **Capt Steve Morgan,** and goodbye to **Capt Ray** 'Arkwright' **Patrickson** who left to take up the post of OC Sp Sqn at Blandford – what's happened to Carlisle? Congratulation to all those who were selected for promotion to Lance Corporal, they included: **Sig Berry, Sig Clark, Sig Clayton, Sig Cole, Sig Gamgee, Sig Harrison, Sig Henson, Sig Jefferson, Sig McLeish, Sig Perkins, Sig Rodgers, Sig Smith, Sig Swift, Sig Taylor, Sig Waring** and **Sig Young.** Finally, a well earned selection for promotion to Lance Corporal for **Pte Hodgson** the Squadron combat clerk and a warm welcome to the new 2IC, **Capt Downes**

EXERCISE ADVENTURE EXCHANGE 2000 – GREECE
by Lt Mark Stoter

Ex Adventure Exchange 2000 saw a marked shift away from the Squadron's usual CNR role and a move towards CIS management and increased use of SATCOM as the AMF(L) continues its trial of the IRTF(L) concept – a command and control system based on a theatre-wide tactical WAN.

Sig Whitelaw on an archeological dig

The deployment went smoothly and we arrived in the dustbowl of N. Greece in the middle of the night. **Sig** 'Crypto Kid' **De-Gernier** confirmed everyone's fears of snakes when he leapt out of his sleeping bag at 3am screaming about being bitten. His intrepid Tp Comd investigated, hunting the beast with a stick and torch, only to discover that the 'snake' was in fact a trouser twist. The RRBs deployed to two large features and seemed to be re-supplied by the Padre more often than the re-sup team. **Cpl** 'Firestarter' **Clifton**, easing back into life as a Det Comd, caused a scare with a NO PLAY message that a fire was advancing towards his location. A team of would-be fire fighters, led by **SSM Marsh**, rushed to the scene only to find the inferno at least 2kms away on the other side of the valley. Then there was the snake…

Other dangers were found closer to home. Requiring relief one morning, **Lt** 'Big Boy' **Fayers** ventured to the port-a-loo and left looking rather pale. As **Mr Fayers** commenced business, a hungry spider noticed something dangle into his territory and took a bite – a big bite. A special mention must also go to **Cpl** 'Peeping Tom' **Walsh** for ensuring the safety of RRB South every night, vigilantly patrolling the area and investigating the bouncing cars that turned up every night. Why he needed binos remains a mystery. **Sgt** 'Wacko' **Jackson** found himself as IC R&R and put together a superb three-day package at the beach for all those who wanted to go. Local relations were cemented and the Squadron particularly thanks **Sig** 'Willie' **Whitelaw** for improving Anglo-Russian affairs.

MY FIRST EXERCISE WITH 249 SIG SQN (AMF(L)) - *by Sig Taylor*

I deployed on Exercise Adventure Exchange to Greece during September, flying from the UK to Thessaloniki. We were then transported to the port where we entertained ourselves unloading the boat in the blistering heat. Just as our MT Sergeant had pulled out the remainder of his hair we began our 8-hour, 80-vehicle convoy trip to our exercise location Kozani, setting up the Ech CP complex in the dark was fun! I spent the duration of the exercise on wheels re-supplying all of the Squadron detachments in the surrounding countryside, enjoying the scenery as I drove. A well-earned R & R package at the end of the exercise was spent in a three star hotel 100m from the beach where we all sipped cocktails and bathed in the sun, great fun.

EXERCISE MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 2000 - *by Lt Mike Fayers*

Louise Redknapp, Denise Van Outen and nights in five-star hotels: another arduous exercise for 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)). Given a week of Squadron time before the vehicles arrived back from Greece, a cunning plot was hatched, including an even more cunning subterfuge involving 22 SAS and a plane at Stansted. By Tuesday morning, confusion abounded and the Squadron found themselves sat in a cold garage being strip-searched by a group of hairy Corporals before being dropped around SW England with tasks to complete in 48 hours. The initiative started early. Having seen through the smoke screen, many had chosen to hide money and cash cards in various places about their person. Naked star jumps produced money from the most surprising places and **Sig Thompson** will be remembered for intelligently taping his Barclaycard to one of his more intimate parts with duct tape.

Sig Louise Nurding on her Squadron Induction Day

The Squadron deployed in pairs and they were soon achieving their tasks. Task 7: Tell a joke or sing a song in front of 100 people. Having got a free ride into London on a train, **Sigs Gallagher** and **Gamgee** persuaded the buffet car manager to lend them his microphone. Two minutes later, a busy Inter-city was left in no doubt as to the size of **Sig Gallagher's** pet

python. As a student, I have often wondered who passes by in the background of **Richard** and **Judy**: now I know, soldiers on initiative exercises trying to get on TV. Others made a beeline for the Big Breakfast, to meet **Donna Air, Johnny Vaughan** and be surprised by **Denise Van Outen's** fruity invitations.

We don't know this lady but she wanted to get in on the photo!

Some of the competitors obviously found the exercise too easy, so much so in fact that **LCpl Lovell** kept going through the night. Others, not content with pulling a pint in a haunted pub, pulled pints in all the pubs in London. In fact, a common theme seemed to be who could blag the most free food and beer. A special mention must go to **LCpl Osmond** and **LCpl Telfer**, who received free haircuts, toothbrushes, pants and socks, food at the Hard Rock Café and met **Jon White**, of previous 249 and 264 fame. The final scores were close, with all pairs exceeding expectations. The winners, by a narrow margin, were **Cpl Galatin** and **Sig Henson**.

ADVENTURE TRAINING – CANADA - *by Sig Sokolowski*

Tuesday morning, Bulford – 'Right, who wants to go to Canada Adventure Training next week?' 'Er, ok.' 7,000km later we flew into Edmonson Airport to daytime temperatures of 300C and crystal blue skies. Our final destination was Trail Ends Camp (TEC), a full three hours drive from the airport. We gained our first impression of just how vast Canada is as we drove along seemingly endless, razor-straight, roads. TEC itself is situated in the foothills of the Rockies, a short distance away from Calgary, and is renowned for offering some of the best adventure training in the world.

There were many activities on offer to us, none of which were for the faint hearted. I opted to do the horse trekking and parachuting. Although the horse trekking may have seemed to be the soft option, it was anything but. During the 3-day expedition our wrangler pushed us to the limits of our ability as we rode through dense forest, flowing rivers and open prairies, often at some speed, falls were inevitable and frequent. Accommodation at night was tents, with the cooking and eating conducted well away from them. There was an ever-present danger of curious bears and mountain lions anyone of which can smell food at some distance. We would have been in big trouble had a grizzly bear entered the tented area!

Horse trekking is not the only way to see vast areas of Canada – parachuting from heights of 3,000 feet is another. My last four days were spent at the Calgary Skydive Ranch at which we crammed in as many jumps as possible in the time allowed. Over the period I managed to complete eight jumps, of which three were free-fall. The jumps were all videoed and each of us had the look of death etched on our faces. It was a great opportunity to be able to participate in the adventure training on offer, the only regret is that we were not able to try all the activities available.

EXERCISE SEWER RAT - *by Cpl Longworth*

Copehill Down was the venue for yet another short notice exercise for the troops of the fighting 249 Sig Sqn this October. The FIBUA exercise which was the mastermind of **SSgt Den** 'Twitchy Tash' **Yates** began at about eleven o' clock on the Wednesday morning. A number of gloomy faces boarded the SPTA bound four wheeled Chinooks. Upon arrival at the training area we were all pleased to see that we had a nice house to get our heavy heads down in, however, this was dampened by the 10 mile tab to get there. The two sections thought **Lt Mark** 'where has my hair gone' **Stoter** had really gone to town, after they had been engaged by a platoon of warriors, but in fact it was just some confused infantry on Ex Iron Foray.

It was about 1730hrs when we arrived there, as it darkened outside the blokes were left to admin themselves ready for the night activities. Later on that night the sections received orders for fighting patrols from **Cpl** 'Mad Gypsy' **Longworth**, and **LCpl** 'Come fly with me' **Turner**. The enemy was provided by a number of our jumped up full screws including **Cpl** 'Look at me, look at me, I'm DS' **Upcraft** and **Cpl** 'Don't talk to me I'm DS' **Clark**. However, we got our revenge when the attacks flooded in at H Hour! The next morning was an early rise when we were introduced to our excellent FIBUA instructors, supported by members of 39 Sig Regt, **SSgt Ward** and **Sgt** 'Spats' **Brody**. Throughout the day we were revised and taught skills that would be required for the assault early the next morning. Amongst those skills taught was the grapnel hook technique, in which **Sig** 'I'm a weak maggot' **Penny** seemed not to excel and **Sig** 'Bear Wrestler' **Berry** was all over it like a cyclone. The day passed extremely quickly and before we knew it **Cpl** 'Loddy' **Jones**, **Cpl** 'Matty Boy' **Tones** and **Cpl** 'Cardiac' **Kenny** were briefing their sections for the final dawn assault.

The Artillery strike went in and we were off! Section by section we began the assault followed by new members of the DS including **Sgt** 'I wish I could get my knee down' **Mcbean** and **Cpl** 'I ride a hairdressers bike' **Baigent**. Another highlight was **Cpl** 'World Super Bike Rider' **Longworth's** ability to throw a grenade at a boarded off door only to bounce back and effectively kill his whole section! The relevant DS debriefed their sections, including a fruitful debrief by **Cpl** 'Honestly I've done FIBUA before' **Meek**. All of the antics out of the way now, it was time for the confidence course. Most enjoyed this, however, some folk including **Sig** 'crypto kid' **DeGernier** got a touch of disco leg on the high obstacles. **Cpl** 'SAS' **Meakin** enjoyed it so much he had another crack at it!

Sig 'Chuck' Berry exiting the sewer

Finally, we tabbed back to the Squadron's lines much to the dismay of **Sig** 'I'm signing off' **Cole** and **Sig** 'I didn't join up for this' **Perkins**-Maggots! No need to whinge, we got picked up a mile from the FIBUA village. All were smiling by the end of the week and a 'good crack was had by all'.

Endex for the dirty sewer rats!

ORGANISING A FUND RAISING EVENT?
WHY NOT PUBLICISE IT IN THE WIRE?
WRITE AND LET US KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING

251 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj John Oakes**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Gary Smith**

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Departures and arrivals are still going strong with one new arrival and six departures. A big welcome to the Tech Wksp for **LCpl Steve** 'Can he play snooker' **Davies** posted from The Royal School of Signals Blandford. Farewell to **Sgt Kieran** 'Angry' **Jukes** posted to 14 Sig Regt, **Cpl Kim** 'How can I get out of this' **Homewood** who is off on his long awaited Class 1 course at The Royal School of Signals, Blandford. Not forgetting our very own magician **LCpl Dave** 'Le Sac Magic' **Hunter** who has gone to 3 (UK) Armd Div Bulford. After 22 hard years service we must say goodbye to **SSgt Joy Phipps, SSgt Glynis** 'On the skive' **Watton** and **Sgt Jim** 'All I know is Crypto' **Kelly** we wish them all the best for the future.

JEANS FOR GENES DAY - *by Cpl R. G. Hanbidge*

On 6 October 2000 all the military members of the unit were allowed to wear some non-regulation uniform (Jeans) for the day as long as they paid for the privilege. The price this year a staggering whole £1.00 coin. There were numerous other fund raising events on the day including raffles, bring-and-buy and wheel of fortune stalls, tea, coffee, cake and burger stands. One of the civilian members of staff wrote to more than 80 local shops asking for support, most contributed raffle prizes and gifts. The Squadron had already received over £130 in gift vouchers a week before the event, which was very encouraging. During the day the Ops Officer, **Capt Keith** 'Nobody tells me anything' **Roach** bellowed away on the microphone trying to drum up business which he seemed to do like a natural as all of the raffle tickets were snapped up in no time at all. A good looking **Cpl** 'Get me out of here' **Hanbidge** saved the day at one point along with help from **LCpl** 'Where's my string' **Igo** they dashed down to Tescos like Batman and Robin when the bacon ran out and the natives started to get restless (boy can Civvies eat!). One of the highlights of the day was the name the bear competition. This consisted of an expensive German made Steiff bear that was short of a name, everyone paid £1.00 to name it. When the winning name was drawn the look on peoples faces said it all, only in this unit could a German bear get the name Hitler! (no joke) **Sgt** 'Third Reich' **Coldwell** is considering renaming it. 'Himler is a nice name isn't it!!' Last year the Squadron raised more than £1,300 for the appeal and this year we were hoping to top £1.500 with an ultimate goal of £2.000 for the year 2000 so it was very pleasing when we realised we had raised £2200. All the money will help fund research into genetic diseases in children.

RAISING MONEY FOR LOCAL NURSERY - *by SSgt G. Watton*

During the last ten months 251 Sig Sqn has once again been raising money for the local Queen Mary's Nursery (QMN) which is situated on Middle Hill between the married quarters in Talavera Aldershot. Last year we raised £342 for them by doing a sponsored half marathon. This year, once again led by **SSgt Glynis Watton** we were able to raise a little more - £500, we managed this with help from parents who's children attend the nursery, as they donated children's clothing during the Summer which **SSgt Glynis Watton** and **Sig Bret Merrick** sold on car-boot sales. This together with a raffle earlier in the year and a generous donation from 251 Sig Sqn PRI funds enabled us to present a cheque for £500 to the Garrison Commander, **Col Mieville** on Monday 27 November 2000. We look forward to continuing raising money for the nursery in the future as we know it is a well deserved good cause particularly in light of so many of 251 Sig Sqn members using the nursery for their children.

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL PRESENTATION
16 AUGUST 2000

Two long serving members of 251 Sig Sqn were presented with their Imperial Service Medals by the Commanding Officer, **Col Carey**, in Colchester on 16 August 2000. **Mr Dance** began his career, as a boy soldier, with the Royal Armoured Corps in 1952. He then joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1954 to carry out his National Service, he re-enlisted after National Service serving in the regulars until 1963. Then he joined the Territorial Army and served with 36 Eastern Sig Regt until 1982. **Mr Dance's** civil service career began in 1974 where he served with the Communications Centre and Telephone exchange until his retirement in 1999 after a total of 47 years service. **Mr Vandersteen** joined the Civil Service in 1971, serving in Colchester, as a Government Telephonist, originally as part of 10 Sig Regt. The unit was re-designated four times in his career, finally ending up as 251 Signal Squadron in 1995. **Mr Vandersteen** retired in 1999 after 28 years of service. Family, friends and work colleagues attended the presentation that concluded with a buffet lunch at the Civil Service Club.

Mr Vandersteen, Mr Dance and Col Carey

101 LOGISTIC BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS & SIGNAL SQUADRON (261)

OC **Maj Mark Baines**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Udell**

The Squadron has once again grown with **Maj Baines'** attempts to take over the world getting bolder! We have had a flood of new arrivals over our Brigade Exercise including two new arrivals on the baby front from The Yeoman, **SSgt (YofS) Pat Smith** and **Cpl Andy Carr**, we wish them and their families well. The last period has been dominated by Ex Iron Ration, 4500 Troops from 101 Log Bde and 3 (UK) Div descended onto the Plain to practice Logistic Operations and liaison work. Recently the Squadron has pushed the boat out getting the sports teams up and running. These include Football, Netball, Hockey and Golf although keeping the boys out of the netball skirts is proving difficult especially on the golf course! In addition **Sgt Jim Turnbull** is starting up a Judo team for beginners although he has managed to break **Cpl** 'Bish' **Bishops**' toe already, Good Luck to them all. Also well done to the boys who completed the Manchester Marathon last weekend, Excellent effort all round. Many Congratulations go to the six Lance Corporals who have been selected for promotion; **LCpls Ronny Cuthbert, Ben Ellison,** 'Fitz' **Fitzpatrick, Dave Howie, Wayne Stewart** and **Dean Watson.** The quick pace continued into November with comms for the Cambrian Patrol, the Squadron ITD Camp and the Wilkinson Sword of Peace Presentation to keep us busy as well as an official tasking to support 102 Log Bde on Ex SAIF SAREEA in Oman next summer means we have been really busy.

WILKINSON SWORD OF PEACE PRESENTATION

The Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (261) was given the Joint award for Peace for its work on Op Agricola. The Brigade co-ordinated the response to the refugee crisis which was so large and so unexpected in Brazda. It is unusual for a HQ to receive such an award

and it was a proud day in the Brigade. There was a parade at which the Minister for Defence Procurement presented the sword to our Squadron OC who received it on behalf of the soldiers who served on the tour. After lunch in the Officer Mess to which the soldiers who had been on Op Agricola were invited, the Minister and Chief of Joint Operations toured the stands that were set up. These included the TAC HQ staffed by Brazda veterans led by **Cpl** 'Tommo' **Thomas**. This was a very special day for this formation and the excellent parade marked the occasion well.

ALPHA TROOP

EXERCISE IRON RATION: MAIN/RSG - *by Sig Sam Yardley*

Ex Iron Ration started on 9 September when everyone's morale was extremely high, unusually for 0700hrs on a Saturday morning! When arriving complete at Rollestone Camp we all had the delight of erecting the complex tent which had predictably grown from its normal size to a massive 120ft x 70ft, this was only the start, as sewing up and erecting the cam net was a near miracle. Once the tentage was up the exercise began in earnest and the communications began to settle down but poor **LCpl** 'no comms' **Cole** had traumas during the night shift. The hitches were mostly minor although the RRB setting up in the firing line of the AS90s was a slightly bigger concern. The comms ops team spent a great deal of time out on the ground aiding our less comms capable Brigade units; antennas up trees, pointing the wrong direction, using the wrong type, they had it all. As all the units arrived on the net it was tested by the NBC Phase of the Exercise. Thanks to the visit of the SOinC and the Corps RSM most of the Squadron managed an extra hour out of Three Romeo. Comd 11 Bde did not time his visit as well due to another spell in NBC kit, but an excellent visit nevertheless.

The SOinC entertains Cpl Simpson and Cpl Reynolds
They're only smiling because they're not in Three Radio!

EXERCISE IRON RATION: FWD/FSG - *by Sigs Watson & Wilson*

Forward deployed to Aldershot on 6 September, our job was to provide two HF nets so that RSG could move to their new location and set-up. As soon as RSG was up and running they assumed control and we deployed to Rollestone Camp to join the 261 multi-traded squadron getting down to what they do best, tent erecting, stagging on and sangar building, fortunately no pan bashing! At last after a week of routine including video watching, stag and strategic battles on RISK we were warned that we could move to support the Brigade effort to aid the fuel crisis, this did not work out. Instead our hopes were re-lighted with an exercise deployment to the local jungle and we activated the HQ with the staff officers present and were visited by Comd 101 Log Bde, the Padre and our new Sqn RSM. When the enemy arrived it looked like Dad's Army and we predictably quashed them with devastating force and as we finished the QRF turned up to pursue them. The next day we were tasked to tear down and re-deploy to Aldershot and set up the control nets for the Brigade move back.

EXERCISE WINTER PYTHON – SQUADRON ITD CAMP

by Sgt Shaun Fardy

Deep into a wintry Hampshire in November the Squadron deployed to Longmoor Training area to complete our ITD training package. Under the command of the 2IC **Capt Sarah Pedder** and the **RSM Eric Udell** the brief was simple: 'Go forth and complete all of your ITD's for the year and don't come back until you've finished.' So the Squadron dutifully deployed on its heli-dafs full of anticipation, bravado and not a small amount of war stories.

Possibly the largest DS team ever assembled in anticipation as the troops dismounted, unaware that there was a substantial wager as to the first utterance of 'Get off the trucks!' but they were to be disappointed, the new touchy feely approach was to be employed at least for the first five minutes! By the time the **RQMS WO2 Jim Alger** had given the camp brief and PT had been called for just after 0600hrs the next morning there was a discernable sense of optimism that it wasn't going to be like last time.

The week progressed with pistol shooting run by OC Alpha Tp, **Capt Lucy Thirsk** ably assisted by **SSgt** 'It wasn't like this in NI' **Jo Crowe** and **Sgt** 'Chico' **Towers** which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Notable shots being **LCpl** 'Horatio' **Mooney** and **Sig Mick Miles**. A special mention to **Sig** 'Roger' **Bannister** who managed to carry his webbing all the way to the first stand before producing his sick chit. Other activities included Introduction to Competition Shooting (watch out at the Corps SAAM), NBC, Map Reading, Cross-Country driving and the necessary Recovery, Command Tasks and First Aid. All of which led up to a Patrol Competition. This was run over 36 hours and started after the CFT. It was a test of teamwork and personal skills culminating in a close competition but **LCpl Dave Howie's** section winning closely followed by **Cpl Dave Laurence** (AGC) and his merry band.

The stands included a traffic accident ridden with technicians (shame!), a chemical attack, a bogged-in vehicle, lots of enemy at 100, 200 and 300 meters, a night time wander in the Longmoor countryside culminating in a swift couple of laps over the assault course. The teams could have been forgiven for thinking that this was a very unrealistic scenario, no EFI, pirate videos or cheap Rolex's, not the normal operation!

The Pistol Range
(L-R): Sgt Fardy, Cpl Thomas, Sgt Towers

WELCOMES

The Squadron would like to give a warm welcome to the following; the Chief Clerk **SSgt Andy Rutt** AGC, **SSgt** 'Taff' **Parsons** (REME), **Sgts Shaun Pargin, Steve Jackson** and **Shaun Fardy** as well as **LCpl Amanda Wright** (our 1st Installation Tech), **Sigs Michael Shepley** and **Mick Martin.**

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Sig Patch Cummings at work on exercise - needs to grow a bit!

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JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT FALKLAND ISLANDS

JCUFI UHQ
OC **Maj Ian Hunter**
USM **WO2 Karl Weaver**

It has been a busy period for all in the HQ of JCUFI during the past two months, with two major exercises involving the staff from PJHQ, and a major Infantry exercise on West Falkland. Welcome also to the new Second in Command Flight Lieutenant Helen Wass, who replaces **Flt Lt Mark Wright**, as the RAF's major influence on events in JCUFI. The units charity efforts have started in earnest with a sponsored cycle ride to Stanley, (a round trip of 68 miles), and another trip is planned to Darwin in the near future.

SOUTH GEORGIA
Ops Offr **Lt Jon Mayne**

As the long suffering JCUFI Operations Officer, with a string of thoroughly important but very tedious jobs to do, when the opportunity was given to escape my desk and take a trip to South Georgia, I jumped at the chance. I was given 18 hours notice of my impending trip as HQ BFFI had their act together in the usual organised manner. The situation was that the normal Royal Marines Mountain Leader in South Georgia was not being replaced, had been extended and was therefore granted R&R back in the UK. I was to go to South Georgia and replace him for six weeks, as being JSMEL qualified, I was the most suitable person to do the task. The sailing down on HMS *Dumbarton Castle* was thankfully calm and I had the JCUFI UQMS, **Sgt Yendall** for company. He was going to complete preparations for the withdrawal of the comms personnel and kit from South Georgia in March 2001 when the site will be handed over from the forces to The British Antarctic Survey. The weather was glorious as we approached South Georgia and the first views were absolutely breath taking. Snow covered peaks that rose straight from the sea, with glaciers plunging down the valleys between the peaks, with the odd iceberg floating by. The Garrison of approximately 25 military personnel is based at King Edward's Point near the old whaling station of Grytviken on the north coast of the Island. Because of the environment that the unit had to work in, my job was to act as safety cover and to take out any of the soldiers on days off for trips out into the mountains. Several trips out into the hills including cross country skiing were undertaken during my time, and during other periods my time was taken up by tasks such as re-laying some of the cables around King Edward's Point in preparation for the draw down. I returned to MPA in the Falklands after five glorious weeks on the Island, and my thanks go out to **Capt Ian Brown** Royal Engineers, and all of his detachment for my time there. **Cpl Hart** and **LCpl Tasker** left with me, leaving **Sgt Nesbit** to continue running the Island's communications assets until the close down is complete, so good luck to him!

ALPHA TROOP, RADCON - *by Sig 'Silky' Wilkie*
IC **Sgt Charlie Hart**

Things are now running like clockwork down at Radcon (well, almost) and a few good byes and welcomes have to be said. First of all sadly going back to Krefeld is **Sgt** 'Tiny' **Tindale**, and off to 14 Sig Regt is **Sgt Dean** 'Treat Yourself' **Wilson**. A warm welcome goes out to the newest members of Radcon (all the way from South Georgia) are **Sgt Charlie Hart** and **Sig Adam** 'Random' **Tasker**. With not a lot to do around these parts, a few of the Radcon 'Radges' have been keeping themselves busy with a few charity events. **Cpl Nikki Davies** raised a few quid for doing a sponsored bike ride from MPA to Stanley. **Sig Iain** 'Sherminator' **Bibby**, fresh from the march and shoot competition with **Sig Chris** 'Silky' **Wilkie** in which they finished a respectable third after the RLC, is off again on Ex Commando Challenge. He also hopes to collect some money for a worthwhile cause. The 'Radges' were also congratulated by **Lt Col Rusby** on an outstanding performance during Ex Purple Strike, when we provided communications throughout the Islands.

On a lighter note, **Cpl Winston** 'Dodgy Deals' **Whyte** has asked if anyone would like to invest in shares before he floats his latest venture on the Stock Market. The news from the hill tops is that Mount Adam has a new Crew Woman replacing **Sig Aaron** 'Fingers' **Lightly** which we are all sure will brighten up **LCpl** 'Itchy' **Richie Harris'** and **Sig Mick** 'Three Legs' **Qualtrough's** days (seeing as they haven't seen a woman in three months!) The lucky lady picked for this joyful task was **LCpl Helen** 'Warrior' **Winterson**.

LCpl J. J. 'Rambo' **Roberts**, **Sig Andy** 'Oldman' **Porter** and **Sig Lee** 'Virg' **Parkin** at Campito would like to say one thing, 'Dooe offee...Falklands?' Congratulations are also in order for the crew of Radcon and the hilltops that came off the board. Well done to **Sig Nicky Brown**, **Sig Andy Porter**, **Sig Adam Tasker** and **Sig Mick Qualtrough** (Get the slabs in.) On a final note, 'You're only as sharp as your knife.'

BRAVO TROOP JCUFI. (COMMCEN) - *by LCpl Matt Childs*
Tp Comd **WO (CY) Ian Brown RN**

It's now November, and the Squadron is already half way through its tour of the Falklands. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun! All the COMMCEN personnel are well into the routine of 2/2 and 2 off, and the time just seems to be whizzing by. Especially for the likes of **Cpl John McGee**, **Cpl** 'Ritchie' **Applegarth** and Myself, who have all been short – toured by three months, and are off back to sunny Krefeld on the 22nd of this month. We will use the time in Krefeld for some well-earned kidney rehabilitation!

The JCUFI band is now well up and running, after a name change, and is now called 'Last Orders'. The line up is **Sgt Dave Burke** on drums, **Cpl Levi Wilson** on lead guitar, **Cpl** 'Simmo' **Simpson** on rhythm guitar and **JT Dave Kilgour** on the 'rubber' bass guitar. They have been 'gigging' all over the base, and have done a charity gig down in Stanley recently. Well received by all, they have provided some welcomed relief from what normally passes for 'entertainment' down here. (When the bassist is sober at any rate!). We also had a CSE on MPA last month. The one and only **Tony Hadley**, complete with naff eighties haircut, came all the way down to the South Atlantic, and blew us all away with some blasts from the past from the eighties. Proof positive that once belonging to a dodgy 'New romantic' band doesn't do any harm to your career.

The Troop welcomes **SAC** 'Dangerous' **Brian Mott** onto B Watch, **WOM Marie Mackenzie**, also to B Watch, **WOM Jenny Brown** and **SAC Michelle Marchant** onto A Watch and **Cpl Angie Witherall** onto C Watch. Goodbye and good luck to **WRO Helen Saunders**, **WOM Kerry Cooper** and **Cpl Al McCormack.** All the best folks, wherever you end up. Congratulations to **Sig Sam Clarke** on being selected for promotion to Lance Corporal and for her sterling effort in the Inter Unit March and Shoot competition. (You can give the Techs back their cornflakes box now **Sam**).

We have Ex Commando Challenge coming up in the next few days, which will re – tread the route taken by 45 Commando during the 1982 conflict, with the team tabbing from Teal Inlet to Stanley over a two day period. The COMMEN will be represented by **Sig Sam Clarke** (That's twice **Sam**, get the ale in!), we all wish her good luck. That's all for now from the whacky world of Bravo Tp, COMMCEN Falklands, except for a special mention to **WO (CY) Ian Brown** and **PORS Chris Kierstenson** for the best haircuts sported by RN personnel. This is also my last set of *WIRE* notes, as I am off home in seven days. It's been fun (I think?). Watch this space.

CHARLIE TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Harriet Hebblethwaite**

Now half way through the tour, and we are still as busy as ever in Charlie Tp. In the last couple of months, members of the Troop have participated in the March and Shoot Competition run by the RIC, Exercise Purple Strike and Exercise Commando Challenge, an arduous 2-day march from Teal Inlet to Stanley. Thank you very much to 81 (V) Sig Sqn who came down as part of Ex Falkland Sound. This was a two-week exercise with the aim of installing as much cable as humanly possible in the shortest possible time. No mean feat I can tell you! R and R has started in earnest with most people heading for sunnier climes, all except **Sgt Gaz Topps** whose tan was not acquired from Ascension Island. Not having had enough of miniscule remote islands, I am off to Easter Island today to drink copious quantities of cocktails and bask in the Polynesian sun! Finally congratulations to **Sig Niall Marshall** and **Sig Jim Brampton** who have recently been selected for promotion.

FALKLAND ISLANDS TRUNK and TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SUPPORT TEAM (F.I.T.T.E.S.T)
by LCpl. 'Denzil' Depport.
IC **Sgt Chris Crompton**

Well, we've reached the halfway point in the tour now, and the weather still doesn't seem to be improving much. Workwise we are as busy as ever, so much that the workshop kettle is feeling a little neglected (though that's probably due to the fact that everybody's too lazy to make the brews). Three months into the tour, and we still haven't had word from our three mountain site Tech's (**Cpl** 'Tipsy' **Routledge**, **Cpl** 'Pretty Drunk' **Hine** and **Cpl** 'Totally Incapacitated' **Robson**). However, reports indicate that they are so busy up on the mountains that they don't have time to contact us (well, that's what they tell Syscon). Our most highly exalted IC, **Sgt** 'Steve Tickle' **Crompton** is absent at the moment, down to an unfortunate incident at Port Stanley Hospital, where a simple hernia operation went horribly wrong and something else was removed by mistake. For some reason he now has a much squeakier voice and insists on being called Christina! **Cpl** 'Huey' **Simpson** and his band 'Last Orders' entertained the residents of Port Stanley recently, which included such distinguished guests as the Governor of the Falkland Islands himself. The band managed to set a new record down here, clearing Port Stanley Town Hall faster than the Argentinians filled it in 1982. RAF Mechanics have finally discovered the reason why the Chinooks never seem to work. **Cpl** 'Meccano' **Baulch**, whose obsession with taking things apart and storing them for no apparent reason, has at last backfired after two rotor blades were found in the UQMS store. His, 'You never know when we might need them,' line didn't seem to wash with OC Air Wing. **LCpl** 'Colin McRae' **Jordan** is still looking for any openings in the field of Crash Test Dummy's. He is so desperate in his search that he has now got an impressive tally of two RTA's, Landrover take note! Last but not least, I'd like to say a little something for **LCpl** 'Smoky' **Ross**, but unfortunately he spends so much time advertising for Marlboro that there's nothing else to say about him!

LINE SECTION
IC Sect **Sgt Dave Cascarino**

In the past few weeks it has been an extremely busy time for Line Section, with the pending visit of 81 (V) Sig Sqn on their annual 'Busman's Holiday', it's been all hands on deck to prepare for their arrival. The project's crew, led by **Cpl Glen Sunderland** have managed the awesome task of completely tracing all the cabling in 12 and 38 Facilities. **Sigs Jarred Morris** and **Jim Pearson** now know the place like the back of their hands! Any Telemechs reading this article will know that this is probably a first since MPA became operational - a complete set of up to date records for the accommodation - a major achievement! At the beginning of November the TA arrived to assist us in the complete re-wire of the two Facilities, a mammoth task that involves 1000metres of cable tray and more than 6000metres of internal cable, I hope your tie wrapping skills are up to it lads! In addition to the re-wire of the accommodation, we also have a crew from 81 (V) Sig Sqn arriving to install a fibre optic network station wide, a total of approximately 7000metres of cable. To prepare for this **LCpl Sharon McCreaddie** and her crew of 'Line Dogs' have been busy inspecting and cleaning 150 cable pits, pulling in draw cords and generally having fun! **Sigs Lee Moody**, **Simon Woodworth** and **Michelle Bargery** are now all experts in using sump pumps and the mighty fibre glass mouse. As well as all the preparation going on, normal life in Line Section has carried on at the hectic pace to which we have become accustomed. **Sig Tony Barclay** has transformed the section stores areas into something that actually resembles a store - well done! **Sig Mark Powell** has maintained his tyrannical grip on the faults crew and has now got his name in bold print on the back of the fault controller's chair. **LCpl Dave Healy** and **Sig Jim Brampton** have toiled endlessly as the faults crew - don't worry guys there is light at the end of the tunnel!

POWER SECTION - *by Cpl Casswell*
IC **Sgt Gaz Topps**

The last month has been a busy time for the JCUFI Power Section, who are now involved in the hand over of the remote generator sites to Turners. Now that the contract has finally been signed, the checking and cleaning of the sites is now completed and the transition period is in full swing. **Sgt Topps** has been busy organising the JCUFI entrants into the March and Shoot Competition, and also into this year's Commando Challenge Competition. The March and Shoot Team finishing a creditable 12th out of 14 teams 11 of which were made up from the Resident Infantry Company and the RAF Regiment.

The course involved a five mile timed march, starting on the Darwin road, and finishing at Mare Harbour ranges. The culmination of the competition was a falling plate shoot in which the team did fairly well considering that they were the only team that had iron sites fitted and the targets were out at a range of 200m. Ex Commando Challenge is now taking place, with three of the section taking part in this charity event. The Exercise involves a team of eight people tabbing from Teal Inlet to

Port Stanley across country some 48 miles, following the route that 3 Comdo Bde took during the 1982 conflict. **Sgt Topps** is the section commander with **LCpl Cranney** and **Sig Marshall**, making up the hard core of the team. The remainder of the team being made up from the various other sections within JCUFI. This event also finishes with a falling plate competition so we hope the team will fair better, against the likes of the Falkland Islands Defence Force, and the three other teams taking part in this arduous competition. The month has also seen **Sig Marshall** deploy on Ex Purple Strike with the boys from Radcon over to east Falklands, where he had great fun maintaining power for the Radcon CP. Congratulations to **Sig Marshall** for his promotion to Lance Corporal, well deserved! Well done, congratulations also to his long-term girlfriend **Samantha Clark**, who is also part of the Squadron. The Section also wishes to say a huge goodbye to **Cpl** 'Caz' **Casswell**, back to Germany where **Jo** will have to get used to him being at home again. Good luck **Jo**!

REMEMBRANCE PARADE SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2000

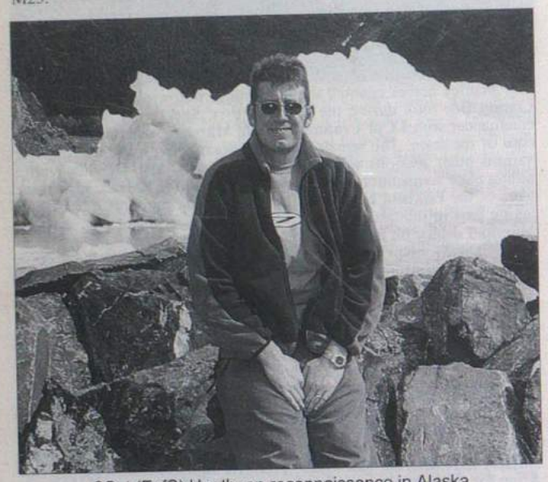
On Saturday 11 November 2000 a small Remembrance Parade was attended by elements from all three services of JCUFI, held at Pleasant Peak Memorial. The memorial is situated close to Mount Pleasant Airfield and marks the spot where two Royal Signals Soldiers and the two Army Air Corps pilots were shot down and killed in the 1982 conflict.

The Ex Commander's Challenge Team
Top Row: Sgt Gaz Topps, LCpl Phil Brown
Front Row: Sgt Niall Marshall, Sig Bibby, LCpl Kev Cranney, Sig Wilkinson, Sig Sam Clarke, Cpl Baulch

1 (ROYAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS)

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Simon Gregory**
SSM **WO2 Dave Scott**

Traditionally the end of the calendar year has been a fairly quiet time for Special Comms, a chance to catch our breath before being catapulted into a New Year. Not so this year, with a later than usual Annual Camp dominating the period, and no let-up in the operational tempo. As these notes go to press, we are saying farewell to **Sgt Jeff Hope-Jefferson**, leaving the Corps for pastures-more-lucrative. We wish him well and thank him for his hard work in SC. We have also said best of luck to **LCpl Paul Hadfield**, leaving SC for the time being. Congratulations to him and to **LCpls Mark Gower, Lee** 'Splitter' **Kemp** and **Sonja MacMillan** on being selected for promotion at last. Congratulations also go to **SSgt Dean Poole**, for finally finding himself a house south of the M25.



SSgt (FofS) Heath, on reconnaissance in Alaska for next year's first exercise

ASSESSMENT COURSE 2 - 2000

The second Assessment Course of 2000 arrived in Bletchley on 10 September. The difference between this course and recent ones was that everyone was a volunteer wishing to serve with Special Comms. Everyone arrived not really knowing what to expect, but soon they found out that the DS were looking for something special. The course took shape and everyone was tested on a multitude of subjects such as giving a 25-minute presentation and participating in command tasks, and discussion groups. Interspersed with everything else was a good proportion of skills, primarily typing, at normal Corps standards. For those not taught Morse there was the chance to begin to teach themselves the art of changing dit's and da's into letters. At the end of a very good course, six out of the original eighteen students attempting the course were found suitable for further training in the art of Special Communications. Here's looking forward to the SC Course.

CAMP 2000 – *by LCpl Colin Teo*

Contrary to popular belief, annual camps don't start on the day marked 'Annual Camp'. For our Squadron, it started months earlier with the planners in the Ops and Training Cells. There was the usual action behind the scenes as the planners planned the plan. Suggestions for Bermuda and the Bahamas were turned down (come on, what would one do there? It would be a waste of two weeks..) in favour of somewhere much better –Denmark. The plan was that we would spend the majority of the two weeks being taught and tested on various skills, the fortnight culminating in the annual Runnel Stone Exercise held in Denmark.

How did it go? Very well indeed, all things considered. We got to Harwich on the Saturday, got on the ferry and arrived in Esbjerg, Denmark the next morning. Then came the road leg to Soegard Camp, the training barracks kindly loaned to us by the Danes. This was quite a modern barracks, located reasonably well away from temptation with very good accommodation and outstanding food. If you overdid the food, **Cpl Sylv Hack** and **LCpl Roberts** had the cure – this was PT. For those who think PT equals beasting, this was not so, with aerobics, fartlek training and sport making it more enjoyable (allegedly). The training occupied most of the days and evenings and was designed to upgrade and enhance skills. Thanks to the efforts of **WO2 (YofS) Dave Hughes** and the training staff, good results were achieved. Congratulations to those who passed their Class 3 to 2 upgrade – **LCpls Stu Adams** (also best student) and **Colin Teo**, who passed outright, and **Cpls Mark Gott, Al Shrewsbury** and **Pete Litchfield** plus **LCpls Nick Vernon** and **Roberts**. Congratulations also to **LCpl Gareth Clarke** for getting his Class 2 ED and the spark plug award, and **Sig Nick Tustain** for reaching Class 3 Tech status.

Lest anyone think our time was all work and no play, there were fun things to do as well. One could go out in the evening into Aabendra to have a quiet beer and a chat with the locals – despite the best efforts of 602 Troop who ran the en-suite bar back at camp. Not all the training was in the classroom either. **Cpl** 'Taff' **Hamar** and **Cpl Mick Chapman** did some fine cross-country driver skills training. This took place on a training area behind camp, lumpy, bumpy and wet, not helped by Danish APC's buzzing around at speed. It certainly increased the heart rate of the instructors, if not the students! There was also a competitive mil skills phase, with individual teams competing for the Brick Trophy with various stands and wet weather laid on for morale purposes. **Brig Jackson**, Director SC, visited the competition and witnessed various people dragging themselves through a small lake because they had not tied the command task rope tight enough.

Sig Nick Tustain listens in awe to the Director Special Communications

LCpl Ian McKerrow practicing the airborne role!

By the evening of the prizegiving, the Squadron had achieved its training goals and was moving up a gear to provide comms and support for Ex Runnel Stone. This is where teams of soldiers from the UK are deployed in SF type raids against the Danes, testing both them and their electric cattle fences. Each patrol had its Safehouse comms provided by a det from 1 Sqn in a location 'somewhere in Denmark'.

1 Sqn also provided its own bunch of cut-throats for a job of sabotage and subjugation. Led by **Sgt Si** 'Wes' **Wesseldine**, the team included two female saboteurs – **LCpl Sam MacGillivry** and **Sig Tanya Whigham** - and achieved its aims. Exactly how the patrol 'persuaded' the Danes to turn off the searchlight on top of their target must, unfortunately, remain secret for the next 30 years. Mention should be made of the excellent support available from the stores and the techs, both on the lead up to the exercise and during its execution. The MT and REME put a lot of effort in to keep vehicles serviceable, and it showed. Almost directly after the exercise, it was time to pack up and go home. Half the Squadron flew back to the UK by C-130, flying through the typhoon then sitting over Southern England. The rest returned by sea eventually, after being stranded in Esbjerg for two days waiting for the weather to clear up! All in all, an excellent and very busy camp, with plenty of war stories for the bar.

LCpl Colin Teo, Sig Karen Clarke and the SSM are presented with some giant Danish pastries

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For additional information, contact the 1 (RBY) Sig Sqn (SC) Training Wing on (9)4240 8518 / 01908 638518 or the Sqn YofS on (9)4240 8516 / 01908 638516

SPORT

GOLF

BLANDFORD GARRISON GOLFING SOCIETY
By Col (Retd) Cliff Walters, President BGGS

The Winter Season is well underway and BGGS hits *The WIRE* with a good measure of success. CAPTAIN'S DAY at The Ashley Wood on 23 August was sponsored by Lloyds TSB. We were fortunate that **Dick Good** (an ex-Adjutant of 11 Sig Regt) represented the sponsors and presented the prizes. Not only did our Captain, **WO2 Steve Bartram** organise an excellent day but he also walked off with some of the prizes. He was the overall winner and winner of Division One. **WO1 Mark Elliott** won Divison 2 and **Cpl Spittles** won Division 3 just before completing his upgrading course. We are very grateful to Lloyds for their support and hope that **Stuart Brooks** the Group Director will be fit and able to join us next year. There was a remark that **Dick** only did it to get his photo in *The WIRE* again – some Adjutants never retire!

The BGGS Autumn meeting, sponsored by Trend, was held at Wareham. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind and the Club inadvertently put us on winter-greens. We are thankful to **Arthur Fisher** for his support for the event and to **Alan Langlands** for presenting the prizes as **Arthur** was held up on business in America.

The 'low handicappers' reached the Inter Unit Scratch Finals and having been beaten by Pirbright went on to win the Plate. The team was **WO2 Andy Harriott, Sgt** 'Ski' **Nowosielski, WO2 Steve Bartram, Cpl Andy Lane** and **SSgt Chris Hood.** The Team was successful in the Inter Unit Handicap competition by beating 32 Regt RA – 8 up. Both the 'A' Team and the 'B' Teams are lying second in their leagues and on form have very good chances of winning when all the matches have been played.

Finally, we would all like to thank **WO2 Steve Bartram**, our Captain, for all that he has done for the Society and we send him our best wishes in civilian life as he leaves on his retirement and heads into the land of big pay cheques!!

Dick Good, Lloyd TSB presenting
WO2 Steve Bartram with his fine prize.
WO2 Mark Elliott and Capt Nick Bain were also prize winners

PUBLISH IT IN THE WIRE

The Editor is always pleased to receive interesting articles and action packed photos

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

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Offshore	Maj K. Whitehead (Mil: 94381 2531)
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Yachtmaster (UK)	Maj J. S. Stuart (Mob: 0796 7043868)
(Germany)	Maj I. C. Gray (94371 2261)
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Offshore	Sgt D. Sangster
Dinghy	LCpl S. Southan
Windsurfing	Cpl A. Varney

THE ROYAL SIGNALS WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004

The Royal Signals Windsurfing Championships 2000 was held at the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy over the period 27-29 September, 2000, in very windy conditions. The racing was organised by the Competition Secretary, **SSgt Finnegan**, and the Race Officer was **Mr Mike Roach**. Accommodation was provided for competitors in tents at Wyke Regis camp looking into the teeth of the gales above Lyme Bay, with chefs kindly provided by 1 (Mech) Bde Sig Sqn and 12 (Mech) Bde Sig Sqn. Those who attended enjoyed three days of thoroughly challenging and highly competitive windsurfing, in the face of adverse weather conditions. The first day's competition was cancelled due to winds approaching 35 knots, with only a few experienced sailors taking to the water for a brief time. However, on the second day, the gales abated somewhat and provided high wind conditions of 18-24 knots, force 4-5 all day. This allowed the race officer to hold six races for the main and novice fleets - a very demanding day!

The novices sailed a shorter course and performed admirably to cope with such strong winds. The third day was similar to the second, with a further three races held. Safety boat cover was provided by **Maj Fred Pyatt**, 1 (Mech) Bde Sig Sqn and **Cpl Anderton**, 14 Sig Regt. Their presence was invaluable as they had a steady trade recovering those with broken equipment or just aching arms. Regrettably, the number of competitors was down considerably compared with previous years and less than expected. This was attributed to the general level of commitments currently experienced by the Corps, preventing several seasoned competitors and novices from attending, as well as resulting in an overall reduction in the number of active windsurfers.

The competitors were visited on the second day by the Admiral of the Royal Signals Yacht Club, **Brig Burton** and the Commodore, **Brig Ham**. The Admiral returned on the final day to present the prizes, together with a representative of the sponsors of the event, **Mr Jeremy Martin**, from Admiral Management Services. This provided an excellent closing ceremony to a very closely fought competition that many had feared would be cancelled due to the weather conditions. The event also marked the formal close of the Army windsurfing career of **Maj Dave Gilchrist**, who retires from the Army later this year. **Maj Gilchrist** has been a leading light in Royal Signals windsurfing for over 15 years and has brought countless new sailors into the sport, as well as setting an outstanding example in the competitive arena. His drive and enthusiasm will be sorely missed by all Corps sailors, as well as those on the Army and Combined Services circuits. It is hoped that he will return as a guest sailor to future Corps Championships. The results of the Corps Championships 2000 are shown below.

The overall winner was **SSgt Norman Finnegan**, 14 Sig Regt, 2nd was **SSgt Barrie Raine**, 35 Sig Regt and 3rd **Maj Dave Gilchrist**, 238 (London) Sig Sqn.

RESULTS BY CLASS

Novice Competition	Winner	- WO2 Hall	- 238 Sig Sqn
	Runner-up	- LCpl Pond	- 238 Sig Sqn
	(Only 1 point behind)		
Lady	Winner	- Sgt Taylor	- 30 Sig Regt
Veteran	Winner	- SSgt Finnegan	- 14 Sig Regt
Super-Heavyweight	Winner	- SSgt Barrie Raine	- 35 Sig Regt
	Runner-up	- Cpl Varney	- 3 Div Sig Regt
Heavyweight	Winner	- Maj Gilchrist	- 238 Sig Sqn
	Runner-up	- SSgt Bennett	- 1 Mech Bde Sig Sqn
Lightweight	Winner	- Maj Bowles	- RSS
	Runner-up	- Capt Mould	- DGD&D
Overall Champion	Winner	- SSgt Finnegan	- 14 Sig

Maj Dave Gilchrist is presented with a painting of him leading the fleet, subscribed to by Corps windsurfers as a token of thanks for his Herculean efforts supporting the sport over many years

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President: The Master of Signals

Chairman: Major General A. H. Boyle CB

Vice Chairman: Brig N. F. Wood Area1; Brig W. H. Backhouse Area 2; Brig S. G. M. Gordon Area 3; Big K. H. Olds Area 4; Brig P. J. Evans CBE Area 5; Lt Col J. G. Billingham Wales; Maj R. Sampson CBE Scotland; Lt Col C. N. Lightfoot N Ireland

General Secretary and Treasurer: Col A. R. Carter MBE — **Assistant General Secretary: Lt Col I. J. Hamilton**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs J. Cornick — **Administrative Officer: Mr P. J. Cuckow (Membership & Records)**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. Telephone: Military System (9) 4371 2090 or 01258 48 2090. Welfare Secretary Telephone: Military System (9) 4371 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. Internet: www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/museum/rsa.htm

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 to save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The WIREand *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.*

CABLE LAYING

Col (Retd) Cliff Walters, Museum Director

I recently received the attached missive which is self explanatory. I thought it might ring bells with the 'Old Hairies' of the Corps. Incidentally, why are Linemen called 'Hairies'?

From: **Miss Daphne Hort**, Devizes. Eldest daughter of **Maj Aylmer Hort** (served 1917 – 60 including TA - Died 15 May 1981).

I have been sorting out some of my father's papers and came across this verse. He composed it in August 1917 whilst he was serving with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. His diary records that he was involved in many incidents and there were many hazards whilst laying line with the RE Signal Service in the area of Beersheba. You may find his thoughts to be of interest to some of those who have been involved on similar duties since then.

CABLE LAYING
WITH THE EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE – 1917

I am waiting for the day
When wireless is the only way
No lines as far as I can see
What a paradise for me

I wandered by the ancient road
And reached a spot all worn and brown
Where once a row of tents had stood
Where once the Corps had settled down

And then upon a heap of stones
An old exchange lay long disused
I stopped and gazed upon the bones
And standing there awhile I mused

What men have spoken through thy cords
What hands have made thy shutters fall
When once the red-tabbed overlords
Did pester thee with many a call

Thy day is past; perchance at night
Some phantom people use thee still
Some operators hid from sight
Still puts them through to where they will
Daphne Hort

You will note that 'phantom people' is not in capitals!! If you know of any wartime poetry by members of the Corps we would be pleased to hear from you.

NEWS FROM THE AO'S DESK

My first duty is to offer a very warm welcome to **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle CB**, as the new Chairman of the Association and to wish him an enjoyable tenure of office.

Branch News: Margaret Dadson (Hon Secretary Middlesbrough Branch) has moved to 4 Greenway, Eston, Middlesbrough TS6 9EQ. At their 114th meeting on 10 November 2000, the Central Committee of the RSA gave formal approval for the formation of new Branches at Berwick upon Tweed and Exmouth. They also approved affiliation to the 254 Old Boys Association and the Royal Signals Band Reunion Association. Those holders of the Branch Secretaries List should add under Affiliated Associations the following should be added - 254 OBA, **Mr G. T. Severs**, 22 Dallington Close, Burhill Road, Hersham, Walton on Thames, Surrey, KT12 4JG. Royal Signals Band Reunion Assn - **Mr K. Lugg**, 13 Medbourne Close, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7UA. Add to Area 1 - Berwick Branch - **Mr F. Dempster**, Jerih Cottage, Low Cocklaw, Berwick TD15 1UY. Tel: 01289-386687. To Area 5 they should add – Exmouth Branch, **Mrs O. Irving**, 15 Lime Grove, Exmouth, Devon EX8 5NN Tel: 01395-227308, E-Mail: w.irving@breathemail.net.

RSA Annual Reunion: For those who still do not know, this year's Reunion will be held at Blandford over the weekend 23/24 June. All members, their family and friends are welcome to attend. Detailed instructions should be sent out in March to those on the mailing list. If you do not get your copy, call Association HQ. Members of Branches may obtain details from their Hon Secretary.

Corps RSM: Those members who attended the Reunions and have come to know him as a true friend of the RSA will, I am sure, join me in congratulating **WO1 (Corps RSM) Geoff Hodgson** on his commissioning last November. **Geoff** is now the Adjutant of 33 Sig Regt (V) in Liverpool.

AGM 2001 & Branch Representatives Meeting: The meeting will be held in Chelsea Barracks at 1030hrs on Saturday **7 April**.

New Life Members: A warm welcome is extended to the following who have enrolled as Life Members since the last issue of *The WIRE* -

Name and Former Rank	*Branch*	*Served*
LCpl Carol Hodgetts	Newark	1976-79
Sgt Dean Woodward	RHQ	1986-00
Cpl Rhys Goodwin	RHQ	1955-58
Maj John Morrison	Beverley Ex-Boys Assn	1952-87
Dvr Bill Davidson	Berwick	1940-46
Sig Stuart McKenzie	Berwick	1952-54
Sig Richard Bull	Salisbury	1945-48
Dvr Bob Fenney	Colchester	1938-46
Sgt Liz Watts	RHQ	1992-99
Sig Maurice Pilkington	RHQ	1943-47
Sig A. L. Drew	East Kent	1959-62
Sgt K. J. Roberts	RHQ	1977-90
Sgt Mark Stapleton	RHQ	1977-00
Sgt Chris Van den Kerkhof	RHQ	1977-00
Sgt Craig Avey-Hebditch	RHQ	1977-00
Cpl John Gregory	RHQ	1954-56
Maj Bob Yeomans MBE	RHQ	1962-00
Lt Col John Young	RHQ	1963-00
Sig Ken Moore	Birmingham	1954-56
Cpl Gerald Stone	East London	1986-date
LCpl Susan Hutson	East London	1991-96
Sig Kamaljit Ahluwalia	Middx Yeomanry Assn	1981-86
Cpl Dave Christison	RHQ	1991-00
Sgt Phil Davies	RHQ	1986-00
Sig Martin Earle	RHQ	1990-00
Cpl Bob Nixon	RHQ	1993-00

LCpl Neil Smith	RHQ	1992-00
Maj Alan Madsen	RHQ	1981-00
Sig John Parsons	RHQ	1951-53
Sig Jack Ingham	RHQ	1941-46
Sig Mark Grieveson	RHQ	1980-85
Sig R.A. Marriner	Swindon	1951-53
Maj Phil Brown	RHQ	1979-00
Sgt Yvette Grandfield	East Kent	1942-45
Sgt Derek Smith	Beverley Ex-Boys	1950-61
Cpl Tony Smith	RHQ	1962-78
Cpl Stephen Smith	RHQ	1984-94
Sgt Stephen Elsey	RHQ	1965-76
Sig Gwen Elsey (nee Kaye)	RHQ	1976-77
LCpl David Wilmot	RHQ	1993-00
SSgt Philip Locker	RHQ	1977-00
Cpl Christopher Sweeney	RHQ	1990-00
Sig Pamela Young	RHQ	1999-00
SSgt Mark Bristow	RHQ	1977-00
Cpl Stephen Mallaney	RHQ	1976-00
Dvr Eric Thompson	RHQ	1954-63
Sig John Boyd	RHQ	1951-53
Maj Norman Baker	RHQ	1943-70
WO2 William Ironside	RHQ	1975-97
Dvr A. R. Siddall	Chesterfield	1950-53
Cpl George Cartledge	Chesterfield	1949-51
LCpl Derrick Evans	Shropshire	1956-67
Cpl George Burns	RHQ	1975-90
Cpl Bob Miller	Southport	1971-93
LCpl Eric Grady	Southport	1960-63
Sig Bill Penkeyman	Southport	1958-60
LCpl Michael Leet	Newcastle	1992-00
WO2 Mark Gibbons	RHQ	1976-00
WO2 Nigel Thomas	RHQ	1977-00
Maj Carole Murdoch	RHQ	1991-01
Lt Col Malcolm McKinlay	RHQ	1972-00
Maj Allan Duncan MBE	RHQ	1964-00
LCpl Jim Claffey	Glasgow	1975-81
Sgt E. F. Butler	Glasgow	1979-86
SSgt Jean Thomson	Glasgow	1984-date
WO2 N. Sproul	Glasgow	1985-date
LCpl C. R. Lintott	Glasgow	1959-67
Cpl Gerry Houldsworth	Southampton	1854-57
Maj Julian Webster	RHQ	1959-92
Sig Rick Melia	Aberdeen	1999-date
Lt Ron Needs	RHQ	1944-47
Cpl Bryan Hopwood	Norfolk	1950-55
Sgt Norman Love	Norfolk	1940-46

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

Our Autumn Luncheon was held at the Army Golf Club on one of the few fine days in October, sunny, though too chilly to take pre-lunch drinks on the terrace as we have on many occasions even so late in the year. It was a convivial gathering at which we were joined by friends both from neighbouring Branches and of our Members. As guests of the Branch we were happy to welcome **Dick** and **Susan Crombie**. When **Colonel Dick** addressed us after lunch it happened to be one of his last speeches as Regimental Colonel and we were pleased to hear that he is taking up the appointment of Commandant of the Cadet Training Centre in Frimley. As this is only a stone's throw away from us we look forward to welcoming him as a Member of the Aldershot Branch and to seeing him and **Susan** at many a gathering in the future. Not the least of our pleasures was to have **Bruce Beattie** with us after a serious illness. **Bruce** has a very long association with Aldershot Garrison and although they do not live locally he and **Jeanne** are staunch supporters and join us on every occasion they are able. Welcome home! **Lt Col Lynn Relph** was the guest of **Noel** and **Edelgard Moss** and we extend her a warm welcome to the Aldershot Branch. In November we enjoyed a 'pig and whistle' occasion when **Carole** and **Hywel Thomas** organised a pub lunch at The Woolpack in Elstead. Having, it seems, only lately disposed of our Autumn gathering, our Spring Luncheon is to be an early event, owing to a formal Branch Dinner to be held in April. Our Spring Lunch and AGM will be on Sunday 4 February 2001 in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess and the cost will be £12 per head.

DON'T SEND US DIGITAL PHOTOS

as most of them are only saved at 72dpi. For publication they must be a MINIMUM of 300-400dpi!

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

Since our last report the Branch has enjoyed a Curry Lunch in May and a Barbecue in August. Both of which were well attended and enjoyed in lovely weather in the beautiful setting of Pockeridge House, 2 Signal Brigade, at Corsham, Wiltshire. The photographs show the Chairman of the Branch, **Lt Col Geoff Oakley** enjoying a beverage with **Maj Jim Peck** at the Barbecue; and our Treasurer, **John Allen** with the Committee members **Roy Baldwin** and Bristol Secretary, **Ray Rigg** with their wives.

In October we had our Annual Luncheon in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess,

21 Signal Regiment (Air Support), where we had the pleasure of the company of **Lt Col I. J. Hamilton** and his wife, **Brig & Mrs N. C. Jackson** representing the CO 21 Signal Regiment (AS), **Maj & Mrs T. Dean** representing 2 Signal Brigade and **WO2 D. A. Giles** from 21 Signal Regiment. The Standard was paraded by Committee Member **Roy Platten**. The Standard was also paraded by **Cpl Mark Mitchell**, 21 Signal Regiment (AS) HQ Sqn, on Saturday 11 November at the War Memorial, Combe Down, Bath and on Sunday 12 November through the city of Bath for the Memorial Service at Bath Abbey. Also on Sunday the Branch wreath was laid at the War Memorial in Bath by the Branch Chairman, **Lt Col Geoff Oakley**.

It is a continued sorrow that it is almost impossible to get younger retired members of the Corps to take an active part in Branch meetings and it is only due to the helpfulness of **Capt Miles**, the PSAO, that we have **Cpl Mitchell** to parade our Standard. The next meeting of the Branch will be the AGM in April 2001.

At the Committee Meeting of the Bath and District Branch of the Association, held on Monday 4 December 2000, a presentation was made to the present President of the Branch, **Maj John F. Everett MBE TD MA**. It was Honour Membership of the Association, together with a letter of Commendation from **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB**, Chairman of the Association.

In 1949 **Maj John Everett** was one of the founder members of the Bath and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association and has been a most enthusiastic and active supporter of the Branch and all its activities since then. His encouragement to other members of his TA Regiment to join and support the Signals Association fully earned him the soubriquet, 'Father' amongst those still with us. **John** along with a few very loyal members kept the Branch going through the years with meetings and social activities held in various hostelries and clubs throughout Bath. In November 1976 he took over as President of the Branch and, after nearly 25 years in the post, continues to give it his enthusiastic involvement. The move of HQ 2 Signal Brigade from Aldershot and 21st Signal Regiment (AS) from BAOR into our District area gave the opportunity for a new lease of life to the Branch which **Maj Everett** fully grasped. He is very aware of the need to encourage younger and more junior members to the Association and communicates his views whenever the opportunity arises.

Over the years he has looked forward to and regularly supported the Royal Signals Association Reunion weekends at Catterick and Blandford where he was to be seen in the marching contingent for the Sunday morning church service. He is also a regular supporter of the Royal Signals Officers Annual Luncheon at Blandford. **John** can always be seen on parade representing the Branch at the annual morning Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in Bath and, until last year, paraded and marched to the Abbey for the afternoon service. **Maj John Everett** has given nearly 60 years of active involvement and support of the Royal Corps of Signals and outstanding service to the Royal Signals Association.

Maj John F. Everett MBE TD MA

Lt Col Geoff Oakley and Maj John F. Everett MBE TD MA

The Committee of the Bath & District Branch of the RSA

John with some Members of the Association

BRIGHTON BRANCH

Our autumn programme got off to a splendid start. **Steve White**, our energetic new committee member, belongs to the St John's Ambulance Brigade and arranged for no less than six of their ambulances to come to our drill hall for us to have a good 'looksie'. They ranged from one of the earliest models to the most modern. The event was well attended, with the ambulances arousing a great deal of interest, thank you **Steve**.

For our October meeting **Dee Barber**, our hard working Secretary, arranged for her colleague, **Judie Marland**, to come and give a talk on the housing of ex-offenders. We had a good audience and a very lively discussion ensued. There were many different views expressed. Several speakers asked what happened to ex-offenders when they 'moved on'? Other wanted to know how many of those people re-offended? There were many who wished to know how many were successfully brought back into the community? Many thanks to **Judie** and **Dee** for such a thought provoking meeting.

Now what about our Annual Dinner/Disco? How did it fare? It was a great success. We changed hotels to the Courtlands in Hove, in the Drive just off the seafront. It had just been redecorated and the staff were most anxious to please. It is true that they lost your 'humble scribe's' bottle of wine, but they soon brought another one. It appeared that one lucky table had a free bottle! A few other changes were made. There were gentle hints about suitable dress, on this point everybody agreed. The number allowed to attend was cut back to 105 people. There is always the danger of overcrowding at these functions. Several people were unable to get tickets, as a result of this one person has already paid for next year! We were delighted to welcome our guests from Blandford **Col (Retd) Cliff Walters** and his wife **Judy**. **Cliff** is doing great things with the museum, he is the new Director.

(L-R): Bob Downs, Judy Walters, Col (Retd) Cliff Walters

He made an entertaining and forward thinking speech. The museum is in good hands. No event would be complete without our President, **Brig Colin Brown** and his wife **Heather**. **Colin** always 'chairs' the top table so smoothly.

(L-R): Col (Retd) Cliff Walters, Brig Colin Brown, Heather Brown

Members of 884 Troop at the Brighton Dinner/Disco

Finally it is a pleasure to note the presence of **Alan Foot**, the founder of our Branch. He comes a long distance to be with us every year, thank you **Alan**.

After the efforts of the Dinner/Disco November was a relatively quiet time. There was our Annual Fish & Chips Night. We all sat down and munched. Of course some thought of salt and vinegar some did not. many thanks to **Gordon Holloway** for going and getting the fish and chips.

Our December meeting is always Father Christmas and the children. Father Christmas had to be a Miss (Father) Xmas and of course many many presents were in her bag. There were about fifty adults and it seemed thousands and thousands of children, all very well behaved. **Dee** found a musician and he was first class. We had a few carols and one or two children played recorders. One pleasant surprise was that **Colin** and **Heather** were both able to be with us. Mince pies and sausage rolls made a good end to the evening. We have one more event to come and that is a Christmas Luncheon at the Ashby Hotel. They have a splendid chef and we all remember his summer effort with poached salmon with all the bits and pieces but you, dear reader, will have to wait for the report in April's copy of *The WIRE*, next year. Did I hear a groan and a comment 'no more'?

Your humble scribe's daughter has just asked whether he has finished - very nearly - Did he want a chocolate drink? No thank you but a double Scotch wouldn't go amiss!!

EAST KENT BRANCH

Roy Andrews, for so long the scribe of the Branch Notes, has at last decided to stand down and hand over his quill to another. **Donald Crisp**, currently the Branch Chairman, has taken up the literary cudgel, in the hope that he can maintain the standard set by **Roy** for so many years, for which we thank him. However, he still remains the Southeast England representative with the RSA.

Social: From past sodden experience we fully expected that the annual Remembrance Day Parade in Canterbury would be an amphibious affair. This prompted the illustration below of what we though was proper preparation and planning by holding a dress rehearsal. No, not really! It was just another figment of the Chairman's imagination. However, in a perverse way we were disappointed by the weather which, whilst remaining vile, stayed dry during the period of the march made by 18 members to the cathedral. **Brian Calladine**, escorted by **Keith Chambers** and **Roger Stone**, paraded the Branch Standard at the head of our contingent and on up the hallowed aisle. As always, a moving service after which the parade reformed for the March Past to rousing military music and furled umbrellas. Afterwards lunch taken by 48 members in the County Hotel and **Marion de Rose** once again added to the Branch coffers by holding a raffle, altogether a most enjoyable day.

An 'ole in the ground: during the recent dreadful weather in the South and Kent in particular a large hole appeared overnight on the lawn of our Honorary Secretary's lovely home. The hole was some five foot wide and of an indeterminate depth – some say that Australians could be seen at the bottom – but one wonders what might have happened if said hole had appeared at the height of the festivities at **Gen John's** hilarious Romanesque Barbecue some weeks earlier. Would we have still been here? Would his household insurance cover the loss of so many valuable members? Would he care??

News of Members: David and **Sheila Geary**, having left the county for what they thought might be 'greener grass' in Suffolk, realised the error of their ways and have returned, thus refilling the position of Resident Camera Crew for the many Branch functions. **Frank** and **Olive Castle** are looking well and have recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. **Marie Crisp** was recently the recipient of a new hip, courtesy of Maidstone Hospital where the boiled fish proved to be an excellent way to encourage patients to go for a rapid recovery and an early discharge. She is now virtually stick-free although not yet able to 'bend the knee' despite regular instructions from her husband **Donald**. **Pat Harlow** daughter of the late and sadly missed, **Tommy** and **Eaddie Thomas**, was a welcome lunch member and we look forward to seeing her more often. **Jimmy Hand**, our Ex-Officio Recruiter, is still having problems that the Royal Marsden Hospital is dealing with. **Jimmy** is one of a number undergoing experimental gene therapy and we wish him well. **Bill Lovett**, our erstwhile Honorary Treasurer until he was taken ill and hospitalised, is now back home and recovering from something mysterious and as yet has not been diagnosed. **Denis Murphy** has also been a guest of the NHS but is also home and recovering so he also has our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

New Members: Mr & Mrs Geldart of Whitstable – **Ted** served from 1954-62 in the Cyprus Signal Squadron and later he served with 16 Signal Regiment. **Mrs Yvette Grandfield** of Lyminge served as a Sergeant in the ATS Signals in Northern Ireland, Brussels and Bad Oynhausen from 1942/45. **Mr** 'Smokie' & **Mrs Dot Mears** of Birchington. 'Smokie' served as a National Servicemen from 1952 until 1954 in Catterick, 6 Armd Bde and Signal Squadron followed by a period in the TA.

Late News: Gordon Alexander, alas one of our less mobile members, has discovered a shop which loans invalid chairs free and is now terrorising the pedestrians of Ramsgate!

EAST LONDON BRANCH

What a successful year 2000 has been for us all, being the 75th birthday of the Branch. Membership is still growing and we are getting regular support from all our Members.

Our first social function for the year was our Annual Dinner and Dance in March to celebrate our 75th year as a Branch of the Royal Signals Association. The function was held in the Drill Hall of 26 (E) Sig Regt (V), with 140 Members and friends in attendance. Our special guests for the evening were **Lt Col Allan** and **WO1 (RSM) Bob Stanton** and his wife **Ann**, from 36 (E) Sig Regt (V) and **Mike Sexton**, our Area Representative. It was pointed out to me, by one of our members, that **RSM Bob Stanton's** first function when he joined the Regiment was our Dinner and his last function was once again our Dinner.

In May out Committee organised a trip, by coach, to Chatham Dockyard and Museum that was very enjoyable The Blandford Reunion, in June, gave some of us a chance to come along, meet Members from other Branches and see our Standard Bearer, **Rob Dyball**, collect our 75 Year Pennant. We were all very proud on the day. In October our Supper Dance, with live music, was held once again in our usual venue of 36 (E) Sig Regt (V), with over 130 Members and friends attended.

November saw two trips arranged for the same weekend. The first was a coach trip to France to collect some of the Christmas shopping, for those Members wishing to go. The second trip was for the full weekend 4-5 November, when eight Members paid a visit to Ypres, Belgium. It was arranged by the Woodbridge Branch of the Royal British Legion. They went to see the battlefields of the First World War. They also visited the cemetary of 'Tyne Cot', where over 12,500 men are buried. The Branch Chairman, **Peter Phillips** and the Vice-Chairman, **Paul Burton**, laid wreaths at the Menin Gate on behalf of our Branch and the Royal British Legion. One of our Members, **Roy Bilby**, who is the Standard Bearer for the Woodbridge Branch of the Legion, carried the Standard with great pride as the 'Last Post' was sounded at the Menin Gate. To his delight he was asked if he could attend again the following evening.

Finally on 18 November, Members who knew the late **Sgt Fred Backhouse** and Members from Catterick and East London Branches, attended the laying of **Fred's** ashes in the grounds of the old 11 Signal Regiment (Catterick) where our Branch trees were originally planted. **Barry Greenwood** stood in as Standard Bearer during the Service which was taken by an army chaplain. Our Branch would like to thank **Stan Perkins** for his help in arranging the Service for **Fred's** family. Our thanks must also go to our Social Committee **Ted Head, Anita** and **Neil Keen** and **Linda Cooper** for all their hard work during the year. We look forward to another successful year in 2001.

GLASGOW BRANCH

In writing this report I regret to say, I have to report the death of a very popular member of the Branch, **Roderick** 'Roddy' **M. Hendrie**, at the age of 84. 'Roddy', was a Dunkirk Veteran and a 'Desert Rat.' At the Branch meeting on 21 November the Chairman asked members to stand for two minutes in silent tribute to 'Roddy'.

Another 'Jimmy' meal was held on Friday 3 November, thoroughly enjoyed by all the members who attended. The arrangement in the capable hands of **WO1 (SVWO) Terry McVey**, was also complimented by the excellent meal produced by **Chef Cpl Debbie Carruthers** and her staff. Held in the evening it has increased the number of Branch Members attending, what has now become known as the 'Jimmy Club'. As has now become the custom a short service was held at the War Memorial at the Cross in Bishopbriggs near Glasgow, on 1 November at 11am when the two minute silence was observed. Attended by the Provost of East Dunbartonshire Council, who laid a wreath. Branch Member, **Jim Prentice** attended and laid a personal wreath with a 'Jimmy' insignia centre-piece. He also had to advise the Minister conducting the service as to the correct order in laying the wreaths, after the silence and not before as was initially instructed. Twenty-five Branch members attended with **Bill MacNamara** parading the Branch Standard, at the Remembrance Day parade in George Square Glasgow. The Branch's wreath, with the 'Jimmy' centre-piece was laid by **Bobby Gilchrist**. The Lord Lieutenant and the Lord Provost of Glasgow took the salute at the march past. Afterwards the Members who took the coach back to 32 Sig Regt, HQ, marched in front of the Regiment onto the square and they were then dismissed into the building, to a very appetising lunch, provided by **Chef Cpl Debbie Carruthers** and her Chefs.

The 10th Annual St. Andrew's Dinner/Dance, and 10th Anniversary year of the founding of the Branch, was held on Saturday 25 November 2000. The Branch President, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**, presided. At the top table were the Branch Chairman, **Joe Keegan** his wife **Cathie**, outgoing Chairman, **Bill Taylor** and his wife **Betty** and **Maj Maxwell TD** 2IC, 32 Sigs. Regt. The company of 107 was piped into dinner by **Pipe Maj Moir**, who also played at intervals during the evening, receiving his reward of whisky in a quaich. The Loyal Toast was proposed by **Elizabeth Graham**, the toast to the Col. in Chief, The Princess Royal, proposed by member **Jim Flockhart**, the toast to the RSA was proposed by **SSgt (SQMS) John Addison**. The meal was superb, prepared by **WO2 Master Chef John Wren** and his Chefs. **Sgt Danny Beattie** supervised the waiters, who did an excellent job and were applauded for their contribution to making an evening, where nobody wanted to leave early. **Maj Gen Anderson** had welcomed the members and guests, apologised for the absence of his wife **Margaret**, who has not fully recovered enough to attend evening functions, but would hope to be able to attend future functions once fully recovered. **Maj Maxwell** gave a short speech on the role of the Royal Signals in today's conditions. Members of the Corps are scattered around the world, involved in the trouble spots, and it is not likely to get any better, so a lot of operations will fall upon volunteers from the Territorial forces. **Gen Anderson** thanked the Committee and Branch Members who support the organised functions throughout the year, and thanked the Commanding Officer and members of the 32 Sig Regt. for the use of their premises and their support, keeping the Corps family together. The President thanked the staff for the excellent meal and the service involved. Then he thanked **Bill Taylor** the outgoing Chairman, for his efforts in getting the Branch formed and his dedication and enthusiasm, in bringing it to the standard it has reached today. He then spoke of a **Cpl Andrew Fraser** of the 1st Battalion Royal Scots a regular soldier, who served from 1907 for 19yrs 222 days in the same Regiment, who died at the age of 79. He had been promoted to Sergeant but due to a lengthy spell in hospital with malaria and dysentery, did not obtain the substantive rank. **Cpl Fraser** moved from India to France in October 1914. He was in the trenches at Ypres where he was involved in six major battles including the 2nd Ypres. He moved to Salonika in 1915 and was subsequently invalided back to the UK. He was awarded the MM for Gallantry and devotion to duty, and the French Medaille de'Honneur in respect of his conduct in France. He also held the British War Medal 1914/20, Victory Medal 1914/18, LS&GC Medal with the Defence Medal for service in the Home Guard in WWII. **Gen Anderson** then asked, 'Why am I speaking of a soldier from another regiment? Because a member of this Branch, **Mrs Catherine Lintott**, the daughter of **Cpl Fraser**, had inherited these medals on the death of her mother, but the French Medal was missing. She had approached Branch Member **Jim Prentice** and he wrote to his friend **Lt Cmdr RN (Retd) Ken Buckel** in France for the address of the French Ministry for medals. **Ken** with the help of his daughter **Sally** in Paris, not only obtained a replacement medal from the French authorities, but said it would give him a great deal of pleasure, if **Mrs Lintott** would accept the medal with his compliments. The medal was sent to **Jim** who handed it on the night to the President, (who in turn had researched details of **Cpl Fraser's** records) to present it to **Cathie** on behalf of **Ken** and **Sally Buckel**. **Cathie** was thrilled to get the medal, tears streaming, she thanked the General and **Jim**. She held the medal for all to see amid applause and cheers from the members and their guests. She had no idea this had been planned in secret for weeks.

During the dance a raffle was held for a variety of prizes, a sum of £202 was raised for Branch funds. Just before the end of the evening a large square cake was produced with the icing of the 'Jimmy' Happy 80th Birthday **Jim Prentice** 28/11/1920, arranged by his daughters as a surprise. With the company singing 'Happy Birthday' whilst **Jim** blew out eight candles, before cutting it for all to get a piece. **Jim** was born in the year the Corps was formed, joined as a regular pre-war following in the footsteps of his grandfather who was a Colour Quarter Master Sergeant Royal Engineers 20th Sig Coy in WWI. A night of surprises.

MIDDLESBROUGH BRANCH

Our Chairman, **Colin Dadson,** unfortunately missed some of our earlier meetings this year, when his employment needed his presence in America. His location was in fact in Nashville or thereabouts; as one member remarked 'in the shade of Dolly Parton'.

On Sunday 10 September, like most neighbouring ex-Service Associations, we attended the Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance at Eden Camp, near Malton. Despite the weather there was an excellent turnout, approximately 2000 ex-Servicemen, Servicewomen, wives, partners, husbands etc. attended. The Parade was led by the band of the Yorkshire Volunteers, followed by almost 100 Standards leading about 10000 ex-Servicemen and women, Land Army personnel and on this occasion Bevin Boys. The **Rev John Manchester** conducted the Remembrance Service, and **Lt Gen Sir David Scott Barrett KBE MC** accompanied by the Polish General, who has attended this occasion since it began some eight years ago, took the salute. The Parade was addressed by **Lt Gen Scott Barren KBE MC**, who expressed his surprise and great pleasure at the size of the turnout despite the weather. The overall attendance was down considerably, nevertheless it was a most impressive gathering. Our thanks must go to the Manager and Staff at Eden Camp for organising and coping with this massive attendance and mention must be made of the smart turnout of the Fusilier ACF who attended and their Officers and Senior NCO's and WO's who marshaled the Parade.

On Saturday 5 November, yes Fireworks Day, we invited members from other Associations in Area 1 to attend the Presentation of a 50 year Pennant to the Middlesbrough Branch and a Sunday Lunch at the TA Centre, Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough, 34 (N) Signal Regiment (Volunteers). Once again despite the weather we had an attendance of some 150 members. The Newcastle Branch was also awaiting presentation of a 75 year Pennant, and by arrangement this presentation was incorporated into the Ceremony performed by **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle**. **John Grange** paraded the Middlesbrough Standard and the

escorts were **Audrey Grainge** and **Billy Watson**. Incidentally **Billy** was presented with a 50-Year Badge after the Pennant Ceremony. The Newcastle Standard was paraded by **ex-Cpl Harry Duncan** and was escorted by **ex-WO2 Ronnie Gordon** and **ex-Cpl Guy Turnbull**. The ceremony was supported by a parade of Standards from the Darlington and Hartlepool Branches, the Korean Veterans, Combined Services, Army Vets and Burma Star Vets and Normandy Vets. To add to the occasion Members and guests had wined and dined before the ceremony. The lunch was prepared by Regimental Cook, **WOI Neil Berry** and ably assisted by **LCpl Mooney**. (Both members of 34 Sig Regt) and to say it was delicious would be an understatement. In September 1998 **Neil** prepared a lunch for us - that we considered excellent - how do you describe the one on 5 November. Our thanks are due to the Commanding Officer and the RSM of 34 (N) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) for the use of the Drill Hall, WO's and Sgts Mess and the JRC. Of course **Bruce Bassett** for his bar duties and to all those who helped and all who attended to make this a momentous occasion. Future activities involve a Social Evening in late November, a dinner and entertainment at The Ladle Restaurant and in early December incorporated with our monthly meeting a Christmas Raffle with which the Ladies will provide a buffet.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

November is always a busy month during the Remembrance period and the Branch was represented at various ceremonies. Firstly, once again, Vice Chairman **Jim Reilly** laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch at the civic ceremony, in the grounds of Belfast City Hall. At the Royal British Legion Pageant in the new Waterfront Hall in Belfast, the Branch was represented by Chairman **John Brown** and **Harry Stanley**. Then at the wreath laying ceremony at Palace Barracks, Holywood, Co. Down, **George Cook** and **John Loveday** attended on behalf of the Branch. On Remembrance Sunday the Branch led by our Chairman, **John Brown**, paraded under the auspices of 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V), to St Mark's parish church Belfast. The Standard was carried by **Billy Dixon** and the wreath was laid by **Jim Reilly**. After the parade **John Brown** laid a cross at the memorial in the TAVR Centre for our past Chairman, **Tommy Maguire**. All then partook of the hospitality of 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V), consisting of both solid and liquid refreshments. Thanks also go to **Edgar McCall** for the collection.

The Branch Committee met on Monday 4 December mainly to discuss a programme of social evenings for 2001. It is hoped to schedule specific months each year for talks or social events as we used to do some years ago. Three of our long serving Branch Members have not been well lately. They are Branch President, **Maj (Retd) Bill Douglas**, **Billy Carey** and **Ernie Mansell**. We send each our best wishes and hope for their speedy recovery.

Finally may we thank **Lt Col A. P. R. Roberts**, who is the CO and the RSM,**WO1 (RSM) Chris McGinley**, the Chief Clerk (sorry **Christine** but I can't remember your new title) and all in 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V) who facilitated the Branch during the year 2000. Also thanks to **Peter Cuckow** and all at RHQ/HQ, we wish everyone a happy and prosperous year in 2001. If you are reading *The WIRE* and are in Northern Ireland, then if you are not already a Branch Member or indeed are still serving, you are welcome to join us any third Wednesday of each month in Clonaver TAVR Centre, Belfast.

READING BRANCH

This Branch has recently experienced two sad events. Firstly, **Vera**, wife of our oldest member **Maj Graham Robinson,** died following a long illness. They had been married for 65 years and **Graham,** despite being ill himself, insisted on attending her funeral. Just four days after the funeral **Graham** himself died after suffering a stroke. He was 92, a great character and we shall miss him. The Branch was well represented at both funerals.

Now to happier times. Our third Christmas Party was well supported and judging by various comments was deemed to be a great success. The 'family' atmosphere was much in evidence with lots of members doing different jobs. We had an excellent Race Game organised by **Jeff Hazel** (former Chairman of the Branch) with **David Norris** (our 50-Club secretary) making a very able bookmaker. The buffet was provided by **Thelma** and **John Wakefield** (Social Secretary and Assistant) and their helpers. A very successful raffle was run by **John Mumford** (of Standard-Bearing fame) and **Cheryl Jackson**. The evening culminated with carol singing led by **Alan Foot** (our Branch Secretary) and accompanied by a real church organist on an electronic keyboard. This was probably the best part of a very good evening, and we were even congratulated on our singing that was not just loud but quite musical as well.

David Norris, as **WO2 (QMSI) D.G. Norris**, AGC (SPS), has finally hung up his spurs as a serving member of 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment TA, which he joined upon its formation in 1969. He was the last serving Founder Member of the Regiment. His TA service, in 71 (Y) Signal Regiment and previous Infantry units in Berkshire, totals over 40 years and his retirement surely marks 'the end of an era'. **David** is also a founder Member of the present Reading Branch of the RSA, and he has served in various appointments on the Branch Committee continuously since 1971. He has been awarded Honour Membership of the Association and we hope to retain his services for many years to come.

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT BRANCH

At the Branch social meeting on 7 November 2000, our Chairman, **George Packer**, presented a magnificent cake for auction. It was iced with the Corps' colours and surmounted with a 'Jimmy'. The cake had been especially designed and made by **George's** son **Tony Packer**. The top bid of £15 came from **Tony Hull**, a long standing Branch committee member and the Founder/Secretary of the Beverley Ex-Boys Association.

Tony Hull - Top Bidder

The annual Branch Christmas Lunch was held on Monday 4 December 2000 at the British and International Sailors Society Seafarers' Centre in Southampton. The gathered company of 27 sat down to an excellent meal, with a choice of turkey, Salmon or steak for the main course. The pulling of crackers and the wearing of festive hats soon relaxed everyone and put them in the Christmas spirit. As usual on these happy occasions, a short but appropriate speech was given by our President, **Brig John Clinch CBE**. He congratulated the Committee on their efforts which had made the lunch such a success and then called for the usual toasts. **Ruth** and **Tony Dear**, who organised the raffle, were assisted by **Vera Packer** and everyone present walked away with a prize.

The highlight of the Christmas Lunch was the presentation of the Association's 50 Year Certificate and Badge, together with a letter from the Association's Chairman, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB**, to the following members:

Brig J. C. Clinch CBE - The Branch President
Mr Ernie Budd - Committee Member
Mr Jack Cullingford - Member
Maj (Retd) W. C. (Peter) Loveless - Member

Presentations had already been made to the following Branch Members who, due to personal circumstances were unable to attend:

Mr Len Hill - Committee Member
Mr John Rush - Member
Mr Fred Griffiths - Member

In closing this ceremony, **Peter Loveless** gave quite a moving speech in which he expressed his personal tribute to the way in which the Branch had thrived and progressed under the current President and Chairman and to the sterling efforts of the Committee and the support of the Members themselves. The event drew to a close with those present having a determination to come together again at Christmas 2001.

(L-R): Jack Cullingford, Brig John Clinch CBE, Maj (Retd) 'Peter' Loveless, Chairman - George Packer, Ernie Budd

WEST LONDON BRANCH

We once again have changed our monthly venue. Our host Regiment having left their barracks for a lengthy period, we now enjoy the hospitality of the Royal British Legion Club in Richmond, where we meet on the last Friday of the month. On 16 October four of our Members went to the Tower of London to present a Plaque to the Yeomen Warders' Club, where we have been entertained on many occasions in the past. **Cliff Wood**, our Treasurer, was the original organiser in the eighties of our annual visits to Her Majesty's Palace and Fortress the Tower, since when we have enjoyed many a pleasant evening in the unique environment of this historic edifice. The photograph shows our Chairman, **Maj Ron Miller**, **Cliff Wood**, **Ed Murphy** and **Stan Heath** making the Presentation to **Yeoman Warder John Kenny**.

THE MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION

After the Christmas and New Year festivities, jogging appears to be the order of the day, not quite, let's just say that the Association is up and running, led by **Col Simon Beazley**, closely followed by our Chairman, **George Key**.

Our Annual Dinner at the Duke of York's HQ was a success thanks to our organiser, **Maj** 'Dusty' **Miller**. The 'Lafone' Day Parade, this year, was a short ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral. Unfortunately the Yeomanry Squadron was away on exercise and the Association Band were in the middle of moving from Uxbridge TAC to Hampton in Middlesex, so were unable to parade. The service in St Martin's was cancelled for the year 2000 only. Next year should see it all back to normal. The dinner will be on 19 October and Lafone Day on 21 October 2001.

The other date for your diary is 13 May 2001, the Cavalry Memorial Parade, not to be missed, around one hundred and fifty military musicians to entertain you. The Chairman and Committee wish you all a Happy New Year.

BEVERLEY EX-BOYS ASSOCIATION

After much campaigning and with the help of **Lt Col Alan Davies**, one of the new buildings at Blandford has been named 'Beverley Block' in honour of the 6 (Boys) Training Regiment based at Beverley in the 1950s. One of our members, **John Wardle**, has done a painting of the Beverley town crest (after we had obtained permission from the Town Council) with an explanation of the name and this has now been hung in the entrance hall of the building.

Whilst watching Countdown on 14 November my wife, **Beryl**, called me to say that one of the contestants had served 35 years in the Royal Corps of Signals. His name is **Angus Cook**, which sounded familiar so I telephoned him and he is an Ex-Boy and has now joined us. He is known as 'Gus'.

In our Christmas Newsletter we printed a list of people who attended our Reunion last October. Unfortunately we omitted the name of **Ted Hunt**, for which we apologise. We would like to welcome two new members, **Gordon Cheyne** and **Bob McFarland**, which brings our total membership to 159 at present. If anyone would like details of the Association, please contact **Tony Hull** on 01202 770261.

31 SIGNAL REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Another busy year for the Committee led by **Col Donald Crawford**, so it's heads down for 2001. lots of goodies planned, so keep in touch. Please let our Membership Secretary, **Chrissy Mills**, know if you change your address.

By the time you read this we will have had our New Year Cheese and Wine Party. It is organised by our Secretary, **Henry Holman**. Other immediate dates are: Our Annual Dinner at the Duke of York's HQ on 31 March and our overseas trip to Ypres on 25-27 May 2001. For further information on the Ypres trip, ring 'Dusty' **Miller** on 01784 250756. We will be travelling on the ferry and not through the tunnel, by popular demand.

We said goodbye to the CO, **Col Linda Harrison**, and RSM, **John Grigson,** we can only hope that they passed on the information of 'How to take care of the Old and Bold' of the Association. The Chairman and Committee wish everyone all the best for 2001.

REUNIONS

MALTA/LIBYA COMMAND

YEAR 2000 RE-UNION
HELD AT THE QUALITY FRIENDLY HOTEL
LOUGHBOROUGH 29-30 SEPTEMBER

We met up in the lounge at 5.30pm and introduced new members to one another. Dinner was served in the restaurant at 7p.m. There was plenty of choice and it was an excellent meal. Afterwards it was back into the lounge for drinks and chat. Saturday, breakfast was at 8a.m. after which we hired a canal boat for the day, we had a fantastic time. At the end of the outward journey we had lunch at the Hope & Anchor pub. There was an extensive choice of meals and snacks, then it was back on to the boat for the homeward journey.

Captain of the Lugger – 'Geordie' Lawrence

By now our 'driver' **Dennis Croot** had got the hang of it, so we had a straight journey instead of a zig zag one. The rest of us were quite happy jumping off the boat to open the locks, a great day was had by all. Back at the hotel we held our AGM at 7p.m. It was chaired by **Roy Andrews** and was followed by dinner and then drinks in the lounge. On Sunday we had breakfast and then went our separate ways, a fantastic weekend.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS MALTA/LIBYA COMMAND

We are interested in people who served in Royal Signals Units in Malta and Libya at any time. We have a reunion each year to which you would be welcome. For further information please contact the Secretary:
Roy Andrews Tel: 01227 264551
Website: http://signalsmaltalibya.homestead.com/index~ie4.html

THE 5TH (LONDON) CORPS SIGNALS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

The 5th (London) Corps Signals Old Comrades Association held its 55th Annual Reunion on Saturday 14 October 2000 in the Duke of York's Headquarters Club in Chelsea. In total seventy-seven members and guests were present for the reception, lunch, and Annual General Meeting. The Association was grateful to receive a message of congratulations from **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman CB**, Chairman of the Royal Signals Association. After the welcome to members and guests by **Bob Roberts**, OCA Chairman, all present stood in silence in tribute to the memory of 'Robbie' (**P A F Robins**) the oldest member and the unit's first Regimental Sergeant-Major who had died earlier in the year aged 97. In recent years the Annual Reunion has been given a theme and the one chosen for year 2000 was naturally 'The New Millennium'. The Chairman remarked that although the occasion was the 55th Reunion it was the first of the New Millennium and he hoped that more would follow. An excellent display again mounted by Sid Prior, the Secretary, sought to recall the past and look forward to the future although given the age of members the past was perhaps most in evidence. The Association's poet member, **Ernest Lampard**, had once more produced a theme poem and the Chairman read out the last five lines of the poem in proposing the New Millennium Toast that was taken after the Loyal Toast. The poem is reproduced in this issue of *'The WIRE'*.

Today we join in celebration
Of the times in days of yore,
When as eager volunteers,
We heard the call and went to war,
To save our land from subjugation
And destruction.....at the hand,
Of a treacherous dictator
And his ruthless, evil band;
On this, our 55th Reunion,
Whilst we chat and reminisce,
Let's remember fallen comrades
Whose happy company we still miss;
They were the 'Flower of our Nation',
The Brave, the Strong, theJust,
Whose willing hearts and valiant souls
Triumphed in the dust.....
Of Africa and Italy,
Far, far away from hearth and home,
For freedom's sake and to ensure
Our safety in the years to come;
In this, the so called New Millennium,
We must therefore, play our part,
To honour their self sacrifice
And give this world a brand new start,
For our children and their children
Make the future clear and bright,
Where all may safely live in peace,
With faith victorious over might.

Ernest A. Lampard
52 L/M Section

At the Annual General Meeting which followed the four course lunch (which included 'Bangers and Mash' and Treacle Tart) the Chairman reported the conclusion the Committee had reached on the future of the Association noting recent reports that several WWII OCAs had formally disbanded. The 54th and 55th Reunions had been well supported and the AGM resolved that Annual Reunions should continue so long as the Committee could organise them and members supported the occasions, and that the Association should continue in being. The Chairman thanked Committee members for their efforts over the year emphasising the debt he and all members owed to **Sid Prior** the Secretary and mainstay of the Association who arranged the Reunion and produced the Newsletter. The Old Comrades are once more grateful to **John Aked** and his colleagues of 238 Sig Sqn who provided the amplification that contributed to a happy and successful Reunion.

260 SIGNAL SQUADRON SAM RSA REUNION 27-28 APRIL 2001 AT SOUTHEND

For further details contact **Roy Andrews** on 01227 264551 or visit our website:
http://260signalsquadron.oogo.com/

12th, 15th & 18th AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENTS ASSOCIATION

Our get-together at the Delaware Pavilion in Bexhill on 5 of October was a great success, with nine members attending. As we have only fifteen members in our Area, as many of them are unable to travel long distances this wasn't too bad. Apologies for absence came from **Bill Smith, Roy Andrews**, and **Johnny Clinch** (a new member we have yet to meet).

Harry Carver, who comes about 60 miles to the get-togethers, uses his car to pick me up on his way to Bexhill. This time he also collected **Ken White** who lives not far from me in Eastbourne. **Ken** came round to my place, left his car outside my house, and the three of us went in **Harry's** car to the Del La Warr. I mention this to you to show how expenses can be cut by car-sharing, so why not check through your Master Sheet, find out who lives near you, and make arrangements to travel together. Some of our older members probably don't drive nowadays, and they'd appreciate a lift to meet old comrades. We're all ex-Signals, so let's rally round and help each other. Try to bring a member who's never attended one of our get-togethers, next time, and let's get some more stories told of those old days!

I think **George Blackwood** scores full marks for his ingenuity. **George** lives closest to the De La Warr, but has difficulty getting there. He always seems to be attending hospital at the times we hold our little meetings, but this doesn't deter him. He's wangled his way into the good books of the Ambulance Drivers and persuades them to give him a lift -when they're taking patients home, and drop him off at the De La Warr. We fully expect to see a load of stretcher cases coming into the cafeteria, just to find out what those 'funny old men' have got to talk about every six months!

Unfortunately, **Tony Ranger** has had to resign from the Association through ill health. He's requested that we send no more Newsletters to him as he's unable to read them. We have also lost **John Farrier** of Crawley, who's son - also **John** - notified me from Norway of his death, enclosing a generous donation to the Association funds for the pleasure his father got from reading about the exploits of this Branch. This now brings me onto a request: **John** was at Thirsk and Uxbridge in the early '40s and had two friends there - **Charlie Noel** from Derbyshire, and **Norman Reed**, who was last heard of in Copthorne, Sussex. **John** (Junior) has been trying to trace them, without success, and would appreciate our assistance. Does anyone remember **John Farrier** at Thirsk or Uxbridge? Does anyone remember **Charlie** or **Norman**? If you do, please let me know (**Paul Quinn** 32 Windsor Way, POLEGATE, East Sussex, BN26 6QD, and I'll put you in touch with **John** (Junior) who would be very pleased to hear from you.

Remember the request I made for anecdotes, previously? The response wasn't very good, despite the tall stories that are told around the table at our get-togethers. However, I was able to collate enough to make up a book of them, and this will be coming out about the end of January. It will be priced at around £2:50 incl. p&p. It took me a long time to make up because some of the stories were so funny I couldn't stop laughing. I thoroughly recommend it to you all. You, too, will laugh when you read about the Colonel on the run-away donkey in Egypt, or the sad fate of the trainee DR.s when they encountered wet concrete on a newly built runway. What happened when **Ken White** obeyed the RSM's order to the exact word will have you doubled up with laughter. More details about the book when it eventually comes out in print. By the way, all profits from this book go to the funds of the 12th, 15th, & 18th AFSA. Talking of books, if anyone is interested, I still have copies of the book I wrote about life as an AA Patrol in the 1950s and '60s when we rode the motorbikes. It tells of the training we underwent, and the humorous incidents we encountered on the road in those days. Priced at £2:00 it is now a collector's item. Cheques to me for an autographed copy of 'The Yellow Motorbike'- an ideal Christmas present!

If any of you know any ex-Air Formation Signals wallahs in this area, please try to rope them into our Branch, and tell them to come to our next get-together at Bexhill in April. Date yet to be arranged. Even if they're not ex-AFS they will still be welcome. **Toby Stickley** is ex-RAF and therefore an Associate Member, but he still made us laugh when he told us some of his stories from the view of the 'Brylcream Boys' earlier this month. I've had 'phone calls from **Johnny Egan** and **Colin Morgan** who are extremely pleased with the way this Branch is 'mucking-in'. They keep complimenting me on organising it all, but I keep telling them that it is you lads who should be congratulated for coming to the get-togethers. Without your attendance there would be no get-togethers, and if we didn't have any get-togethers how could we laugh and joke about those old days and bring back happy memories? When we first started to use the De La Warr for these little re-unions the cafeteria used to be almost empty. When we attend now, the place is full, and we are crammed into a corner of a spare dining room round a huge table, and this dining room is now nearly full, too. I think visitors come just to see us enjoying ourselves over our coffees and lunches. 'Look, Mum, there are those funny old ex-soldiers we've been hearing all about. I wonder what they're saying.' 'Hush, dear, it must be rude by the way they're all laughing!' It only remains for me to wish you all an early Merry Christmas, and I do hope to see as many of you as possible at our next April get-together.

OPERATION GRANBY REUNION

SUPPORT HELICOPTER FORCE SIGNAL SQUADRON (4 SQUADRON) 21 SIGNAL REGIMENT (AIR SUPPORT)

It is hoped to hold a Reunion in March or April 2001, for all ex-members of the Squadron. The dates are yet to be finalised but Bath will be the venue for the event. Anyone who is interested is asked to contact the following:

SSgt Paul Parkes Blandford Mil 2903
E-mail: paulscottparkes@hotmail.com

Sgt Shaun Fardy Aldershot Mil 3749
E-mail: sfardy@yahoo.co.uk

254 OBA REUNION

The club is now an affiliated branch of the Royal Signals Association, just in time for the Millennium and for our eleventh re-union. We had a change of venue this year to the Royal Stuart Hotel in Derby. Not too many managed to get mislaid in the Derby one way system and all said that they had a fairly easy journey to get to Derby. Once again we had one of our down under exiles with us – **Bob Shaw**, and from Spain **Anna** and **John Dove** . There was the usual Welsh contingent and the odd Scot - although NOT resident North of the Border. Our ex India Boys contingent were there in strength, also in evidence were three Cadre members **Norman Baker, Derek Cropper** and **Bill Medhurst**. Two Widows came **Val Forster** and **Jean Johnson**. Then there was our wheelchair contingent **Mavis Ramsay**, **Maureen Gibson**, and **Roy Hunter**, a warm welcome to them all. The Friday as usual was arrival day and by the evening the bar was doing a roaring trade and tongues were wagging, to think it's only a year since they last saw each other. There was no outing planned for the Saturday so people were free to do their own thing. For most it was a trip to Derby's Eagle Shopping Centre and indoor market. All agreed that it was fabulous for shopping. Also on the agenda the Royal Crown Derby Museum and factory shop - well worth seeing. Others went to the arboretum especially to visit the memorial to our Korean war-dead. Still others went visiting friends etc.

The Saturday evening semi formal dinner took place starting at 1830hrs to allow plenty of time for the dancing. **George Severs** was once more in the chair and in his speech he welcomed all attendees and especially our widows and wheelchair members. He thanked **Ann** and **Pat Fox-Roberts** for their organisation of the event and **Clare Brown** and **Val Forster** for their collecting of subs from attendees and the donations towards a 70th Birthday present for **Ann Fox-Roberts** whose birthday it just happened to be. The hotel staff and in particular the chef were thanked — what a difference to the way we were treated at Stafford a year ago. **George** then pointed that this was the Eleventh year that we had had the **Del Polton** band. Maybe we should be considering them for honorary 254 membership. At this point **George** asked **Roy Hunter** to say a few words. **Roy** who has been confined to a wheelchair for the last three years explained that as a result of his sponsored walk albeit pushing his wheelchair he had raised £4136. The reason for his walk was **Tristan Hyman** a nine-year old who in addition to being a MS sufferer had also a badly twisted leg that needed two operations. **Tristan** has had the operations in Addenbrookes hospital and now has the use of his leg. The money was split £2000 for the operations and £2000 to Addenbrookes. The remaining £136 went to a charity that supported the childrens' ward in Addenbrookes. **Roy** thanked all 254's for their generosity in making it all possible. Well done **Roy**. **George** then called on **Peter McNaughton** who as usual proposed the toast to our departed comrades. The list now totals 105 with the new additions of **Danny Daniels, Jim Iverson, Ted Crampton, Butch Eastham, Gordon Howie, Charlie Murrant, Dave Rye** and **Gus McDonald. Peter McNaughton** then reminded the gathering that even the youngest member of 254 was now an OAP, a very sobering thought. Finally **George** gave out the news that **Brian Fisher** had volunteered to be the secretary - a daunting task - well done **Brian**. The formal part was then complete and soon the band was in full swing. The bars got busy again and tongues kept up their ceaseless wagging — how much more can be said? The evening ended with the playing of the national anthem after which there was a gradual drift to bed. All too soon it was Sunday (even with the clocks being put back an hour) and with many farewells all departed vowing to return again next year. In addition to those mentioned the following attended:

Deadly Baker	John Bass	Jack Batham
Mike Bayliss	Reg Brewin	Dennis Bowden
Jim Braid	David Bussell	Dennis Burge
Ken Brown	Wally Brown	Doug Bower
Eddie Brewer	Gerry Brewer	Titch Curtis
Dukie Cairns	Don Capon	Noel Clark
Casey Cole	Alan Crabtree	Jim Crow
Stuart Dunlop	Jim Esson	Ray Evans
Ron Fairbairn	Ken Francis	Chris Gentry
Bill Gibson	Bill Graham	Bill Grieve
John Grigsby	Don Hazel	Harry Hawke
John Heard	Don Herring	Bill Hills
John Jarratt	Bob Jarratt	Jim Jenkins
Roy Kelly	Bill Leech	Ken Lloyd
Fred Love	Tim Martin	Brian McDonell
John Mann	Mac McKay	Ted Mellor
Lou Munday	Don Nichols	Brian Huxley - Duggan
Geoff Oakley	Stan Parry	Ron Pearsall
Frank Pedley	Nat Preece	Bill Ramsay
John Radford	Terry Reeves	Dave Ross
Gordon Schofield	Don Savage	Alan Searle
Ernie Short	Toby Seymour	Roy Smithard
Busty Slade	Derry Smith	Brian Stockwell
Pat Soward	Clive Thompson	John Venning
Jess Weir	John Walke	Ernie Webb
Cliff Wood	John Wood	Peter West
Stan Whitehead	Bruce Howie	J. Hewson
David Abercrombie	Jack Allison	C. Ashton
Nigel Ribchester.		

Some late news - **Colin** 'Jim' **Stear** who had his leg amputated below the knee a couple of months ago has now had his artificial leg fitted and he arrived back home on Saturday, 18 November, walking unaided. Looking forward to seeing you in Derby in October 2001 **Colin**.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001

The Royal Signals Association's AGM combined with the Branch Representatives' meeting will take place in Chelsea Barracks on **7 April** and not the 2 April as printed in the December issue of *The WIRE*

602 ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS 2001 REUNION

WHERE...?

WHEN...?

WHO...Any ex or serving regular member of 602 Signal Troop (SC) or 1 (RBY) Signal Squadron (SC)

Contact: **Gordon Duncan**
Home Tel: 01923 835862
Work Tel: 01923 838020

LOST COMMS

Mr Leonard Moore would like to hear from any of his former pals from Trowbridge 'H' Squad of 'A' Coy from September 1940. **Leonard** can be contacted on 01277 352449.

Back Row: Sigs L. C. Moore, W. A. Perks, W. Wheatley, K. C. Jackson, S. E. Cullam, H. R. H. White, E. H. Becraft, E. Hall
Middle Row: Sigs F. A. Argent, J. W. Durston, E. Hughes, A. James, N. J. Cox, P. M. Skeens, E. V. Tombs
Front Row: Sigs R. Mash, J. S. Meekin, C. S. Oatey, M. E. G. Francis, E. H. G. Terry, P. Cooke

Were you in 1 ASSU from 1954 - 1960? Six of us are still alive and functioning. Do you recognise **Don Prescott, Colin Stephens, Vic Prees, Tony Hull, Mike Enright** or 'Prof' **Newson**? If so please ring **Vic Prees** on 01841 540570 or E-mail him on: vicprees@talk21.com

Ted Redfern would like to hear from anyone who remembers him from his time with 104 Beach Signals during the 'D Day' landings. **Ted** can be reached on 01209 890120

Maj (Retd) Bill Lavers served in Matruh Fortress Signals as a cipher operator during 1940-41. The CO was **Maj Lazell** and the SSM was 'Paddy' **Walsh**. **Bill** would love to hear from any readers who were at Mersa Matruh at that time. Contact him on 0118 983 2016.

From: **Maj Gen E. W. H. Huntley, (PIVR) Ret'd**
OVM, OWE, GCPR, GCSP, GCKM, CdeV, C
58 Langton Road,
London,
Ontario,
CANADA, N5V 2M1
Tel: 519 455 9303
Fax: 519 455 9868
E-mail: ernie@skynet.ca

Dear Sir,

The original 'F' troop, No. 2 Coy Egypt Command Signals (later known as the Pivot Group, 7th Support Group and 7th Motor Bde, 7th Armd Div), provided communications for the 3rd RHA, then with 25pde Guns on 18pdr (mountain) Gun chassis. This Regiment converted to an Anti tank role in 1939 with the 2pdr Bofors gun. I was then working with J Battery.

This photo was taken in 1938 at the Gun Range, Rebiquie, on the north side of the Cairo-Suez Road, about 25kms east of Heliopolis. The troop was seconded to the 4th RHA upon that unit's arrival in Egypt. For a short time, my detachment was attached to 'C' Battery, 4th RHA (**Capt** 'Jock' **Campbell** - later Maj Gen VC - was 2IC), crouching front and centre are **Jimmy Beale,** 'Tottie' **Tate** (killed in action), and 'Deadlegs' **Williams**. Standing (L-R) are **Cpl Grant**, 'Paddy' **MacQueen, Raymond Moreby,** ('Jock' **Beasley** - Command Champion Swimmer), 'Jiddy' **Donaldson, Cpl Ulric Oliver, Ernie Huntley,** 'Wally' **Keeley, Tom Vinyard** and **LCpl Vasilla** (line) and on the top of the vehicle **Du-tiot** Radio Mech. Missing, the Line Section, another Lance Corporal, **Clements** and 'Busty' **Hicks**. 'Nobby' **Clarke** (Operator Signals and Command Campion Boxer) who took the photo and **Sgt Ivison**, (whom, when I last saw him at BuqBuq, Egypt 1940, had been promoted to WO2).

I wonder how many are still with us, I believe **Cpl Grant** received a War-time Commission, 'Deadlegs' **Williams** transferred to the Field Security Police in Cairo, at his own request, in 1940.

Sincerely and Forever Aye.....

From: **Professor Duncan Harris**
Forge Cottage
Green Lane
Hooke
BEAMINSTER
Dorset, DT8 3PF
Tel: 01308 863337

Dear Sir,

Hooke Court, Dorset, 1941 onwards;
Rampisham Transmitter, 1941 onwards

I am writing a history of Hooke, a village in Dorset. According to older residents the Royal Signals were using Hooke Court from about 1941. It may be that those living there were operating the Rampisham Transmitter, at the top of the hill overlooking Hooke. I have been unable to trace the Unit. If anyone served at either the Rampisham Transmitter or was living at Hooke Court, I should be grateful for *any information* (for example: the Unit, the number of personnel involved, whether any other homes in Hooke were used for a billet, etc). I would like to hear about Hooke during the war: what it was like; what the 15th century wing of Hooke Court looked like (it has since been demolished). Any photographs of anything in Hooke would be most welcome and will be returned.

Yours faithfully…

COMCENS 'E' & 'F'- 2 Div 1966 to 1970

Mick Quennell and **Bill Bailey,** formerly COMCEN 'E' from 1966 to 1970, are very keen to locate other Troop members who served with them during the same period with a view to a possible reunion. **Alan** 'Geordie' **Richardson**, 'Slim' **Cummins, Barry Wauby**, 'Lofty' **Hobbs**, 'Taff' **Jones, Ronnie Campbell, Ron Barrett, Reg Dukes, Benny Bingham** and former Troop SNCOs **Kenny Harlick** and **Jack Blackburn** are just a few names that spring to mind but there were so many good people. We have fond memories of some great tines had during this period which at times seemed like one continuous party. **Bill** can be contacted at: 94 Downland Drive, HOVE, East Sussex BN3 8GL, Tel: 01273 730485. **Mick** can be contacted on 07971 325185. **Bill** will give people **Mick's** full address and land line telephone number if required.

My father, **Philip Wallis** (known, I think, as 'Nellie' **Wallis** after a music hall artist of the time) served in the Corps from 1940 to 1945, demobilising with the rank of Acting Lieutenant Colonel. From December 1941 until 1945 he served in India and Burma. I am trying to find out rather more about his service during the war, as he was very reticent about it. He died in March 1988. I should be very grateful if anyone who has any memories of him, however slender, could contact me: **Nigel Wallis** Cariss House, Huby, York, YO61 1HS.
Tel/Fax: 01347 810612, E-mail: nigel.wallis@barclays.net

CORRESPONDENCE

From: **Douglas Bellshaw**
13 Great Hall Close
Radcliffe
MANCHESTER
M26 4DA

Dear Sir, (**Peter Cuckow**)

This is a letter of thanks, may I first introduce myself. I am ex-**Cpl 23963529**, born Plymouth and married to ex-COMMCEN Op **W/430277 Elizabeth** (nee: Nisbet born Manchester). I joined, and ran for the Corps from 1966-75. After de-mob and pre-release course I joined the Greater Manchester Police and retired in 1995.

Sadly I had lost contact with all my old mates from 653 Signal Troop at Manorbier, South Wales. I am in contact with ex-crewmen from 7 Signal Regiment. **Dave** 'Chippy' **Carpenter,** of 20 Beddington Brompton Road, Weston Super Mare. I have also made contact with **Lorraine Ward** inj Truro, Cornwall and **Ron Smith** in Manchester. I'm extremely pleased to inform you that my advert in your Newsletter 2000 made my day. Yesterday evening there was the usual knock on the door, the gentleman who stood there and handed me the Newsletter had managed to track me down. It was **Ian Lorimer** of 55 Notredame Gardens, Blackburn, Lancashire, only a short distance away. We had served together in 653 Signal Troop, Manabier, attached to 36 HVY Air Defence, RA. I am extremely grateful to everyone concerned in re-uniting us. Apparently we are the only two from 653 to meet. Hopefully this will be the first of many more meetings.

I do recall being at Blandford for MPC and or my preparation for the 45 AYT at Prittlewell Information Office, Southend. If my memory serves me correctly my instructor was a **Sgt Nurse**? *(Editor: You're quite right)* Although aprehensive I felt I had to write and thank all those concerned and all the staff at the Royal Signals Association on a job well done.

Yours Faithfully.....

From: **Maj (Retd) F. E. Sykes**
13 Rue Montgermont,
77690 Montigny-sur-Loing
FRANCE

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in your article (letter?) in *The WIRE* (about the SOE with which the late **Col F. W. Nicholls** was concerned. He was in command of 3 Inf Div Sigs at Bulford when I was posted there in the summer of 1939. One could not have wished for a kinder or more understanding CO. I took over 'Y' Section which served (and still does:) 8 Inf Bde. We went to France for the winter, fought in Belgium in the spring, were evacuated via Dunkirk and were chosen to be re-equipped immediately with a view to returning to France. Fortunately, this never happened. I spent the next four years in various jobs in the UK and in 1944 was 2IC of an Independent Armd Bde & Sig Sqn. We went to France in July and I took over command in September. So much for my credentials, now back to **Nicholls**, affectionately known as 'Daddy'.

As you say, he had a vast experience of two closely connected subjects: how to intercept enemy communications (both radio and line) and how to protect our own. Even when employed in other spheres; he was known as a pundit on intercept, and his advice was sought both officially and demi-officially. The purpose of this article/ letter is to show the danger of applying principles in an inappropriate context.

First of all there was radio. It was said in the 1930s that the cavalry had taken it seriously and were fast progressing. The gunners had just met it and were making good use of it, and the infantry had never heard of it, which was not surprising because it had not reached them, except in the form of a rear-link station provided by the Royal Signals. Their enthusiasm was undoubtedly dampened by the fact that only some four officers in the battalion were likely to get close to the detachment. In 1939, the forward troops of the BEF were billeted around Lille. Permanent radio silence was enforced. In order to train, we had to drive about 20 miles south, if possible, taking a few infantry officers with us in order to familiarise them with the equipment. What made the restrictions ridiculous was that Belgium was neutral and thousands of workers crossed the frontier daily, thus enabling conventional espionage to get a far better idea of our order of battle than any interception of our exercise radio traffic. Later, if I remember rightly, the restriction was lifted, but not before precious months had been wasted.

Now we take a look at line communications. In the 1914-18 war, vast concentrations of troops faced one another over very short distances. This provided enormous opportunities for intercepting both telegraphy and telephony. The invention of the Fullerphone largely solved the problem for telegraphy. Where telephony was concerned nothing much could be done apart from speaking discreetly and patrolling as thoroughly as conditions permitted. Our forebears, however, had scented another danger: the telephone bell. I do not know when the decision was taken, but we ended the 1918 war and in some theatres, started the 1939 one, with the telephone D1, which had neither bell nor magneto ringer, but on1y a buzzer. This called for a special type of field switchboard, the principle of which was that each circuit terminated on a 'watch-type' receiver. When the operator heard a buzz, he put his hand over each receiver in turn until he had located the caller, whereupon he plugged into the appropriate jack. One might have thought that 'bellophobia' and 'buzzermania' would have perished in the '20s and '30s, especially since anyone can muffle a bell by turning the gongs upside down. But no such luck, the new field telephone, D5, was much like its predecessor. The contemporary switchboard, however, was high-tech. It could be called by buzzer, magneto and (I think) CBS. The calling signal actuated a sensitive relay that in turn actuated a pea-bulb that indicated the line to be answered. The invention was hailed with much praise but - alas - the field trials must have been too gentle, because it was soon proved that travel on bumpy roads or some nearby shelling completely upset the relays. They were, of course, readjusted as soon as possible, but in the meantime the HQ was incommunicado, and the OC Signals was told in no uncertain terms what would happen to him .....unless!! - experto crede!

The problem persisted throughout the war. Happily, partial relief was provided in the shape of field-telephony equipment obtained from friend and foe. The German forward-area switchboard was a masterpiece of simplicity and ruggedness. It consisted of a number of 4-line units, each line of which had a drop-flap indicator, a plug and a jack. All the operator had to do was to bring his own field telephone - magneto, of course!!

PS: Can any reader tell me of a major power that was, or is, equipped with buzzer telephones for use in forward areas ?

Yours sincerely.....

From: **Maj TOT (Retd) C. G. Webb**
1 Westminster Close
Burn Bridge
HARROGATE
N. Yorkshire HG3 1 LT
Tel: 01423-873237

Dear Sir,

Wire Magazine - Size of Print

Is it my imagination - but over the last few years has the size of the print in *The WIRE* got smaller? Perhaps I am going blind contrary to my optician findings, or is it just my age? Can I be the only one who has this difficulty? If there is anything you could do to increase the size of print to the size it used to be I am sure it would be appreciated by many old lags!

At the moment I skimp through the magazine with difficulty - then if anything looks interesting I get out the Magnifying glass to reduce eye fatigue.

Of course I recognise that increasing the size of print would increase the size and subsequent cost, however, I think the benefit would be outweighed by the fact more of the articles would be read! Perhaps you might even be able to down load it onto a CD for distribution. Wow, technology goes rampant!

Yours sincerely.....

(Editor's Reply: We have spot checked the size of the print in The WIRE going right back to the first edition, (printed in 1921). The size of the print has not changed. I have a similar problem to you and unfortunately it is just our age. The idea of down loading it to a CD for distribution is an interesting one and we will be looking into it.)

From: **Maj TOT (Retd) Cliffe Webb**
1 Westminster Close,
Burn Bridge
HARROGATE
N. Yorkshire HG3 1 LT
Tel: 01423-873237

Dear Sir,

Just for the Record

In the June edition of *The WIRE* at page 297 under the heading BEVERLY EX-BOYS Association, it was stated that **Cliffe Webb** had advised them that he could be the longest serving ex-boy. In fact the author of that article had been informed that I believed that I was the longest serving Beverly Ex-Boy to include Beverly and Regular Service only. I did not include TA continuation service, as I was well aware that

there are many other Beverly Ex-Boys eg: **(Tony Murray/John Morrison** who having completed man service continued with PSAO service. So contrary to the article in the August edition of *The WIRE* from **Capt (Retd) J. Esson** (who was not a Beverly Ex-Boy) I believe I had the longest Regular Service of the Beverley Ex-Boys!
Yours sincerely.....

From: **R. F. Venables** (Ex Signalman 2369854)
10 The Knolls
Barrowby
GRANTHAM
NG32 1AY
Tel: 01476 561297

Dear Sir

For the last couple of months I've been trying to appease my curiosity regarding a posting that went wrong in the Second World War - I know I've left it rather late in life to pursue the subject. I have written to the Army Records Office who passed my enquiry on to the MOD Historical Branch who in turn suggested I approach the Royal Signals Museum. They could not help but thought a mention in *The WIRE* might bring some light to bear. I must add that the Historical Branch offered two practical solutions - one to visit the Public Records Office, alternatively employ a researcher unfortunately both suggestions beyond my means. So here is my story!

I was called up to the Royal Signals in April 1941 reporting to Ossett to undertake my 'square bashing'. From there I went to Huddersfield, to train as a wireless operator. After duly qualifying as a B3 operator it was on to Kirkburton holding unit, and then on to the Royal Signals unit at Mons Barracks, Aldershot (later to be transferred to Englefield Green near Egham). From here, in August 1942, I was posted overseas. Being the wireless operator in a squad of four under the charge of a **Cpl Johnson**, with the label 'Special Mission Section', (I've a hazy memory that it carried the number 14). We boarded the ship *'Highland Brigade'* at Bristol then sailed up to Gourock to join a convoy. We disembarked at Durban to be eventually informed by the RTO that he knew nothing about us. We were instructed to board a boat that took us to Diego Suarez in Madagascar and served there for about three months. We then transferred to Nairobi and were absorbed into the East African Divisional Signals.

What I would like to know is where we were intended to carry out our 'Special Mission'. I don't think this title was misleading as we took on board the *'Highland Brigade'* complete equipment for a wireless station right down to distilled water for the batteries. I repeat, I know I've left it rather late in seeking an answer but I would be grateful for any assistance anyone can offer to relieve my curiosity. Please accept my thanks in anticipation.
Yours sincerely.....

From: **Len Turner**
63 Maycroft
PINNER
HA5 3UB

Dear Sir,

I served with the 149 Anti-Tank Regiment, Signal Section during the Siege of Tobruk in 1941 and intend to join the 60th Anniversary celebrations in Brisbane, next April.

For some years I have been a member of the London Branch of 'The Rats of Tobruk Association' but due to decreasing numbers it is closing down this year. None of the remaining members are fit enough to travel to the Australian Reunion. At the present time I am in contact with: **Mr Ron Hall**, 14 Chase Avenue, CHELTENHAM, Gloucestershire, GL52 6YU, who is Secretary of the Cheltenham Branch of the Royal Tank Regimental Association. He is organising a party of 20, to make the trip to Australia. At the last check we had mustered nine. I am wondering whether any of your readers are ex-Tobruk Signals and may, perhaps, be interested in joining the group.

The trip will start on 1 April, 2001, with a stopover of two days in Singapore and two days in Hong Kong on the return trip. 14 days altogether at an inclusive cost of around £1500.
Best Regards.....

From: **Ron Larby**
178 Braemar Avenue
NEASDEN
NW10 0DS

Dear Sir,

I thought that those RSA Members who don't get down to London might like to see a shot of the Royal Signals plot in the Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.

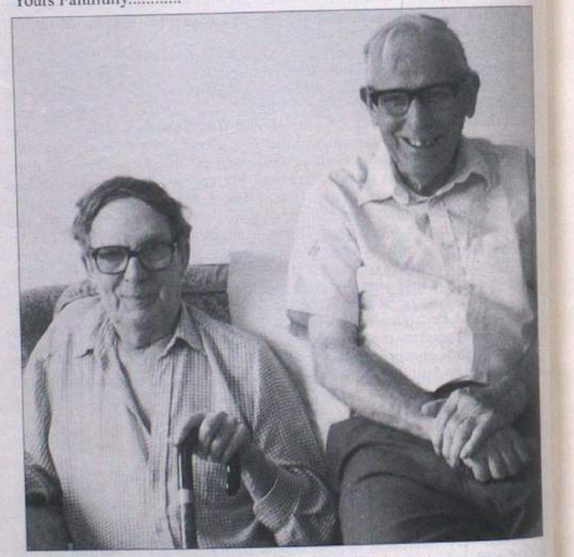
Whilst inspecting the plot at the Opening Day, Thursday 8 November, I was approached by a chap, who noticing my Korean Medals asked me when I was there. He had a slight trans-Atlantic accent and when he replied to my answer, '1951-52,' with '52-53,' I had an inkling of who he was and I was right! He was **Terry Wickens** who had been in the same Troop as myself 'K', 28 Infantry Brigade Signals. He had later emigrated to Canada and we hadn't seen each other since 1952!

Terry explained that he had come over to take part in the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War BKVA contingent at the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph. I met **Terry** again at the Parade, which was headed by the BKVA this year. The Royal Signals was well represented amongst the 1200 members that took part in the Parade.
Regards.....

From: **Ernest** 'Joe' **Glover**
21 Melrose Park
BEVERLEY
HU17 8JL
Tel: 01248 869344
Fax: 01248 328327

Dear Sir,

Below is a photograph of **Sgm Bob Coppen** who was a Driver whilst attached to 10th Field Regiment RA 2 Division in India. We served together for over two years with 2 Div and only separated after returning to the Depot in Mhow, just before Partition. We lost contact with each other 43 years ago after we'd both married and it has taken quite a while to find each other. It was only after I had combed the London telephone directory that I was able to speak to a relative. However, it took a further two years to discover his whereabouts, Bournemouth. We are both in poor health but not down-hearted and regularly speak on the phone and exchange news by letter. We met, for the first time after so long, in April this year and had a five-day holiday in Bournemouth in September. We were able to talk over our experiences together. We had joined 2 Div just after Kohima and stayed with 10th Field before I was posted to Palestine with the Life Guards. I hope some of your Readers will find the foregoing of interest.
Yours Faithfully.....



From: **Maj A. Helm** R. SIGNALS
IMATT
Op Basilica
BFPO 622

Dear Sir,

SIERRA LEONE - JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT (JCU)

As some of your readers will be aware there are a number of Royal Signals personnel serving with the International Military Advisory Training Team (IMATT) in Sierra Leone. Our aim is to form a Joint Communications Unit organised into five Squadrons with a strength of 35 Officers and 459 ORs. It will be a long, frustrating but satisfying task.

There has been a strong historical link between the Sierra Leone Signal Squadron and the Royal Signals since the end of the Second World War. Between 1944 and 1968, seven Royal Signals Officers commanded the Squadron. Unfortunately because of the civil war and disturbance in the country most of the history and all of the memorabilia has been lost.

I would be grateful if any of your readers who either served or knew people who served in Sierra Leone during this time could fill in some of the history. The names of previous Commanders are:

1944-48	**Capt A. R. Duke**	R. SIGNALS
1948-53	**Maj R. E. Scouller MBE**	R. SIGNALS
1953-56	**Capt K. E. P. Andrews MBE**	R. SIGNALS
1956-58	**Capt D. A. G. MacKail**	R. SIGNALS
1958-59	**Maj M. G. M. Panton**	R. SIGNALS
1959-63	**Capt F. V. B. Phillip**	R. SIGNALS
1963-68	**Maj S. W. Mawson MBE**	R. SIGNALS

The JCU would also be grateful to receive plaques from any Royal Signals unit who feel they can afford to donate one, with the promise that eventually Sierra Leone will reciprocate in kind.
Yours Sincerely.....

DONATIONS

Mrs M. Williams	£ 40.00
Mr R. E. Oldham	£ 50.00
Mr H. G. Miller	£ 10.00
David Hopkins	£ 47.00
A. H. McVitie TD WS	£ 20.00
Mrs J. Greenstreet	£ 25.00
Mrs E. C. Withey	£ 10.00
Mr H. Ladbrooke	£ 10.00
RSA Poole	£ 100.00
RSA Peterborough	£ 33.00
RSA Preston & Blackburn	£ 30.00
RSA Cornwall	£ 450.00
RSA Salisbury	£ 50.00
Blandford Tower Run the profits	£ 400.00
Dedication W. Wales Branch Standard	£ 47.43
42 Signal Regiment's Officers' Club	£ 164.00
33 Corps (SEAC) Association	£ 100.00
First Army Signals Reunion Association	£ 40.00
Beverley Ex-Boys Association	£ 25.00
Mrs Betty Gunn for the RSA Memorial Garden	£ 30.00
Don Ellingworth in memory of a friend	£ 10.00
Mrs M. F. H. Boswell in memory of H. E. Wilkins	£ 20.00
Maj (Retd) T. McKirgan in memory of Bill Duke	£ 25.00
Mr F. R. G. J. Rapsey in memory of Lt Col F. G. G. Rapsey	£ 50.00
Mr F. R. Johnson in memory of Lt Col R. J. K. Fenton	£ 10.00
3 Div Reunion Club in memory of Maj J. Hornby	£ 10.00
Maj (Retd) Steve Bresloffin memory of Lt R. Hornby BEM	£ 20.00
Lt Col (Retd) B. Beattie in memory of Lt Col T. N. Skelly	£ 50.00
Col D. B. Emley OBE in memory of Lt Col W. Stodart	£ 100.00
Collection in memory of Maj Eric Buirski	£ 310.00
Darland School, Wrexham in memory of Maj Eric Buirski	£ 67.50
Mrs P. B. Wood in memory of Maj Eric Buirski	£ 5.00
M. Robinson in memory of Maj Eric Buirski	£ 20.00
Maj W. Oates in memory of Maj Eric Buirski	£ 10.00
Collection in memory of WO1 M. F. B. Garland	£ 605.00
Lt Col T. P. O'Connor in memory of WO1 M. F. B. Garland	£ 20.00
W. Kay in memory of Brian Garland	£ 25.00
Langeleben Reunion Club in memory of Brian Garland	£ 20.00
3 Div Sigs Reunion Club in memory of Mr H. W. Palmer	£ 10.00
Maj (Retd) S. Bresloff in memory of Maj (Retd) R. G. Aitken	£ 20.00
RSA Reading in memory of Maj (Retd) T. G. Robinson ERD	£ 10.00

LAST POST

Aitken - Maj R. G. Aitken	Served 1946/86	Died 11/12/00
Armitage - CSM C. B. Armitage	Served WW2	Died Sep '00
Armstrong - Cpl B. Armstrong	Served 1964/77	Died 04/11/00
Bevan - Maj G. J. Bevan MM	Served 1936/71	Died 15/12/00
Brown - Maj M. P. Brown	Served 19??/00	Died 29/10/00
Buirski - Maj E. J. Buirski	Served 1935/70	Died 27/10/00
Churcher - WO2 N. C. Churcher	Served 1975/93	Died 03/07/97
Clark - Maj D. A. N. Clark	Served 1944/67	Died 02/11/00
Clayton - Capt J. R. Clayton	Served 1939/46	Died Feb '00
Cocke - Maj J. W. G. Cocke	Served 1938/57	Died 23/10/00
Coles - Sig G. Coles	Served 1952/54	Died 05/11/00
Copestake - Mr A. A. Copestake	Served 1946/68	Died 16/05/00
Dodd - Lt Col J. Dodd	Served	Died 10/11/00
Donald - Lt Col G. B. Donald	Served 1939/74	Died 22/11/00
Donaldson - LCpl F. Donaldson	Served 1941/46	Died 07/11/00
Flack - Sig J. W. Flack	Served 1944/48	Died 2000
Grainger - Brig D. H. Grainger OBE GC STJ	Served 1940/72	Died Mar '00
Gray - Maj T. J. Gray	Served 1938/	Died 18/06/00
Hendrie - Sig R. M. Hendrie	Served 1938/45	Died 2000
Hornby - Maj J. W. Hornby	Served 1960/00	Died 02/12/00
Hornby - Lt R. Hornby BEM	Served 1944/48	Died 11/11/00
Hunt - Sig G. L. Hunt	Served 1957/60	Died Oct '00
James - Capt C. V. James	Served 1939/44	Died Oct '00
Jones - Sig R. Jones	Served 1941/45	Died 21/11/00
Mailey - LCpl R. L. Mailey	Served 1938/46	Died 07/11/00
Merritt - Sig C. A. Merritt	Served 1938/43	Died 06/12/00
Naylor - LCpl R. Naylor	Served 1946/48	Died 2000
Ormiston - Sig J. T. Ormiston	Served 1942/47	Died 28/09/00
Palmer - Sig H. W. Palmer	Served 1923/45	Died 25/12/00
Payne - WO2 D. W. Payne	Served 1959-81	Died 01/10/00
Pengelly - Sgt L. R. Pengelly	Served 1941/46	Died Nov '00
Piddington - Col J. R. Piddington OBE MC	Served 1932/69	Died Dec '00
Prentice - Sgt J. W. N. Prentice	Served 1938/46	Died 23/12/00
Rapsey - Lt Col F. G. G. Rapsey	Served 1940/71	Died12 /11/00
Robinson - Maj T. G. Robinson ERD	Served 1941/59	Died 26/11/00
Simmons - Sig P. J. Simmons	Served 1964/68	Died 24/05/00
Skelly - Lt Col T. N. Skelly	Served 1940/71	Died 29/10/00
Stodart - Lt Col W. A. K. Stodart	Served 1929/48	Died 14/11/00
Webb - Cpl R. C. Webb	Served 1972/84	Died 08/10/00

Williams - WO2 W. I. Williams Service in the Royal Signals 1939-1967. **Col L. W. Wright TD, DL,** writes - 'Taffy' **Williams** who was an efficient Permanent Staff Instructor with my Regiment, 46 (North Midland) Signal Regiment TA and later in 43 (Wessex) Signal Regiment TA, died on 16 October, 2000. He was a loyal, courageous and courteous man and his death leaves a grieving widow and many sad friends.

Payne - WO2 Donald William Payne died on 1 October, 2000. **Don**, to all who knew him - was born in Manchester on 14 October 1931. He grew up and attended school there during the war years. Tragically when he was only 15 years old his father died and only two years later was followed by his mother.

Don spent the next few years living with various aunts and uncles until at the age of 19 years he joined the Royal Air Force, He trained as a Nursing Orderly and served for a period of three years. He was discharged in the rank of Corporal after three years. Immediately after his service with the RAF he enlisted in the Manchester City Police in September 1953 and he served with them for five years until August 1958 when he retired as a constable. He then enlisted in the Royal Signals in 1959. Here he trained as a Radio Technician after which he served mainly in the UK until 1963 when he was posted to Singapore where he remained for the next two and a half years. In 1965 he was posted back to 8 Signal Regiment in Catterick where he was originally employed as an Instructor until he took over as Regimental Provost Sergeant for the next three years. In 1968 he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and posted to Cyprus where he remained until 1972, when further promotion and posting took him to Blandford where he stayed until 1976. After spending time in Germany he returned to the UK to spend his last six months in the Corps. He retired in the January of 1981. On his retirement he was employed with the US Air Force at Burtonwood, Lancashire. He remained with them for about five years. For a time he was in business with his son but ill health brought about his early retirement.

Don was well respected wherever he served and was a devoted member of the sergeants' Mess. His wonderful sense of humour endeared him to all who knew him. A devoted family man, **Don** is survived by his wife for 47 years, **Ellen**, his son two daughters and seven grand-children.

Cooper - Maj Henry William George Cooper was born in Harwich, the son of a regular soldier, on 15 November 1909. He joined F Coy Boys two months before his 15th birthday on 2 September 1924. One of his fondest memories of Boys service was just before Christmas 1924, when the RSM asked him if he would box for F Coy in the Boys Army Boxing Championships. 'No thank you, Sir' he replied. However, the RSM was not to be deterred, he asked **Harry** again, adding 'You do want Christmas leave, don't you?' **Harry** won his first two fights, got a bye in the semi final as his proposed opponent was too injured from his previous fight to continue. In the final, the Boys' Champion from the previous year, being older, bigger and much more experienced, as **Harry** would cheerfully recall, 'knocked skittles' out of him!

On being mustered into the ranks at the age of 18, **Harry** rose through the ranks and in 12 years was acting CSM. During this time he served in Quetta, India, from 1932 to 1937 where he experienced the major earthquake of 1937. On the outbreak of war, **Harry** was appointed to an emergency commission, promoted to Captain in 1940 and to Major in 1942. He spent the majority of the war in the Dutch East Indies and retired in 1948 with the honorary rank of Major. The same year, he moved with his wife **Doris**, whom he had married in 1930, from Portsmouth to London where they become 'house parents' at a school for maladjusted boys, a job they both loved and were very successful at. Later he became a Local Government Officer. In 1950, after 20 years of marriage, they were blessed with the birth of their only daughter, **Sally**. On retirement in 1974 they moved to Eastbourne, where in the early 1980s **Harry** became a member of the Eastbourne Branch of the Association. In 1985, **Harry** began voluntary care service to a fellow ex-Signaller, **Ken Biddleston**, who had multiple sclerosis that caused him to be confined to bed. Until **Ken's** death in 1999, **Harry** helped him invaluably to have the best quality of life possible and formed a firm friendship with him. **Ken** had been a member of 56 London Div Sigs and **Harry** was made an Honorary member of their Association in recognition of his valued work and friendship with **Ken**.

Harry died in October 2000, a month short of his 91st birthday. He was cremated in Eastbourne on 23 October. Joining the family were many members of the Eastbourne Branch and four members of 56 London Div Sigs. **Cpl John Bilby** of the Corps Band played the Retreat. **Doris** pre deceased **Harry** and our condolences go to daughter **Sally** and family. Harry was a stalwart member of the Branch and will be sadly missed.

Cushen – Terence J. Cushen, died on 10 October, 2000, in hospital after a short illness. He joined the Corps on 5 April, 1951 as a National Serviceman at Catterick and signed on there as a Regular on 20 March, 1953. From there his service was as follows - Catterick until January 1956. FARELF (19 Air Formation Signal Regiment) until November 1958 - BAOR (4 Signal Regiment) February 1959 to December 1961 - Catterick again until August 1965 - FARELF (18 Signal Regiment/237(COMCAN) Signal Squadron) until February 1968. Once again BAOR May 1968 (6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron/7 Signal Regiment) until March 1973. Northern Ireland (40 Ulster Signal Regiment (V)) until October 1974 then UK (34 Signal Regiment(V)) until March 1975. He had then completed his Regular Service and left the Corps as a WO1 (RSM). Not satisfied, however, he joined the TA&VR and was commissioned as a Captain in 34 Signal Regiment (V). On entering civvy street he became a civil servant at Darlington for 20 plus years until his retirement at 65 in 1998. A keen member of the RSA he joined Darlington branch in January 1976 became Vice Chairman in February 1977 and Chairman in February 1987. Terry's funeral service took place at the Holy Family RC Church in Darlington followed by a short service at the Crematorium. His comrades provided a Guard of Honour from the Darlington Branch of the RSA and a trumpeter from 34 Signal Regiment Band. There were many mourners from a number of Branches of the Association and his civilian friends. We send our sincere condolences to **Terry's** widow, **Margaret**, and his family. He will be sorely missed.

Hendrie – Sig Roderick Hendrie - It is with deep regret that the Branch has to announce that one of our oldest members, **Sig Roderick** 'Roddy' **Hendrie,** Life Association No. 34168, passed away peacefully in Gartnavel General Hospital Glasgow, on 2 November 2000 aged 84. **Roddy** went to America with his parents at the age of six and they returned to Scotland when he was 16. On joining the Royal Corps of Signals in 1936 he served until 1945 as a dispatch rider. His decorations include the 1939/45 Star, Africa Star, France and Germany star, the Defence Medal, War Medal 1939/45 and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. He also had the Dunkirk and Belgium Medals issued to the veterans by the French and Belgium governments.

Roddy served in the UK, BEF, France, Western Desert, Africa and Belgium. He was with the 9th Army, 8th Army and 1st Army a 'Desert Rat' and a Dunkirk Veteran. He had a proud record of service in the Corps. He joined the Dunkirk Veterans Association at the West of Scotland Branch and was their standard bearer for nearly 20 years. He joined the RSA at the Glasgow Branch in December 1991, shortly after it's inception. In civilian life 'Roddy' had a varied career as an oil tanker driver, taxi driver, chauffeur to John Brown's shipyard directors, their ambulance driver, their Fire Depot and supervisor in their security unit.

The funeral was held in the chapel of the Dalnottar Crematorium, Clydebank, on the 7 November 2000. It was packed with mourners, friends and family, who had come to pay tribute to a very nice man and comrade. The service was conducted by **Rev Ken Russell BD,** (Padre to the Dunkirk Veterans Association), who also gave the eulogy. The coffin was draped with the Dunkirk Veterans Assn. Standard and the pallbearers, **WO1 (SVWO) T. McVey, WO2 (SSM) M. McEvoy, SQMS J. Addison, Sgt J. Dollen, Sig D. Buntane** Royal Signals with **Sgt B. Yardley** and **Cfn K. G. Currie** REME, were in uniform. All of them are serving members of 32 Scottish Signal Regiment (V). Twenty members of the Royal Signals Association Glasgow Branch attended, acting as a guard of honour, with **Bill MacNamara** parading the branch standard. **Brian Warren**, the Branch Piper, played 'The Flowers of the Forest' and a medley of airs.

The Chairman and members of the Glasgow Branch, who feel that the Branch has lost one of the stalwarts of the Association, offer their sincere condolences to **Roddy's** family in their sad loss.

Gaskell - Lt. Col. W. T. M. Gaskell who died on 19 August 1999, was commissioned into Royal Signals in June 1940 having passed into the RMA Woolwich shortly before War was declared. After serving in various units in England he joined 1st Armoured Divisional Signals in the Western Desert in January 1942 for operations which included El Alamein and the Advance into Tunisia. He returned home with 4 RHA Signal Troop in December 1943 and remained with them until after the D-Day landings. In September 1944 he was posted to 51st Highland Division Signals on promotion to Captain. He was Mentioned in Dispatches during this period. A year later he was in the Middle East, again as a Grade II Staff Officer, returning to attend a short Telecomms course at Catterick in 1947. This led to him becoming an instructor at the Bristol University Training Corps where he met his future wife **Beatrice** who was on an exchange visit from a French university. He obtained his BSc after two years at Shrivenham returning to the School of Signals as an instructor in 1951. He was then selected to take part in the 1953 Atomic Trials at Woomera in Australia. The Technical Staff Course followed in 1954 after which he spent three years at Regimental duty in Germany. In 1960 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel linking the Signals Directorate to the Ministry of Supply. He left the Army in March 1963 after accepting the special terms offered at the time.

For the next ten years he worked as a Marketing Manager for Elliot Automation/GEC at Borehamwood, Frimley, and finally Portsmouth. He then joined the Institution of Civil Engineers in London as Assistant Secretary, finally retiring in 1985. Meanwhile with others he set up an Insurance Agency - Headley Financial Services - near his home and was Director and Company Secretary until 1991. During the years 1963-1998 he was joint-Secretary of the '1st Armoured Divisional Signals in Africa' Annual Reunion. In 1978 he organised a memorable visit of the Reunion to Ist Signal Regiment in Germany which was then commanded by **Maj Gen Peter Davies**. **Warryn Gaskell** was a man of quick intelligence and wisdom. His enthusiasm and warm friendship will be missed by all who knew him.

Pagan – Col A. Pagan MBE who has died aged 77, served the Corps for over 30 years with great distinction. He was a natural leader imbued with a high level of initiative and devotion to the officers and soldiers under his command, in whom he took particular pride in their physical fitness. The son of a Royal Engineer, **Archie** was born in Edinburgh on 8 July 1922. He went to school in London, but left aged 15 to join Western Electric. He demonstrated his courage at an early age whilst working as a Senior Clerk at the Ministry of Supply. He received the GOC's commendation Certificate for showing 'initiative and pluck' by rescuing eight men from a severely bombed house in Streatham.

He joined the Corps on 3 June 1941 and was posted to India. He was commissioned on 24 September 1944 and following training at the Signal Training Centre, Mhow he was posted to 240 Signal Troop of 6 Air Formation Signals and served with that Unit at Imphal and Kohima through to the capture of Rangoon. After the war he commanded 151 Terminal Equipment Troop of 19 Air Formation Signals. In 1948 he returned to the UK and spent four years as an instructor at the School of Signals. This was followed by a year with 12 AA (M) Signal Regiment TA before his selection for the 1954 Staff College Course. On graduation from Staff College he held two appointments in Malaya, first as GSO2 SD at HQ Malaya Command and them as GSO (Signals) at HQ Federal Malaya Military Forces. In 1956 he was responsible for a major intelligence operation against the terrorists. It was known that the terrorists had visited a shop in Seremban seeking a radio that would enable them to communicate with Radio Peking. Special Branch, using an agent, planted a suitable radio that would send out a signal when receiving transmissions. A team under **Archie's** leadership, built the necessary direction finding equipment that enabled the location of the terrorist camp to be established even though they only listened in for short periods. Based an this information the RAF bombed the camp and the follow up patrol found the bodies of 11 terrorists including a much wanted leader Tan Fut Lang. **Archie** was awarded the MBE for his services in Malaya.

At the end of 1959 he was posted to 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment where he spent two years before taking up the appointment of DAGMG (Maint) at HQ MELF. He returned to BOAR in 1963 where he spent just over a year as 2IC of 22 Signal Regiment. In May 1964 he took over command of 28 Signal Regiment. Following a successful tour in command he joined the LIVE OAK staff where he spent two and a half years. On promotion to Colonel in 1968 he became Chief Instructor at the School of Signals. In 1971 he took up his last appointment in the Army as Commander British Forces Antwerp.

After his retirement in 1972 he was employed by the DHSS where he organised immediate treatment courses for the rehabilitation of young offenders (an alternative to the short sharp shock courses). He also became very active in charity work and became vice chairman of the Royal Philanthropic Society. **Archie** was a keen railway enthusiast and had a detailed knowledge of trains, trams and their associated timetables. He enjoyed the theatre and was a keen bridge player. In 1963 he married **Mary Hancock**, they had one son.

Copestake - Mr Alan Albert Copestake BEM 1922 – 2000, Yeoman Goaler HM Tower Of London (Rtd): Born in Steyning, Sussex, in 1922, the son of an RHA Trooper, **Alan Copestake** was educated at the Bishop of Wordsworth School, Salisbury. He joined the Army in 1938, as a junior soldier in the Wiltshire Regiment. Just 17 when war was declared in 1939 and being too young to accompany his battalion to France, he transferred to the Royal Artillery where he first saw action whilst serving with an anti-aircraft/coastal defence unit, defending Portsmouth and the Naval base, through much of 1940. Shortly afterwards he was posted to 146 Field Regiment RA, busy equipping for overseas service and in early 1941 travelled via the Cape, South Africa, to Egypt where his Regiment became a part of 8th Army. He was then actively engaged in the Gazala (Boxes), Tobruk, and Alamein battles with his unit directly supporting 7th Armoured, 9th Australian and 4th Indian Divisions at various times throughout.

He continued service throughout the Libyan campaign and into Tunisia, where on 6 March 1943 whilst deployed with the Artillery Support Battery, 2 Scots Guards, during the opening stages of the Mareth Line Action, his unit received counter-battery fire and **Alan** was seriously wounded. He was evacuated through Egypt to South Africa for treatment and in the autumn of 1943 he was returned to the fray with 8th Army, by now engaged in the Italian campaign. In the summer of 1944 he was transferred to the British Military Mission to Greece and continued his active service throughout the Liberation and subsequent Civil War in that country. (Sadly, the foreign decoration that the Greek Government awarded for that campaign, which **Alan** had long applied for, arrived two days after he died, in May).

In early 1946 he returned, ostensibly for demobilisation to the United Kingdom, but decided to soldier on and later that year, now aged 24, he re-engaged for Regular Army service, for 22 years in the Royal Corps of Signals, as a Driver/Despatch Rider. Because of his previous war service and experience, promotion came swiftly. He became an MT Sergeant/Instructor with the Motorcycle and Driver Training Group of Royal Signals Training Brigade at Scarborough.

In 1951 he travelled with his family, to Germany to join 19 Army Group Signal Regiment in Bad Oyenhausen near Minden. This was then still the British Army of Occupation, Germany, with six war-strength Divisions and a developing Cold-War. Later, in 1952 **Alan** moved to Rheindahlen, when the new Garrison was being completed as the Headquarters of the recently established British Army of the Rhine. His unit was renamed Northern Army Group Signal Regiment, a part of the 'new' NATO. A short time later, in 1954 he was posted to, 2 Wireless Regiment, (Later, 9 Signal Regiment), in Cyprus. During this time he continued with his sport, Full Bore shooting, winning that year's Middle East Champion Rifle Shot, in Egypt. No small feat with the numbers of servicemen deployed for the impending Suez crisis and the EOKA emergency in Cyprus. In 1956 he returned to Germany and rejoined his previous unit shortly to re-title, 28 (NORTHAG) Signal Regiment, in Rheindahlen, continuing with his sport of Service Rifle shooting.

In 1960, **Alan** was posted as WO2 (SSM) to 14 (COMCAN) Signal Regiment, in Gloucester. He was Squadron Sergeant Major to the Receiver/Transmitter Units of the Regiment, first in Normandy, Surrey and then at Bampton in Oxfordshire. About this time, with a mind to retirement from the Army, he approached the Body of Yeoman Warders in the Tower of London, with a view to taking up that position as a second career. Not surprisingly, his aspirations were interrupted, due to his being posted as SSM to 222 (Air Formation) Signal Squadron, Khormaksar, Aden, during the upheaval of the colony's final two years under British administration. His responsibilities with this unit, typical of Air Formation- airfield support activity, extended throughout Aden and South Yemen, along the South Arabian Peninsula via Sharjah and half way up the Persian Gulf to Bahrain. It was familiar ground for **Alan** and service he enjoyed. In 1967, he returned for his final year of Service in Royal Signals, with his previous unit 14 Signal Regiment. He had then completed 30 Years of military service. Despite an invite to join Aden Police and indeed, continuance on the Long Service List, he decided to change uniform, joining the ranks of Yeoman Warders in the Tower of London, in February 1968.

The Tower - During his first years he was regularly involved in the social aspects of the Tower and carried out the activities of Club Steward and Chairman of the Yeoman Warders Club. Later, he was instrumental in changes and improvements that were made within the Club, drawing up plans for refurbishment to the facilities that were not fully implemented until after his retirement. He served as the Trades Union representative for the Body of Yeoman Warders and the Tower sales staff, negotiating much towards improving their working environment. **Alan** was also instrumental in establishing the Royal British Legion as a branch, within the Tower of London, entertaining and giving tours to parties from other national branches and institutions developing invaluable contacts that would assist Warders in later years. He worked hard for various charities, regularly visiting local hospitals and often sponsoring find raising events.

In 1977, **Alan** took part in a Red Cross and Service charity event in Germany, The Hallemunsterland concert, re-enacting the Ceremony of the Keys. He also travelled to Chicago, to a trade fair in support of the British Tourist Board and UK commerce. The late 1970's also saw the Royal Signals first appearing on Public Duties, **Alan** rendered much assistance to the Corps detachments deployed during that summer. **Alan** received the Queen's Jubilee Medal and in 1984 he was appointed Yeoman Goaler, followed two years later by the award of the Freedom of the City of London, for services rendered to the community. In 1987 he was awarded the British Empire Medal in recognition of his fifty years in uniform serving Queen and country, and the charitable work he had been involved in, during his time in the Tower. He retired, with his wife **Joan** to Horsham in 1987 and continued for many years in support of the Royal British Legion and indeed continuing to lecture and guide various institutions on British History and the Tower of London.

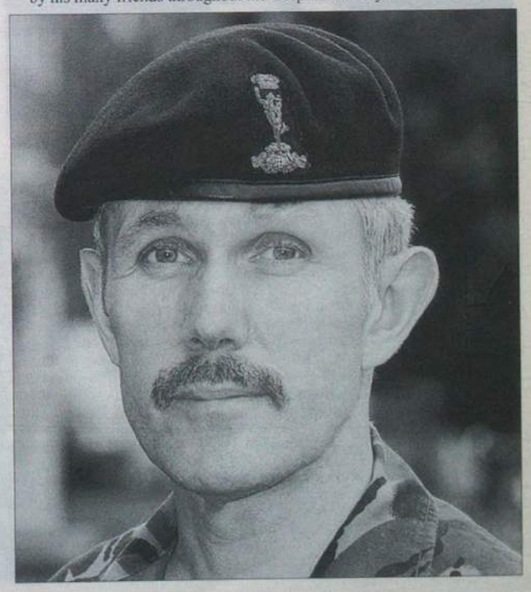
Alan died peacefully in St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley, following a prolonged illness on the 16 May, this year. 'The Beefeaters' provided the final honour and tribute by acting as pall -bearers at **Alan's** funeral, several of them were also ex-Corps members.

Turnbull - Maj Bob Turnbull who died on 30 October 2000 aged 49 had spent almost 30 years in The Army. An enthusiastic and well-respected officer, **Bob** was a diplomat possessing a certain charm but managing to still remain firm, fair and highly motivated. Cheerful and always good company he had time for all and paid close attention to the needs of the individual; he also had a passion for everything that he did and was involved with. He was hard working, determined, resilient, utterly reliable and had complete integrity: it is these characteristics that resulted in the consummate professional that was **Maj Bob Turnbull**.

Bob Turnbull was born on 22 June 1951 in Kelso in the Scottish Borders and was educated at Keith Grammar School. He initially joined the Cordon Highlanders in December 1971 as a private soldier and quickly made a good impression in the battalion. In his first year he was awarded the best recruit at his passing out parade, won the Regimental orienteering competition and a prize as best section leader. As a result he was soon selected for promotion to Lance Corporal and identified as having potential for commission. He therefore found himself at Sandhurst in November 1973 and at the age of 22 received a Special Regular Commission into the Royal Corps of Signals. His first appointment was as a Troop Commander at 4th Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment in 1974. During this first posting he completed his Royal Signals Officers Communications Qualifying Course in 1975, it was also during his time in Herford that he met his wife **Rosemary**. They married in August 1975 and went on to have their twin sons **Richard** and **Roland**, and their daughter **Louise**. In February 1977 he was posted to 3 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron in Portadown once again as a Troop Commander. After two years in the province he was posted to 5 Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron as the Squadron's Second in Command. In 1979 he was also promoted to Captain shortly after which he embarked on Course 42 of Junior Division Staff College. His tour at 5 Field Force came to an end in March 1982 and he moved on to become the Adjutant at 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare). From September 1983 to July 1985 **Bob** was appointed the SO3 Communications at the School of Signals in Blandford, during which time he was selected for promotion to the rank of Major in September 1984. He then moved back to Germany to become a Squadron Commander at 7th Signal Regiment (Corps Main). During his time at 7th Signal Regiment **Bob** was to command two separate squadrons, raising the standards and performance of both squadrons through his personal involvement and calm determination to get results. Having spent two rewarding years in command he was appointed SO2 Communications at the Forward element of 2nd Infantry Division based in Bielefeld. On moving to Headquarters 1st British Corps he continued to be employed as a staff officer but as the SO2 G3 Electronic Warfare. As the end of his tour came around in September 1990, **Bob** took the decision to retire from the service: his terminal leave began the day that Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Having spent six unhappy months outside the service **Bob** took the decision to return to army life. On returning to the Corps **Bob** was sent to Glasgow as the Training Major of 32nd Signal Regiment (Volunteers). Then in July 1993 he moved down to Catterick Garrison assuming the post of Deputy Chief of Staff in Garrison Headquarters. Having spent almost three years at Catterick **Bob** then spent a year as an Observer Officer with BRITCON UNIKOM in Kuwait. On return from Kuwait in 1997 **Bob** continued serving with the UN as an SO2 in the British Contingent UNFICYP in Cyprus. Then in March of this year **Bob** and his family moved back to Germany as **Bob** took on the mantle of Regimental Second in Command at 16th Signal Regiment. This was a much-welcomed move for **Bob** as he was re-united with his family and made the return to Regimental Duty.

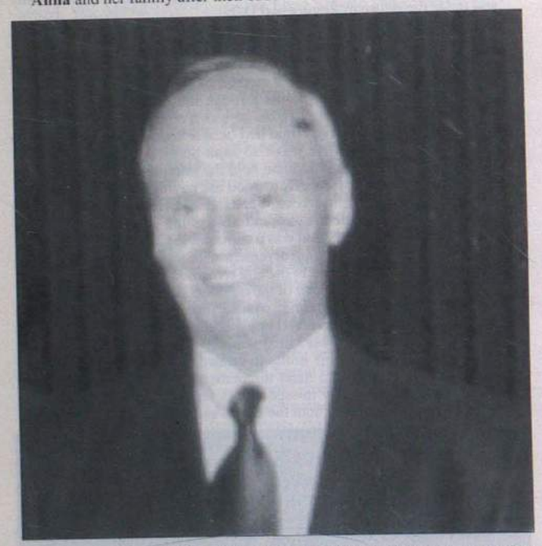
Bob was a great believer in the benefits of sport and adventurous training, indeed he put great stock in **Field Marshal Slim's** philosophy that every person has a stock of physical courage that can be drawn on, but also needs to be built up. **Bob's** method of achieving this was to constantly test and expand his limits through the many activities he was involved in. An immensely fit man he was a regular runner competing in half marathons and in his time had been a keen cyclist for which he received Army Colours. He was also Joint Services Mountain Expedition Leader (Winter) qualified and held the intermediate rock climbing qualification. He put these skills to good use having organized a number of expeditions in Italy, Morocco, Scotland and Germany. **Bob's** many interests included amateur radio and always the proud Scot he was a great fan of Burns' poetry and was a memorable Clan Chieftain at many Burns' Suppers. A life long involvement with pipes and drums, he continued to play the pipes; and to the end remained involved in the Corps' Pipe and Drum Band. His love of the outdoors also lead to his participation in alpine and nordic skiing, windsurfing, motorcycling and more recently he had become involved in paragliding. Although tragic it was perhaps fitting that **Bob** was killed while paragliding on the Mittaberg in Bavaria; still pushing his limits to ensure that he was both mentally and physically prepared to meet the demands of being a professional soldier. **Bob** will be sorely missed by his family, by the Regiment and by his many friends throughout the Corps and Army.



Bartlett - Chris Bartlett, many Royal Signals members would have been saddened to hear of the recent premature death of **Chris Bartlett** on 9 September 2000. He passed away peacefully in his sleep whilst on a visit to Germany acting in his capacity as President of 'The 1960's 16th Signal Regiment Club'.

Chris was a life member of the RSA since 1957 having joined at Harrogate Army Apprentice School in September 1954. He served with great distinction in the Corps until 1979. His first adult posting was to Singapore where he joined the Air Support Unit attached to 249 Signal Squadron. Many would describe as the finest Signal Squadron at that time in the Corps. Whilst serving in 249 Sig Sqn, **Chris** saw active service in Borneo. Following his time in the Far East he was posted to 16 Signal Regiment in BAOR. It was during his tour in Krefeld that he was quickly recognised as a skilled sportsman. These attributes were soon rewarded when he was established as the Corps goalkeeper. **Chris** returned to UK and was posted to 3 Div HQ & Sig Regt. He also served in 8 Sig Regt, 19 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and then later 71 Signal Regt (V). After leaving the army **Chris** did suffer from bad health. However, this did not deter him from establishing 'The 1960's 16th Signal Regiment Reunion Club' His wish to bring together ex-members who were part of the regiment during that decade. In a bizarre way, it was perhaps fitting that he died at Rheindahlen with those very persons that he spent a lot of time and effort bringing back together again.

Chris met and married **Anna** whilst at Bunde and they were partners for 42 years. They were blessed with four children and settled at Leigh-On-Sea, Essex. Those that knew **Chris** will not be surprised to hear that he was a popular member the Navy & Military Club in Southend. Despite his failing health he continued with his charity work assisting the local hospital which he attended twice a week. It is the measure of the man that during the final few months of his life he found the energy to participate in a sponsored walk up and down Southend pier, reputedly the longest in the world. He was a good friend and will be sadly missed by all that knew him. We extend our sincere condolences to **Anna** and her family after their sudden loss.



Backhouse - Harold Albert Frederick Backhouse 'Fred' 21 November 1914 - 1 January 2000. **Fred,** as he was affectionately known for most of his life, was the eldest of three boys born in Wanstead, East London where he lived all his civilian life, initially with his mother until her death and, thereafter alone. His brother **Ron** died at a young age and is buried on the island of Malta (GC). His youngest brother, **Len** is still living and lives in Suffolk.

Fred joined a detachment of 54 Divisional Signal Regiment, Territorial Army in 1938 with the encouragement of his then employers. In 1939 whilst on Annual Camp with his Territorial Unit, **Fred** found himself drafted to France on the onset of hostilities. He considered himself fortunate to return to the UK by being evacuated from Dunkirk but was soon posted to North Africa. After the end of hostilities **Fred** continued his association with the Territorial Army by joining the newly formed 2/20 Signal Regiment (TA) where he became the driver of a radio vehicle, which apparently was always kept in immaculate condition. His pride in the job saw him rise to the rank of Sergeant. After various changes in the Regiment he became Provost Sergeant of the newly formed 30 Signal Regiment (TA) in 1967; he remained with the unit until he retired in 1974.

Fred inspired younger members of the Regiment to show loyalty to the Corps at all times, and in particular, the regiment with which he was serving. During the post-war period, **Fred** helped to re-form the East London Branch of the Royal Signals Association and became their Standard Bearer. He was well known throughout the Royal Signals Association, and well liked by all those with whom he came into contact. Some years ago The Royal British Legion invited various Corps to parade their Standards at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, this was considered to be a great honour. The Royal Signals invited **Fred** to represent the Corps. This made **Fred** very proud on that day. He remained the Standard Bearer of the East London Branch until 1995. **Fred** served the Royal Corps of Signals for 36 years, an achievement to be very proud of.

Aitken - Major Robert George 'Bob' **Aitken.** Bob was born 16 May 1928, son of a serving Gunner so was no stranger to service life. The family moved to India in 1938 where he completed his education at the Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School Lovedale. It was perhaps inevitable that he joined the Boys Company STC(B) Mhow aged 15 years to start his military service. While in Boys Company he rose to CPL Boy. After he had completed his trade training, gaining Class II Operator Wireless and Line (OWL) and exempt for education, he entered adult service.

He was then posted from Mhow to Rawlpindi and saw service at the North West Frontier. In 1947 he left India for the Middle East (LCpl), disembarked at Port Said joining 3 Div and was then posted to 6 Field Regt RA Palestine. In 1948 the Regiment changed its title to 76 HAA Regt RA (PL) and moved to Tripoli, North Africa. He was selected to become GOC Malta personal operator (Maj Gen Reville Smith) while in Malta selected for RCB and was offered a short term commission with the Pioneer Corps. Arriving in UK he was then posted to 150 OTC (NSOTW) Catterick as an instructor Cpl. Next posting London district, volunteered for parachute training and joined 16 Ind Para Sig Sqn. He completed the course but had a run in with a lazy 'chute which damaged his left leg and he then decided to give up parachuting. He was posted to the holding squadron in Winterbourne Gunner expecting a posting to 6 Armd Div Sig Regt. Posted instead to 2 Inf Bde Sig Sqn bound for Cyprus.

The trouble in Egypt caused 2 Inf Bde to move from Cyprus to El-Ballah at which time he was promoted to Sergeant. He left Egypt in 1954 to BAOR - 6 Armd Div stationed in Bunde and was sent to 1 RHA Sig Tp Munster. On his promotion to SQMS he moved back to Bunde. In 1958 he was promoted to WOII and moved back to England where he joined 42 Lancs Sig Regt Manchester (PST 2 Sqn). In 1960 he was off to serve in the sun again and was posted to Aden where he joined, on secondment, Aden Protectorate Levies, which later became The Federal Regular Army. On his return to England in 1964 he took up the post of RQMS 24 Sig Regt in sunny Catterick. He was selected to become RSM 4 Div Sig Regt in 1966 and it is in this post that he became the much-loved character of the Corps that many will remember. He held the dubious accolade of being the 'most photographed RSM in the Corps', not least because he selected the photographs for publication in *The Wire* which, then, was published monthly. After many months of this, his photograph failed to appear in one issue and there were many who were moved to enquire after his health. The status quo was soon restored, however, when his photograph then continued to appear on a monthly basis for the remainder of his tour. In 1968 he was Commissioned and posted to 229 Sig Sqn/Brixmis for a busy tour in Berlin and in 1970 he moved to 225 Sig Sqn. He was promoted to Captain in 1972 and moved to 16 Sig Regt. that he expected to be his final tour of duty. The Corps, however, had other ideas and in 1974 he was posted to Cyprus as a Major to join 9 Sig Regt. (OC 1 Sqn). In 1977 he returned to Germany to command HQ Sqn, 22 Sig Regt and then in 1979 moved to 28 (BR) Sig Regt as their Training Major.

He returned to England in 1981 to take up the post of SO2 Comms HQ Western district. After 40 years service to the Corps as both man and boy, he retired in 1983 and settled in Shrewsbury. Almost immediately he started a new career as an RO being appointed Camp Commandant HQ Western District, a job he thoroughly enjoyed, as it would have kept two ordinary men busy. He finally retired after ten years as an RO in 1993. He was unable to do nothing and so he undertook to become the Branch Secretary of the Shropshire Branch of the Association - just to keep his hand in. Many Corps members will remember the Grand National Sweepstake he ran each year and perhaps bought sweepstake tickets to assist in the raising of funds for the Shropshire Branch.

In all **Bob Aitken** has given a total of 50 years formal service to the Crown and many years further service to the Corps as a Branch Secretary.

He died on 11 December 2000 of cardiac failure in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. His funeral service was attended by the Shropshire Branch's standard bearer who led the cortege into Shrewsbury Crematorium.

He will be sadly missed by his much loved family, wife **Josie**, daughters **Wendy** and **Anne**, sons **Christopher** and **Graham**, daughters-in-law **Wendy** and **Sue**, sons-in-law **Davey** and **Philip** and his eleven grandchildren.

LATE NEWS....LATE NEWS....LATE NEWS

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY ADVISORY AND TRAINING TEAM (SIERRA LEONE) ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS CONTINGENT

CO JCU **Lt Col B. P. Gilfether MBE**
2IC JCU **MajM. Helm**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. T. Archer**

Things have been very interesting in this region of West Africa for some years now and to assist the peace process it was decided to send in a British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT). This was later, expanded to the International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT) to allow for colleagues from other countries to get involved in this very worthwhile work. As yet there has only been a British presence but this is due to change in November 2000 when ten officers from the Canadian armed forces arrive and take up their posts.

The Royal Corps of Signals were initially the major manpower suppliers to the IMATT in theatre, they were:

Brig S. G. Hughes CBE (Late Royal Corps of Signals)
Col M. Dent MBE (Late Royal Corps of Signals)
Col P. J. Moseley MBE (Late Royal Corps of Signals)
Lt Col R. G. Mather
Capt C. T. Bamber

Closely followed by:

WO1 (RSM) S. T. Archer
Lt Col B. P. Gilfether MBE

The remainder of the team has been slowly trickling into theatre. They are:

Maj M. Helm
WO1 (YofS) A. Drummond
SSgt T. W. Davis
SSgt S. Tocker

The team is just about complete now; we now just wait for a FofS to 'Volunteer' for the tour of a lifetime, is there a FofS out there who fancies a real challenge?

Life in Sierra Leone has been very interesting over the last four months. The capture of the Royal Irish soldiers in September had many implications upon the IMATT. The whole atmosphere changed overnight from one of relative calm to one of tension. The run up to Op Barras, the Oeration to repatriate the hostages, was a very fraught period for all. The relative success, only losing one soldier whose brother is incidentally in the Royal Corps of Signals, (condolences go to **Jason** and his family) was met with a mixture of great rejoicing and genuine sadness. The day the hostages were set free the people of Freetown were the happiest they have been in many a year. They were cheering and clapping as we drove down the street, shaking our hands and saying how sorry they were that someone had to lose their life. The people are genuine and you could see the pain in their faces.

The Republic of Sierra Leone Signals Regiment is starting to take shape and with the team firmly in place things are starting to happen at a pace. It is a very hard, and sometimes frustrating, job but everyone on the team is coping well with the added pressure of working in very high temperatures with very little financial support, the real pleasure is working with the soldiers. They are the proverbial sponge soaking up all the training and advice we can give to them and it doesn't matter how hard it gets they still end up smiling. On the equipment front we use a mixture of British, Chinese, American and civilian equipment. The Team has had to use all aspects of their skills and training to produce a comms package to support operational deployments sometimes at very short notice. Many thanks go to 30 Sig Regt and 14 (EW) Sig Regt for their help with providing some assistance with manpower and spares. The Team has adapted to the work well and the resourcefulness of some individuals has come to the forefront. There is no doubt the Royal Corps of Signals are making their presence felt in West Africa.

As this article is being written HQ 1 Mech Bde is arriving in theatre to take over from JTFHQ. Welcome to the Comds TAC element and also from 1 Mech HQ and Sig Sqn the admin support team. A farewell goes to **Brig S. G. Hughes CBE** who has headed back to MOD to take up a new post. His efforts in Sierra Leone laid the foundations for a better future for this war torn country.

COURSE No. 1 SIERRA LEONE SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Sierra Leone Signal Regiment has now formed as a working unit and has embarked upon its first signals cadre course. The course started, as with all military courses, with a photograph.

The course lasts for eight weeks and at the end all students will be fully able to work on all equipment that the army has, including the PRC 320, which the UK government has given to Sierra Leone. The army has a mixture of civilian and military equipment from China and the UK and will soon be receiving equipment from the USA. The course is being held in the Wilberforce Barracks area of Freetown. The Yeoman of Signals, **WO1 Andy Drummond**, has done a sterling job putting the course together along with his Sierra Leonean counterparts. Great assistance has also come in the form of augmentees from the UK, **LSgt Paul Bain** from ITC Catterick and **Bdr Jim Rowe** from Larkhill, many thanks to their units for releasing the soldiers to assist with the training.

The students are all from within the armed forces already and some have been involved with signals before but the standard of trade skills, due to the war, have eroded over time and are in need of re-teaching some basic elements. The students are both willing and able and are like 'sponges' absorbing the information. All the instructors are having a great time and a lot of banter with the students. **SSgts Tom Davies** and 'Tocks' **Tocker** are 'going native' and are having the time of their lives.

34 (NORTHERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col I. D. Westerman**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Anderson**

August 10 saw the conclusion of what had become a TA institution – **Lt Col David Hargreaves** finally left the Regiment after 30 months at the helm. He concluded the formal hand-over of the Regiment to **Lt Col Ian Westerman** at the front of the RHQ building. The Regiment would like to welcome **Lt Col Ian** and his wife **Ronnie** and thank **Lt Col David** for his tenure wishing him all the very best for the future.

EXERCISE MERCURY TROPHY

The Annual 15 (NE) Bde ACF Competition (Mercury Trophy and Signals Cup) was hosted by the Regiment at BDTA Outdoor Classroom ITC, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison on 14 October 2000. 8 Cadet Team eventually entered the competition, which began at 0900hrs on the Drill Square. The drill phase began with a Stickman being nominated from each detachment, was inspected by **WO2 (RQMS) Bell** and the best was selected to run the parade. **Cdt Cpl** 'Bill' **Beaumont** of Brambles Farm Detachment was the best turned out Cadet overall and collected the prize.

The teams were then transported up to the Outdoor Classrooms area to begin the round robin of stands including First Aid, the Obstacle Course, Shooting, a Signals stand, Mast Erection, Line Laying, Command Tasks, Patrol Observation and last but not least a Mystery stand. Throughout each stand the Cadets were monitored continually for team effort, leadership qualities as well as being able to complete the tasks allocated. The Mercury Trophy was eventually won by the Brambles Farm Detachment with Darlington Detachment a very close Second (only 1.5 marks behind). Darlington gained revenge winning the Signals Cup with Brambles Farm a close second.

Overall the competition was a great success and special mention must go to **Sgt Openshaw** (49 Sig Sqn) and his merry band of helpers who organised and ran the Obstacle course. Also recognition should be given to the efforts of **Cpl Downs**, who had the Cadets covered in imitation blood from head to foot on her simulated accident. Congratulations on a splendid and overall successful day should go to all those that participated in or organised a stand.

'YOUR TURN' – SCHOOLS TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

The Regiment was nominated to hold the youth version of the Command Purpose called 'Your Turn' on Thursday 21 September 2000. Schools from all over the Cleveland area were requested to nominate one student in the age group of 13-14 year olds with a total maximum of 30 students.

On arrival at Brambles Farm TA Centre the students were split into five teams and commenced with team building activities until 1030hrs. At this point the students were handed over to the Stand Controllers of the five tasks. These varied from driving a remote controlled car blindfolded around a pre-determined course in the quickest time possible. This was overseen by **SSgt Rob Eden** (50 Sig Sqn), to rescuing a hostage from a compound surrounded by an electrical fence (simulated) and breaking the code to gain access to the secure compound - headed by **SSgt Ratcliffe** (LAD) with **Sig Yarker** acting as the hostage. To complete a hectic morning's activities the students were able to sample the splendid cooking of **Cpl Walker** and **Lorraine** (Civilian staff). The afternoon activities were conducted in the main building of Brambles Farm TA Centre with guest speakers from the local radio station and council. The day ended with the students leaving Brambles with a better understanding of teamwork, collective responsibility and full bellies.

CORPS 7-A - SIDE FOOTBALL

The Royal Corps of Signals 7-a-side football competition was held at Blandford on Friday 8 September 2000. 34 Sig Regt (PSIs) entered what turned out to be the oldest (and heaviest) football team in the history of the game. After breezing through the early rounds (losing 2-0, 4-0 and 2-0 respectively) we found ourselves in the first semi-final of the plate competition. Faced with a young and thrusting 2 Sig Regt team (not even close in the experience stakes) we fancied our chances as we had quite sensibly paced ourselves. (In the knowledge that the training office, our centre midfield engine, had a combined age of 106 and that is only two of them). The game ebbed and flowed, then ebbed again, but solid defending from **Cpl Kev Pountain** and **Maj George Whyman**, coupled with the ever present danger of **SSgt Tom Lappin, Sgt Kev Black** and **SSgt** 'Wilf' **Wilford** up front, always gave the old and bold a chance. At the end of normal time it was all square at 0-0 thanks to some great saves by SSgt **Bob Breheney** and, until he was injured and had to leave the field (girly tech) **Cpl** 'Granny' **Groundsell**. So the game went on to the Golden Goal. 2 Sig Regt made all the pressure for a couple of minutes, but then the fitness of the geriatrics came through and the mighty 34th broke from the edge of their own box to run the length of the field. This left **SSgt Stu McKinnon** with a simple three-yard tap in. **Stu** is still doing his post goal celebratory lap of honour. The final was between 34 Sig Regt and ATR Bassingbourne – but we lost 2-0 so I'm not writing about it.

50 (NORTHUMBRIAN) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Cmd **Maj Graham Jennings**
SSM **WO2 Les Middleton**

Since our last appearance we have bade a fond farewell to a number of people: NRPS **SSgt** 'Tommy' **Williamson** has finally hung up his boots and puttees after forty years of service to Queen and Country. His reward, a final posting to that big car boot sale, fondly known as retirement. Our Tech Workshops will never be the same without **SSgt (FofS) Frank** 'Sicknote' **Potts**. **SSgt Rob Eden**, our SPSI, has made the short trip up the A1 to our Debdon Gardens Detachment, stepping into the Ammo Boots of the departing legend **SSgt** (now WO2) **Tom Lappin**, who probably passed him going down the A1 to his new abode sunny Catterick. **SSgt (FofS) Colin Raynor** joins us from his Foremans Course with a brand new bride on tow. **Sgt Kev Brass** has chosen to spend his last year of service with us. We also extend the olive branch to our new NRPS **SSgt Jeff Martin** who brings a wall full of running medals and course photos to the SQMS's stores. Temporary member before moving to 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V) is the SPSI **SSgt Gregg Sharp** who relearns the ropes to TA life. Finally, and not least, Debdon has a new PSI Tech in the shape of **Cpl Jamie Topping** who is quickly coming to terms with the TA way although his comments so far are unprintable. A number of promotions to report. Notably congratulations are due to **WO2 (SSM) Les Middleton** for his well deserved ascendance to real power and stick waving. **Cpl Steve** 'Swansea' **Greenway** who finally got a waiver for his Det Commander Course which he took in 1887! **LCpl** 'Iggy' **Paterson** has pinned on his first tape, proof that if you hang around long enough you will be rewarded with success. Hot off the press was the promotion of **Cpl** 'Cliffy' **Readshaw's** promotion to Sergeant over the Christmas Weekend.

TA RECRUITS COURSE

A couple of successes can be reported from Blandford. An honorary mention to **Sig Anth Hollingworth** who was awarded best recruit on the November 2000 Course (I should think so to after taking four years to do his Phase 2!) and **Sig Tammy** 'Britney' **Speers** who managed to complete the whole course without breaking a nail! Well done to the both of you.

ADVENTURE TRAINING – WALES

The Squadrons' second adventure training weekend of the year was a change from the normal Lake District trip and saw the troops deploying to the deepest, darkest Wales. After a long journey and not much sleep the troops were up and raring to go, armed with waterproofs (as the lovely weather of Wales did not let us down) and a change of clothing. The first activity of the day was Gorge Walking, donning hard hats all was well as the masses set off on a downward stroll to the start point of the walk. Experienced Gorge walkers **Sgts Ross Blair** and **Pete Robinson** did a sterling job at the rear pushing the pace along and recounting stories of 'did I ever tell you about the time when we went ghyll scrambling in the Lakes....' (apparently the last time that **Sgt Robinson** bought a round – July 1999). Within seconds of starting the walk, **Sig Robinson** tested his waterproofs by falling into the water and not content with the one fall continued to repeatedly fall in. Continuing onwards and upwards, all were trying to stay on their feet, especially **Sgt Cath Sproat**, who needed to be pried from two rocks after becoming stuck. After a couple of very enjoyable hours the happy, wet walkers arrived back at the mini-buses. In the afternoon the Squadron went climbing at an indoor climbing centre, a chance to dry off, as the weather was still very seasonal. They were taken to 'The Beacon Indoor Climbing Centre,' a building that was originally commissioned in 1916 by Marconi Wireless and Telegraph Company and used for transmitting traffic to the USA during the First World War. Steeped in communications history the antennas were dismantled and the building converted into the climbing centre in 1994. All participants for the afternoons training were issued shoes and harnesses and split into three groups dependent on their climbing experience. As the day went on the groups confidence grew and **Sig Tony Standing** and **Sgt Ross Blair** were climbing off to see who would be known as the Squadron's Champion Climber, only to be beaten by a six year old girl! Fun was had by all in this new and, as usual, windswept and very wet Wales.

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

49 (WEST RIDING) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Dave Sixsmith**
SPSI **SSgt Bob Breheney**

Arrivals - A warm welcome to the new Sqn 2IC, **Capt Dave Edwards**, **SSgt Ian Middlemiss** and his wife **Charlene** and also to **Cpl Paul Blakey**, the new ED.

Promotions - Congratulations to **SSgt Andy** 'Nobby' **Clark, LCpl Melissa** 'Ciao' **Bertuzzi** and **LCpl Adie** 'Oh ok just one more' **Sutcliffe**.

Welcome Back - To **Sig Ramzan** who has returned from a FTRS at BATUS, Canada.

The CO promotes Sig Sutcliffe straight to Corporal for five minutes at least

EXERCISE AUTUMN BOUNTY 28-29 OCTOBER 2000

The Squadron found themselves Strensall bound for a test of their military skills and social interaction at all levels. One was passed with flying colours and the other will continue to be practised throughout the training year! The training proved very interesting with the predicted monsoon weather arriving just in time for the ranges. **Lt Keith** 'Barn Door' **Williams** was in good company with **SSM Keith** 'Stevie Wonder' **Holdstock**, more practice needed. The recognition was an eye opener with **Capt Ruth** 'get your coat' **Middleton-Powell** describing a Chinook as a Hercules with rotors on the top, thanks **Ruth**.

THE TA CUP

It was with some confidence that the Squadron Team arrived at waterlogged Sheffield for round two of the TA Cup. The Team was drawn against a medics' team and having won 8-1 against medics in the previous round we were ready. To say the pitch was muddy is an understatement and **SSgt Mark** 'the mud wrestler' **Carrick** had a wallowing time in goal. The best run of the match involved **Cpl** 'Bam Bam' **Blakey** running the full length of the pitch before being thwarted by a well timed tackle. Not bad for someone who doesn't really like football, kissball he calls it for some reason. It was 1-0 to the medics at half time and it took a great corner from **SSgt** 'Wilf - I'm claiming that' **Wilford** to set up the equaliser. The goalie actually punched the ball into his own net. The tale does not end an happy one as the team lost 2-1. Oh well, there is always next year.

745 SIGNAL TROOP, HULL

On Friday 24 November 2000 745 Signal Troop deployed to Catterick Training Area to take part in the Regimental Exercise. The exercise was a fully tactical communications exercise with live enemy on the ground, in the shape of fuel less farmers.

The Troop were able to practice their communications and soldiering skills using the Ptarmigan equipment consisting of a radio relay installation and an ELG, as well as the necessary admin set up, erected during a Force 10 gale. A special mention of **Sig Serasinghe** and **Sig Lau** for an excellent effort on their first exercise, panbash and brew making.

Congratulations to **OCdt Victoria** 'Wedgie' **Wedgewood-Jones** on passing her TCB with flying colours. She has now been issued with a small piece of mine tape to wear with her uniform, well done Ma'am! Well done to **Sgt** 'Bobtech' **Godfrey** on passing his C+E HGV training, eventually and to **Sig Ross** 'troop drunk' **Pemble** and **Sig Kim** 'quiet as a mouse' **Whitehouse** on passing Cat C HGV training. Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson, Sig** 'Floppy' **Courtney** and **Sig Pemble** on passing their RMC course.

Sig Courtney and **Sig Pemble** also received their superb Blandford course reports and BITS results completing their hat tricks.

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND 1-3 DECEMBER 2000

Strensall is a popular destination for 34 (N) Sig Regt (V) at the moment and so the Regiment found itself at Queen Elizabeth Barracks for the Christmas festivities this year. The weekend took the form of a sporting competition.

Memorable moments: **Cpl** 'Bam Bam' **Blakey**, who claims kissball is for girls, limps off the rugby sevens after only half a game. The FULL CONTACT female netball and basketball competitions, we lost the battle but won the war. Father Time, 52 years of age, in the form of **WO2 Al** 'Taff' **James** who played in the winning rugby side. **Cpl Paul** 'I want to wear my ammo boots' **Oliver** complaining about the new tug of war rules of **Maj** 'Taff' **Watts**.

Most memorable moment: **LCpl Melissa** 'red badge of courage' **Bertuzzi** on climbing over the cargo net overcoming her fear of heights. Congratulations go to 90 Squadron for being crowned overall winners, well done.

MULTINATIONAL DIVISION (SOUTH WEST) AND BRITISH FORCES SIGNAL TROOP OPERATION PALATINE

OPERATION PALATINE

Tp Comd **Capt Richard Byfield**
Tp Sgt Maj **WO2 Sgt Maj Tony May**

BRITFOR Signal Troop was formed on 9 October 2000 close to the completion of the Commercialisation Implementation Teams work and the full withdrawal of Euromux carried out by 204 Sig Sqn. It now stands as an independent Troop numbering 1+47 with Royal Signals soldiers from 15 different units. The Troop provides Project Myra Communications to British Forces deployed on Op Palatine, maintains and repairs all British owned IT within theatre (averaging one computer for every two soldiers), and runs Banja Luka COMMCEN. After his own completion of the Myra course in Christchurch with BAe Systems **WO2 FofS Steve** 'King of Sideburns' **Ruxton** has taken on the unique responsibility of managing the new Myra equipment and continuing to assist in the roll out of telephones. His friendly nature helping to explain why many Staff Officers found their phones being installation 'Phase 2'.

The majority of the Troop is from 7 Sig Regt but numbers are boosted by six Territorial Army soldiers; some of whom such as **Sgt Jim Bromfield** 35 Sig Regt (V) have volunteered to extend their tour to 18 months. Banja Luka Metal Factory is much as many of the Corps remembers it but the Royal Signals commitment has been vastly reduced. The Dutch have taken on the main responsibilities to the Headquarters with a noticeably different attitude - coffee breaks forming the majority of working hours.

The Troop has been lucky on recent promotion boards and congratulations go out to **Cpl Ian Evans** and **Cpl Steve** 'Hypochondriac' **Mallison**. Several members also came off the recent Sig to Lance Corporal Board, well done to **Sig Matt Brooker, Sig Rory Grant, Sig Heather Parrott** and **Sig Nick** 'CDT Sin Bin' **Smith**. A special thank you must go to **LCpl Richard** 'Kiwi' **Scarcliff** and **LCpl Simon Chittick** for their outstanding assistance to EFI staff within Banja Luka.

On taking the chair the first thing **WO2 Sgt Maj Tony May** did was smarten up the image of the Signal Troop. All Corrimecs and ISO containers were painted and he set about construction of a restroom over the weekend 28-29 October. After borrowing tools from a locally employed civilian 'Boycee' and with the help of many Troop members a restroom was built for all personnel to watch TV and have a brew. **SSgt Rob Smith** showed off his power tool prowess along with **LCpl Richard** 'Kiwi' **Scarcliff.** The room was opened with successful celebratory promotion drinks on 10 November.

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

BRITFOR SIGNAL TROOP MEDAL PARADE

Brig Aitken, Commander British Forces Operation Palatine, presented the Troops with their medals on 29 November 2000. A speedy medal distribution came as a result of much practice on the Brigadier's part and the chilly weather. The restroom was the obvious location for an extended coffee break and a fine cake decorated with a 7 Signal Regiment flash. **LCpl** 'Big Bird' **Purvis'** request to have the medal parade put back half an hour so she could say goodbye to her friend were met with a sincere apology by the Sergeant Major.

ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT BASSINGBOURN

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Sqn Comd **Maj F. E. Hargreaves**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. Slaney**

As this year draws to a close it has been a busy period for 1 (Trg) Sqn. The Squadron has trained around 600 Royal Signals soldiers and passed them out to Phase 2. The turnover of staff has been immense and the cycle continues. The recruits have raised a staggering £15783.13 for charity. So when you are contemplating your next posting and you want to make a difference - 1 Sqn ATR Bassingbourn is a challenging, rewarding and a unique posting. The OC Squadron made his mark as a 10pin-bowling demon during the recent Triangular Conference. **WO2 (SSM) Slaney** continues to fit in the odd resettlement course. To bring the reader up to date ATR Bassingbourn has some of the best sporting facilities available and the SQMS knows this because he is always out utilising them. It has been suggested that his uniform is in light care and preservation. **Mrs Maria Mould** Our Sqn Clk has now trained **Barney** not to eat recruits whole. He is to chew them first.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Emma Bruce**

This month, Alpha Tp welcomes their new OC, **Capt Emma Bruce** from 16 Sig Regt and **Cpl Knowles** from 7 Sig Regt. We also welcome **Cpl Mason** back from a tour with 28 Trg Sqn Royal Engineers, and **Cpl Carroll**, who has come across from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. We also have a lot of good-byes this month: Firstly, to **Sgt Clark** who is eagerly anticipating his move 16 Sig Regt, as he knows the fishing around Rheindahlen is excellent. **Cpl Mitchell** AKA **Sgt Mitchell** who is off to rule the roost at 30 Sig Regt's Trg Wg, and **Cpl Mason** who is also posted to 30 Sig Regt. Lastly, farewell to **Cpl Carroll** who is off to pastures new with Essex Constabulary - good luck with your new career.

Congratulations to **Cpl Mitchell** who won the CO's Competition, destroying competition from the Engineers and the Infantry to win the coveted title of 'Best Section' for the August 2000 intake. Congratulations also to **Sig Clifton-Sprigg** (Best Recruit), **Sig Mullen** (Best Shot), **Sig McKenzie** (Best at PT) and **Sig Kennedy** (Best Endeavor) - Well Done and keep up the good work. A further well done to all members of that intake for raising almost £900 in charity money. The Troop organised and participated in a sponsored Cross Channel row using the rowing machines in the gym, covering the equivalent distance of Dover to Calais and back to Dover. The money has been donated to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Stu Gunson**

With another 31 high calibre recruits turned out for Phase 2 training Bravo Tp has started to go through a period of major change. First to go was **Sgt Paula Matheson** who has moved, on promotion, to Sqn Ops at 3 Div. After saying goodbye to her in the last two editions she has finally managed to drag herself away from the fold. She was followed shortly after by **Cpl Ron Grandon** to earn lots of money and stripes on his Clerk of Works Course. Both will be greatly missed, good luck and all the best to you. We now welcome **Sgt Jackie Collins** on promotion from AFCENT with the promise of some outstanding moves on the drill-square. **Cpls Andy Doyle** and **Mark Collins** also deserve a welcome, not for arriving but after spending so much time skiving on courses during the last intake we were starting to forget what they looked like. The old intake get congratulations as well. **Sig James Cullen** – Best Recruit and Best Shot. **Sig Tom Barrett** – Best PT and **Sig Tim Scrivin** – Best Endeavour, well done guys and keep it up at Blandford. The whole intake also did well in our charity Wheelchair Basketball event raising £1234 for the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Association.

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Ben Howarth**

As Charlie Tp struggles uphill through another tide of recruits and our merry band peaks at forty-four, a wind of change is sweeping through the training team. Farewell to **Capt Alex Clixby**, recently departed to 19 Mech Bde; hello (again) to **Cpl Al Nuttall**. Where have you been **Cpl Dave Knowler**? Congratulations to **Cpl Paul Conroy** on his promotion and commiseration's on having to move to Echo Tp. Congratulations to **Sgt Harry Ramsden** on his conversion to healthy living. Finally but eternally good luck to **Cpl Mark Brenen** and his impending fatherhood. Believing we had seen it all the Troop have been privileged to witness the attrition method of completing the obstacle course. This involves the smaller recruits running directly into the six foot wall in a clear attempt to knock it down; maybe one day. Looking ahead a chill runs down the spine at the thought of kayaking, in Wales, in late December. Adventure Shivering. Happier times will be a wheelchair-borne spin around the basketball court in January to raise money for disabled British athletes.

DELTA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Hervey J. Scott**

As the last intake of Delta Tp, 1 (Trg) Sqn approached the end of their Phase One training, all forty recruits took part in a charity event. The aim of the event was to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund and the ATR (Bassingbourn) Play School. The recruits all obtained sponsorship from their friends and families during their long-weekend. Upon their return they took part in a simulated (in the gym) run, bike and row from Bassingbourn to Calais and back to Bassingbourn. Delta Tp recruits succeeded in raising a total of just under £1600 during the charity event. The cheques were presented to the two charities at the recruits' parents evening the night before they passed off from Bassingbourn. Delta Tp also bids farewell to **Cpls Lythe** and **Smith** who are posted to 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt at the end of their tours. Congratulations to **Cpl Smith** on his promotion on posting and for completing the Great North Run. Thank you for all of your efforts and best of luck in the future. Welcome to **Sgt Dougie Icke** and **Cpl Jas Woosnam** who are now both working at a phenomenal rate training the new intake of recruits. Cpl **Woosnam** has discovered that he enjoys drill so much, that he has applied to complete the All-Arms Drill course in January 2001 – best of luck to him and watch out Delta Tp! This has left **Cpl Payton** jealous that she has not yet become a Drill instructor, so she has applied to complete the NBC and the MLT courses instead.

ECHO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Chris Biddulph**

A fresh start for Echo Tp, picking up a new intake for the first time in four months, having served as general backup to the other Troops in the Squadron for the last four months. Welcomes to **Cpl Leon Teasdale** who joined us from 280 (UK) Sig Sqn six weeks ago and to **Cpl Jon Attwell** fresh from ITGIS and MLT courses and 12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn. Welcome also to the new Troop Commander, **Capt Chris Biddulph.** As mentioned above, we picked up a Troop of 21 Royal Engineer's and nine Royal Signallers three weeks ago and have recently returned from a demanding and arduous night exercising on the outside training area here at Bassingbourn. A night of high risk and danger has been planned for the instructor's as we take 30 recruits 'grand-prix Karting' next week. If their current drill performance is anything to go by then we are all in trouble as we allow 30 youngsters with the co-ordination of baby giraffes loose with combustion engines!! A full report will appear in the next issue of *The WIRE*. Finally, farewell to **Sgt Roy Turner**, who leaves us for 3 Div Sig Regt in the new year. We wish you and your family all the very best in your new posting, you will be a hard man to replace.

FOXTROT TROOP

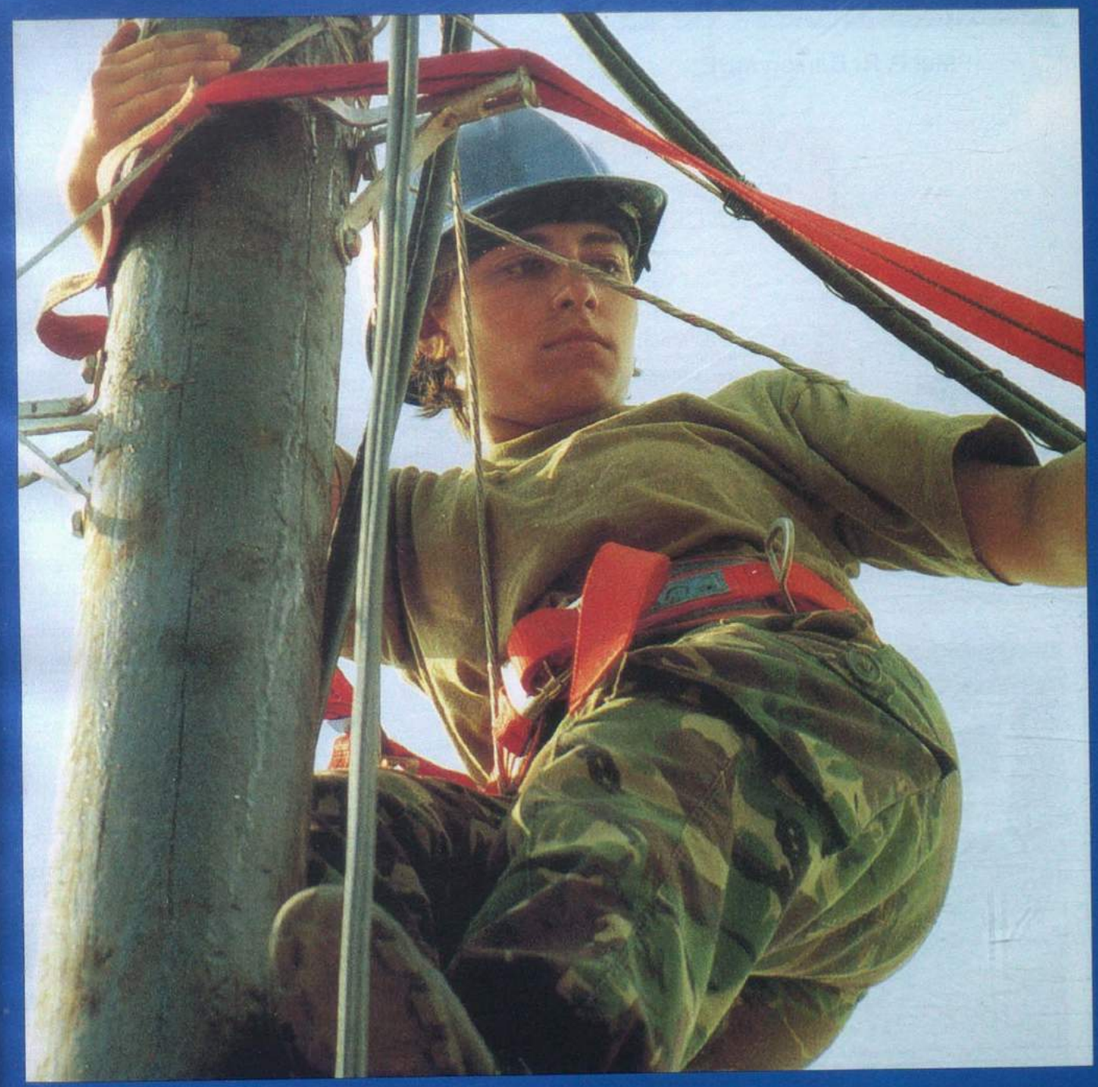
Tp Comd **Capt Dave Jackson**

After persevering with a Troop of Engineers the F Tp training team is looking forward to picking up a new batch of Signals recruits, (Ask them how they feel in 12 weeks). There are two new faces in the Troop so hello to **Cpl Dale King** from 16 Sig Regt and **Cpl John Atwell** from 22[illegible] Sig Sqn. We will also be saying goodbye to **Cpl Paul Smith** who is posted on promotion to Naples to what he claims will be a really tough job. Also **Cpl Gav Wilson** who is due to go on promotion but nobody wants him. As for the rest of the training team, well **Cpl Amanda Richardson** is quickly becoming the Troop pin-up and **Capt Dave Jackson** has still not found his office yet. Our best wishes go to **Sgt Craig Purdon** who at the moment is sweating it out on his Sergeants course at Blandford.

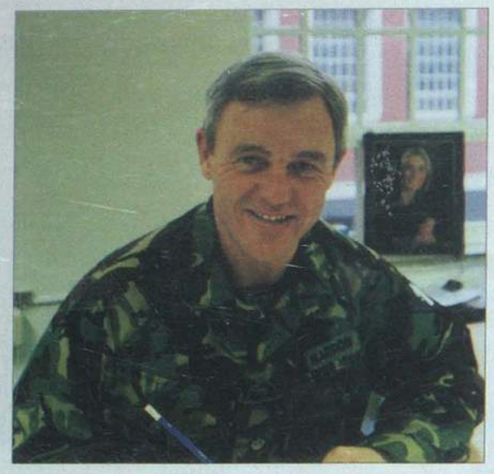
LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

THE Wire

April 2001



The Royal Corps of Signals

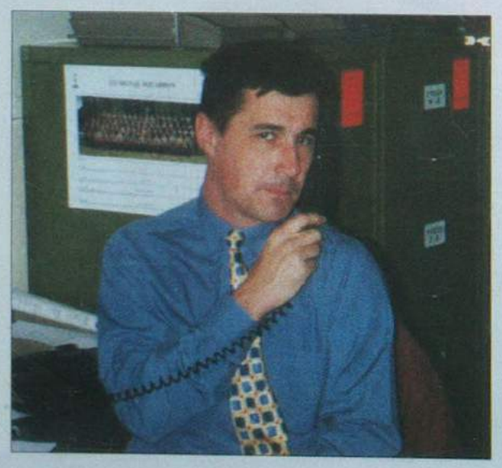


Maj P. R. Barron MBE

SSgt R. D. Inglesant MBE, BEM

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (ROYAL SIGNALS)

As Commander (CBE)	**Col M. J. Dent MBE**
As Members (MBE)	**Maj P. R. Barron** **Maj D. J. H. Boxhall** **Maj J. A. B. Floyd** **Capt D. A. Wright** **WO1 J. R. Knight** **SSgt R. D. Inglesant BEM** **Sgt L. J. Robinson** **LCpl C. Rees**
Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal	**Sgt J. M. Dennehy**



Sgt L. J. Robinson MBE

LCpl C. Rees MBE

The Royal Signals Magazine

April 2001 Vol. 55 No: 2

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

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Editor Lt Col (Retd) P. Valder
Deputy Editor Mrs J. A. Herring

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FRONT COVER
This month it comes courtesy of HQ 2nd (NC) Signal Brigade and Cotswold Garrison and shows **Sig Muhammed** of 238 Sig Sqn working in Kosovo whilst on an operational tour with the Communications Infrastructure Planning and Implementation Team, formed as a part of an 11 Sig Bde initiative

BACK COVER
2 Signal Regiment on parade as they receive The Freedom of The City of York in appreciation of their help during the recent floods

The closing date for copy to REACH this office, in order to go in the JUNE issue is 15 APRIL 2001

SIR DIRK BOGARDE

The gentleman who has been appointed by the estate of the late Sir Dirk Bogarde, to write his biography, seeks any information on his time in the Corps. He was, as Derek Van den Bogaerde, called up in the winter of 1940-41 and from May 1941 to February 1942 attended a Royal Signals OCTU Course at Catterick before being transferred to the Royal Artillery. Anyone who has any memories, photographs, letters etc which could shed further light on this part of Bogarde's life would be of considerable help to the biographer, John Coldstream. He can be contacted at: 11 Abbey House, 1a Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, LONDON, NW8 9BT or Tel: 020 7266 3779,
E-mail: jcoldstream@dial.pipex.com

Authors alone are responsible for the content of their articles. The opinions expressed in the articles of this publication are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Royal Signals or the Ministry of Defence. This publication should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

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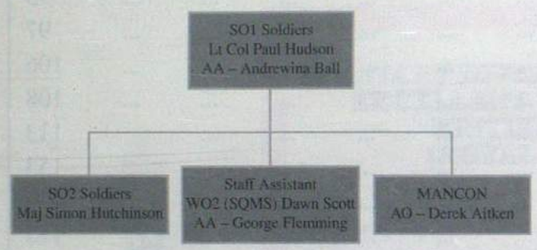
THE MAN FROM MANNING AND CAREER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

(Maj S. G. Hutchinson MBE R SIGNALS)

The last couple of months have been extremely busy ones for the Division with Roadshows to Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, Northern Ireland, London and Aldershot. Within the Division itself WO2 (SQMS) Scott has replaced WO2 (SQMS) Myles as the Staff Assistant and Derek Aitken returns to the Liabilities Desk after a long period away (I'm glad to see him back). There have also been a number of Promotion Boards held during the past few months and prospects for soldiers across the Corps remain healthy with around 20% being selected for promotion each year. The results of promotion boards held during 2000 are summarised below. Including reserves, a total of 1,164 R SIGNALS soldiers have been selected for promotion thus far in 2000; this figure should increase by a further 200 or so once future reserves have been taken into account.

Promotion Board	'Main List' Selections	'Reserve' Selections	Total Selected	Promotion Year Ends
2000 A1 (WO2 to WO1)	37	15	52	30 Jun 01
2000 A2 (SSgt to WO2)	79	27	106	30 Jun 01
2000 B (Sgt to SSgt)	100	32	132	30 Jun 01
2000 C (Cpl to Sgt)	160	9	169	31 Oct 01
2000 E (LCpl to Cpl)	275	None yet	275	31 Jan 02
2000 F (Sig to LCpl)	430	None yet	430	31 Jan 02
Totals	**1,081**	**83**	**1,164**	

We have had a different focus for each edition and this time we turn to the 'Driving Force' behind the Division - Central Support.



SO1 Soldiers - Lt Col Paul Hudson is the principle figure in Soldier Wing and as the SO1 is responsible for all aspects of soldier manning and policy. A renowned Chocaholic, workaholic, **Lt Col Hudson** is frequently found working late into the night on issues relating to soldier policy, or at least that is what he tells us he is doing. The resident DIY expert **Lt Col Hudson** has plenty of experience covering holes, repairing fences and cementing cracks; vital attributes for the SO1 Soldiers.

SO2 Soldiers - Yours truly. Responsible for all aspects that nobody else wants, the SO2 Soldiers is the Divisional Point of Contact for litigation redresses, appeals, manning levels, Data Protection Act and establishments. A fine, upstanding member of the Division (some may disagree) Maj Hutchinson has few vices although his passion for rugby, chocolate and Guinness has already forced one visit to the tailors.

WO2 (SQMS) Scott - WO2 (SQMS) Dawn Scott is the new girl on the block although this has not prevented her from making an immediate impact on the Division. The Point of Contact for all visits to the Division **WO2 (SQMS) Scott** also has the responsibility for maintaining the Colonel's diary. A keen eye for detail and an uncanny ability to get you to sign for anything; little gets past **WO2 (SQMS) Scott** although do not be lulled into getting her to tell a joke as they are inevitably awful.

AO MANCON - Unfortunately **Derek Aitken** has been away for the last six months, although he has now returned with renewed gusto, much to the relief of the SO2. The focal point for all establishment matters **Derek's** post is not an easy one, however, if you want something doing just say that you have Canadian relatives or are a Rangers season Ticket-Holder (then again, someone must be).

AA - Andrewina Ball is the brain of the Section, afterall she is the only one with a degree. Responsible for providing Administrative Support to the SO1, Andrewina has her fingers in many pies, none more so than the production of career forecasts and the clearance of errors (unit/soldier mismatches on the mainframe computer).

AA - George Walker is the AA in Central Support. A 'Deputy Chief Clerk' **George** is the focal point for all information passing both in and out of the Division. A style icon and frequent modeller of Icelandic winter-ware, little phases **George**; although if you thought **WO2 Scott's** jokes were bad ……..

N.B. Since these profiles were compiled **Andrewina** has been promoted to the dizzy heights of AO and is now responsible for litigation redresses, appeals and associated matters. Congratulations are due to **Andrewina** on her much deserved and merited promotion.

REPRESENTATION AND REDRESS

Following on from previous Editions we have decide to take a brief look at the key aspects of Redress and Representation Procedures.

REDRESS OF COMPLAINT

· The key reference documents covering Representations and Redresses are AGAI Vol 2 Ch 70 and the MS Guide to Soldiers Confidential Reports, Ch 5.

* A soldier is entitled to submit a Redress of Complaint if, in his opinion, he has been unjustly reported on. A soldier has no right to Redress if he simply feels that he cannot agree with the opinion of his Reporting Officer.

* An application for a Redress of Complaint must include what corrective action, in the eyes of the complainant, is necessary.

* Submissions, together with copies of any supporting documents, are to be made to the Commanding Officer at the time of submission, unless that Commanding Officer is personally the subject of the complaint.

* The responsibility for resolving any formal complaint lies with the chain of command in which the officer or soldier is serving when the complaint is raised, even if the bulk of the investigation has to be undertaken by the individual's previous unit or formation.

* All cases should be resolved as swiftly as possible.

REPRESENTATION (NOT AMOUNTING TO A COMPLAINT)

* A Representation (NOT amounting to a Complaint) is submitted by a soldier who wishes to have placed on permanent record his opinion of a Reporting Officer's assessment; it is not a method to amend a CR.

* The Representation is taken into account by Selection Boards when considering promotions.

HELP !!!!!!! HELP !!!!!!!! HELP !!!!!!!

Are you sitting there reading this and thinking that you would like to do something a bit different, perhaps something out of the ordinary involving challenges, travel and communication. Have you ever considered being a Special Recruiter or member of the R SIGNALS Mobile Presentation Team. If you have, but have not known how to get about it then contact your Admin Office or speak to your 'boss', there are opportunities out there!

NEXT EDITION

In our next submission of *The WIRE* we will have a review of some of the visits that the Division has been involved in over the past 12 months.

IF YOU'VE LOST CONTACT WITH AN OLD FRIEND, WHY NOT SEND AN ENQUIRY TO *THE WIRE* YOU NEVER KNOW ONE OF OUR READERS MAY BE ABLE TO HELP PUT YOU IN CONTACT AGAIN

THE PODMORE COLLECTION

by Keith Olds

A recent acquisition of the Corps museum was the presentation of a valuable and interesting collection of badges, embellishments, formation flashes and other historic items now known in archival circles as the 'Podmore Collection'.

The generous donor, **Brian Podmore**, served 31 years in the Corps. He joined as a boy soldier in 1953 and became the last boy RSM of No.6 (Boys) Training Regiment at Beverley in Yorkshire before that august unit moved to Denbury in Devonshire. He served as a regular soldier for 12 years before joining the Staffordshire Constabulary with which he served for 28 years. He did, however, continue his connection with the Corps though his service with the Territorial Army, with which he served a further 19 years, retiring finally in the rank of Captain.

Brian developed a life-long interest in the embellishments and insignia of his Corps and his collection of Corps badges and other uniform titles will add considerably to the other artefacts held by the museum.

The Collection also includes unrivalled groups of Royal Signals Territorial Army insignia, Commonwealth Army Signals badges and cloth formation arm flashes of most of the formations of the British Army.

This truely amazing collection will be kept in the museum archives to preserve its cohesiveness as a collection, though various individual items may be used occasionally as part of a more general display. Anyone interested in viewing the 'Podmore Collection' should contact the Museum Curator.

Brian Podmore as Boy RSM of No.6 Training Regiment, Normandy Barracks, Beverley, aged 17 and a half, in July 1955.
The rank insignia, cap badge, shoulder title, lanyard and the Catterick Tudor rose he is wearing are included in the Collection he has donated

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S DINNER - 23 JUNE 01

The next President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 23 June 01. The Annual General Meeting will take place on the subsequent Sunday morning.

Dress is Mess Kit for serving officers and Black Tie for retired officers. The cost will be £22. Timings are 1900 for 1930 hrs. Limited basic accommodation is available on request.

Applications, including a contact address and telephone number, should arrive at least three weeks prior to the dinner to:

Captain GW Thompson Royal Engineers
Adjutant Welbeck College
WORKSOP
Notts S80 3LN
Tel: 01909 476326 Fax: 01909 530447

CORPS DINNER CLUB IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2001

TUESDAY 8 MAY 2001
Corps London Dinner
The Savoy
Black Tie

SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2001
Corps Luncheon - Blandford

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2001
Corps Luncheon North - Catterick

FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2001
Scottish Dinner - Glasgow

For further information contact:
Miss Jo Hewitt
RHQ Royal Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset DT11 8RH
Tel: 01258 482083
E-Mail: rhq-rsignals@army.mod.uk
Fax: 01258 482084

ACHTUNG! MINEN!

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Cost £5.50 plus £1.52 postage. Available from:
Ian Hammerton
Tanglewood, 65 Norfield Road, Wilmington,
Dartford Kent, DA2 7NY
Tel/Fax: 01322 522492

THE REAL MILLENNIUM REUNION

264 Signal Squadron

Weekend 10/11/12 August 2001

For further details please contact the SSM
or the Unit Admin Officer on
Civil (01432) 357311 or
Military (94475), Ext: 2253 or 2459

Interested in learning how to sail?

Come and learn the exciting sports of Dinghy sailing and Windsurfing at the

Mercury Sail Training Week 11 - 15 June 2001

At The Dale Adventurous Training Center

All administration, including instructors and equipment,
are provided, just turn up and enjoy yourself

Contact: YofS R. Owens, 14 Signal Regiment (EW) 94359 5656

BEEN IN THE ATTIC RECENTLY?

Some of the displays in the museum are to be upgraded. We have purchased some new cabinets and are looking for donations of exhibits, paraphernalia, images and information on the following subjects:

The Corps Band; The White Helmets; Prisoners of War (particularly Colditz); Commonwealth Corps of Signals - Australian/Canadian/New Zealand/South African; The Cary Theatre and Troop Entertainment

Anything you might find on these subjects could make a big difference! If you can help please contact **Stella McIntyre** or **Cliff Walters** at the Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH.

LANYARD TROPHY

23-25 May 2001 North Yorkshire

For further details contact
16 Air Asslt Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (216)
on Colchester Military 2747

Should you make a purchase as the result of seeing an advert in *The WIRE,* please let them know that you saw their advert in your Corps Magazine

SPECIAL FORCES COMMUNICATORS

TERRITORIAL ARMY

LEAVING THE ARMY? **BE THE BEST**

Interested in a challenging and useful part time career for which you get paid? Want to put your existing military and communications skills to further use?

Our requirement:- between 18 and 32 years old, physically fit, well motivated, keen to learn, discreet, honest, good interpersonal skills.

TA commitment:- 27 days including 15 days annual camp. In addition we require a further 10 days in order to develop multiple communications skills and become proficient in a wide range of military skills, to work in a highly demanding environment.

The opportunities:- personal development, travel, adventurous pursuits, annual financial bonus.

For further information apply to the address below quoting the Wire Magazine as the advertisement source:

PSI
R (SY) Troop (V)
Stirling Lines
Hereford
HR4 7DD

The Territorial Army is an equal opportunities employer

264 (SPECIAL AIR SERVICE) SIGNAL SQUADRON
WANTS YOU!

Volunteers from all Trade Groups within Royal Signals
Are
Required for Service with
United Kingdom Special Forces

If you are up for the challenge of working in an unusual and demanding environment, feel that you are self-disciplined, fit, motivated and that you have something to offer us, then give us a call.

Volunteers will need to be able to work alone and in small teams and be responsive to changing operational situations with little or no notice, within a Joint Force environment. Service with 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron attracts additional rates of pay, parachuting and lots of foreign travel.

We run regular Acquaintance Courses to give you the chance to have a look at the Squadron, and two Probation courses every year. Probation will include physical and military training, parachute and combat survival training and Special Forces communications training with equipment that you will not find anywhere else within the three Services.

Interested? Then Call:

The Training Officer on (9)4475 2741

Background Information can be found in SOinC(A) PD 206

OUR SHARE

(Lt Col (Retd) Pat Soward)

This is a review by **Lt Col (Retd) Pat Soward** of a small booklet about 1 Company, 15 Air Formation Signals. *(Col (Retd) C. J. Walters)*

Maj George McKowen, MBE, served in the Corps for 26 years and had the rare privilege of raising, training and commanding an Air Formation Signals Company throughout its active war service.

15th Air Formation Signals was formed at Stirley Hill, just south of Huddersfield, in January 1943 and **Maj McKowen** arrived in June to command 1 Company which started to form up at Dewsbury later that month. 30 days later UHQ and 1 Company moved to Cherry Valley Camp, Crumlin. The camp had been condemned by previous occupants, was immediately condemned again but to no avail! Transport was drawn, Albion 6 x 2 and Commer 4 x 2 3-Tonners, Fordson 15-cwts and motorcycles. G1098 stores arrived in a steady trickle. In November the complete, and trained, unit moved to Hendon where training continued, but now working up with 2 (Light Bomber) Group who they were to serve.

1 Company was the Line Construction Company and it moved to France in advance of the rest of the unit, arriving at Le Tronquay on 18 August, 1944 (D-Day + 73). Here it almost immediately split with the various sections assisting other Air Formation Signals Units on different projects. 2 Group finally moved to Europe in late September and 1 Company HQ moved to Brussels with the sections deployed to airfields at Vitry, Epinoy, Coxyde and Rosieres.

Shortly after VE Day, **Maj McKowen** arranged for a history of 1 Company since the day of its formation to be compiled and published. In his forward he hoped that each member of the company would, 'find it interesting and worthy of a place in your souvenirs'. **Lt C. A. Pigott**, of company HQ, was responsible for most of this work. In his conclusion, **Maj McKowen** writes, 'I told you in Ireland that I was proud to command you. I repeated this to you before we left for Normandy. I can now only say that your part, and the way you have played it over in Europe has made me more proud of you than ever. I ask you to believe me when I say that, for me, when I look back on my Army life of 20 years, the most efficient, the grandest crowd of officers and men that it has been my luck to serve with is No 1 Company, 15 Air Formation Signals.'

Maj McKowen's son, **Andrew**, visited the museum in January and, on his return home, sent a copy of his father's book to the museum where it can now be seen in the archives. The book, entitled 'Our Share', was meticulously researched and is exceptionally complete. It includes photographs of the officers, of the members of Coy HQ and of each section. Full nominal roles, including the names of those posted out and in, details of vehicle milages and of cables laid and refurbished are all included. Even a short history of the work of 2 (Light Bomber) Group, its Wings, Squadrons and aircraft types, is included. If ever there was an example of how a unit history should be written, this is it.

The registered Domain Name for the Beverley Boys' Archive - beverleyboysarchive.co.uk

The Royal Corps of Signals

Festival of Music & Song
May 12th 2001
Doors Open 7.30
at the
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Featuring;

The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals
The Pipes and Drums of the Royal Corps of Signals
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Enquiries;Adam Forty - Event Organiser
Tel; 01258 482 258 *Fax; 01258 482 084*

'CALL TO ARMS'

Review by Colonel (Retd) Cliff Walters

As a Major he was the SO2 Fixed Communications in Signals 34 from 1984 to 1986. During this period was the introduction (amongst other things!) of FASTNET, Facsimile machines in COMMCENS, FITS in the Falklands and early mobile radios in senior officer's staff cars.

'CALL TO ARMS' was published on 21 February 2001 and was commissioned by BT Defence to mark their part played in establishing the Defence Fixed Telecommunications System (DFTS). The marketing material advertises:

'A HISTORY OF MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CRIMEAN WAR TO THE PRESENT DAY'

The Editors, **Maureen Bridges** and **John Pegg**, have put together an excellent record of their subject. To imply that the book deals with ALL Military Communications throughout the period may be a little misleading. One would expect BT to concentrate on fixed communications, and this it does in a very interesting and thorough way; albeit that other aspects of communications are dealt with in less detail.

The early chapters give an excellent account of the advances in communications covering shutter telegraph, heliographs, lamps, semaphore and other 'physical' means of passing messages. Later, the opportunities exploited using electricity to carry signals are woven in to the narrative. This includes electric telegraphy, early telephones, manual switching and line laying.

Throughout the book there is detail given of the military communications organisations. Initially this includes the build up to the RE Signal Service and the subsequent formation of the Royal Signals. Later, it describes Air Support, Air Formation and fixed communication organisation in UK and overseas.

The history of Air Defence Communications in UK, from WW1 onwards, is dealt with in depth. This relates the AD task and organisation to the communications that were provided; mainly by landline. It is a fascinating and detailed account encompassing Sopwith Snipes, the Observer Corps, radar, sirens and so on, much of which may not be familiar to the Army reader. WW2 fixed communications are included.

Following on from WW2 the GPO were at the forefront of restoring fixed communications in UK and Germany. EMD, STARRNET, cross channel communications and the relationship between the GPO and Royal Signals are all subjects that will be recalled by BAOR warriors!!

To complete the history there is operational information on the Falklands War, Bosnia and Kosovo. The ongoing progression of fixed communications in UK, brought about by new technology, is given and such systems as the Defence Teleprinter Network (DTN), LINESMAN, Army Telephone Network, UNITER, Naval Fixed Telecommunications System are all aired. Many of these systems were costly to maintain and functions were duplicated. A major study in 1987 eventually gave birth to the Defence Fixed Telecommunications System on 25 July 1996.

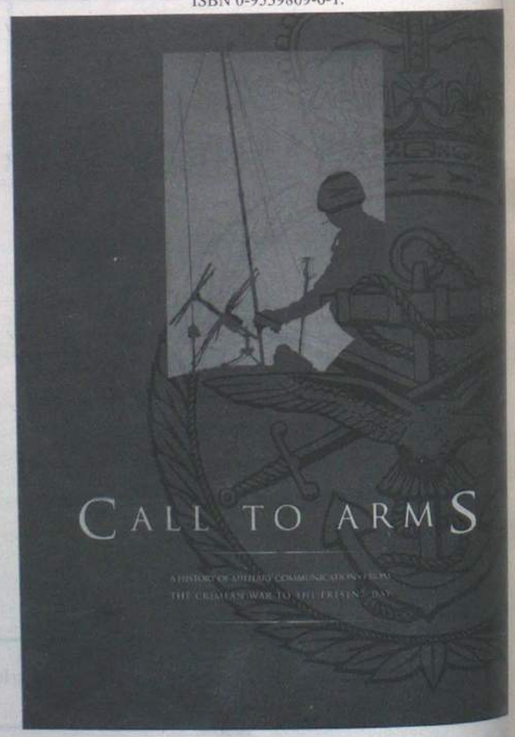
Read all about it. It is an enjoyable, interesting and a very detailed account of an important aspect of military communications that does not often get the limelight.

Past and present members of the Corps are invited to order copies of Call to Arms at a special price of £15.99 inc p&p (normally £19.99) by writing to the publishers:

FOCUS Publishing, 4 Watts Road, Tavistock PL19 8LF

Enclosing remittance, name and address and quoting reference CTA/WIRE. It is hoped that the Museum will stock the book soon.

ISBN 0-9539809-0-1.



MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
MARCH 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Maj G. Harwood MBE	DISC Support Unit
Maj J. E. Mullender	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Maj J. M. P. Leggate	16 Signal Regiment
A/Maj N. E. Baugh	HQ ARRC
Capt L. Keily	RHQ AFNORTH
Capt G. G. A. Reith	32 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Capt M. J. Spandler	16 Air Assault Brigade Headquarters
Capt D. T. H. Wilson	15 Signal Regiment

OFFICERS
FEBRUARY 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Capt S. E. G. Barnard	2 Signal Regiment
Capt B. M. Bingham	264 (SAS) Signal Squadron
Capt L. D. Burrell	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Capt M. J. Crinnion	Army Apprentices' College
Capt R. J. Farrimond	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
Capt L. Golley	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Capt A. Greenfield	9 Signal Regiment (Radio)
Capt G. Hodgson	2 Signal Regiment
Capt A. Scott	7 Signal Regiment
Capt S. G. Scott	34 (N) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Capt A. T. W. Steele	7 Signal Regiment

WOS AND SNCOS
FEBRUARY

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 RD P. Marshall	BMATT Sierra Leone
WO1 FofS P. S. Hodson	2 Signal Regiment
A/WO1 RD J. T. Cauldwell	35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
A/WO1 FofS A. G. Jenkins	7 Signal Regiment
A/WO1 M. W. Gould	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
WO2 P. E. Stockell	HQ SOinC
A/WO2 RD J. S. Hogan	Army Apprentice College
SSgt H. Baker	Army Apprentice College
SSgt B. Wilkins	R&LS South
A/SSgt R. Carter	16 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt J. Driver	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
Sgt R. P. Atkinson	HQ Landcent
Sgt P. D. Batley	R&LS East
Sgt M. N. Campbell	7 Signal Regiment
Sgt A. P. Dear	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt J. P. Drewett	15 Signal Regiment
Sgt G. E. Dunstone	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt S. J. Hogan	ATACCS
Sgt D. S. Mahoney	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt J. M. Richmond	4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204)
Sgt G. Smith	15 Signal Regiment
Sgt T. M. Whalen	30 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt S. J. Mesmer	UNICOM
A/Sgt C. J. Oneill	SHAPE ACE Commsec
A/Sgt P. E. Smith	RHQ AFSOUTH

WOS AND SNCOS
MARCH 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 FofS K. Dodd	Army CIS Services Group
A/WO1 RD G. C. N. Keane	40 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
WO2 RD M. J. Crowther	238 Signal Squadron
WO2 FofS J. B. Harper	SSU Digby
WO2 FofS A. J. Riglar	19 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (209)
WO2 FofS M. Roberts	225 Signal Squadron
A/WO2 RD A. A. Chapman	21 Signal Regiment
A/WO2 RD D. P. Coleman	6 Signal Regiment
A/WO2 RD A. J. Crawford	7 Signal Regiment
A/WO2 RD P. A. Gardner	University of Liverpool OTC
A/WO2 RD A. P. Ironside	16 Signal Regiment
SSgt M. R. Fitz-Patrick	4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204)
SSgt C. Marlowe	36 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
SSgt J. L. Meek	RHQ AFSOUTH
SSgt W. J. Scoots	7 Signal Regiment
SSgt R. P. Shield	16 Signal Regiment
SSgt A. V. Smith	30 Signal Regiment
SSgt M. P. Townley	ATR Bassingbourn
A/SSgt N. J. Clay	ASTS
Sgt M. P. Curbishley	School of Army Aviation
Sgt R. J. Garlick	2 Signal Regiment
Sgt M. P. Gordon	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt C. J. Jacobs	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
A/Sgt J. N. Carter	31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
A/Sgt D. J. Counter	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
A/Sgt C. H. Henson	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt G. A. Keith	30 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt D. T. Mawson	14 Signal Regiment (EW)

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)

TRIALS SUPPORT TROOP
COMMAND SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

SO3 (W) Trials	**Capt J. A. Kennedy**
Tp YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Jon Evans**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Tony Downing**

The Millennium for Trials Support Tp was substantially quieter than 1999, with the Troop conducting only four major trials. Trials on the new EW system deployed by 14 Signal Regiment (EW) took up the majority of the early part of the year and involved the whole Troop, a Squadron from 14 Signal Regiment (EW), Y Troop Royal Marines and over twenty others from Units throughout the Army.

The Yeoman of Signals, **WO2 Jon Evans** took a short break from mountain biking to accompany **Sgt Steve Lord** on a HF trial with 1 (RBY) Sig Sqn (V). A complex trial which covered the majority of the UK from Newquay to Dundee, a challenge for the most competent of tradesmen. A number of Trials Teams have been working hand in hand with the RAF on a new piece of equipment for Tri Service use. **LCpl Bob Roberts** has managed to escape Blandford on two occasions, proving that trials work is not all done in the rain and wind of Blandford Camp. Enduring the heat of Cyprus and Kenya, **LCpl Bob Roberts** and a number of other expert users were sent to conduct long-range trials using a new HF System.

As part of the Digitisation Stage 1 Risk Reduction Programme, the Troop has also completed a comparison Trial between the data capability of Ptarmigan SCRA and new modern digital radios. Harris Radios provided the team with HF and VHF radios from their new 5800 family of radios, whilst the Land Systems Reference Centre was kind enough to assist by providing SCRA coverage and a couple of terminals. Encouraging results where found on both systems. **Cpl Andy Lane** and **Cpl John Jenkins** deployed to York at short notice in order to demonstrate the Harris 5800 HF systems near vertical incidence skywave capability.

LCpl Charlie Brown went away to Bisley twice this year to shoot in the Corps Championships where he came fifth in the service pistol competition and then to shoot for the Corps in the Army competitions where he came 32nd in the pistol match. In between trials the Troop managed a week's adventure training at sunny Brawdy! We all managed to get some surfing, golf and hill walking in, and generally have a very 'arduous' week.

After returning from Christmas and New Year the Troop have been working with the Power Section of The Royal School of Signals, receiving instruction on how to use the Field Electrical Power Distribution System (FEPDS). This was in preparation for the long awaited initial User Trials of the Field Electrical Power System (FEPS) headed up by our master of genes, **Cpl John Jenkins**, which is due to replace the 8/12kW, 16/24kW and 40 kW generator series.

Finally some welcomes and farewells, firstly we would like to welcome **SSgt Tony Downing** from 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Andy Parrott** from 20 Armd Bde, **LCpl Ronnie Allan** from JCU(NI) and finally **Sig Charlotte Driscoll** from 3 (UK) Div and Sig Regt. A farewell goes to **SSgt Ollie McGrail** posted to 3 (UK) Div and Sig Regt, **Sgt Steve Lord** who is starting his Foremans Course, **Cpl** 'Beaz' **Beasley** goes on his T1 Upgrading Course and last but not least **Cpl Sarah Guthrie** posted on promotion to 12 Mech Bde.

GOOD NEWS TRAVELS FAST - PUBLISH IT IN THE WIRE

HEADQUARTERS
2 (NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS) SIGNAL BRIGADE

CHANGE OF BRIGADE MISSION

The operational tasks and capability of 2 (NC) Sig Bde are specified in accordance with direction from CDS and CinC LAND. This direction is coordinated with the DMO and OGD. DCinC states the Mission of the Brigade and Comd Comms LAND exercises OPCOM on behalf of CinC LAND. SDR and subsequent review has confirmed and expanded the major tasks of the Brigade. Its capability is now being matched to this operational tasking and its ORBAT has been increased. New equipment is entering service and changes in commercial technology are being linked to the development of essential capability. In line with these changes, the Brigade is now able to achieve more flexibility and utility in its support to deployed Land Component and Joint operations. In recognition of its unique contribution in peace, and around the spectrum of conflict, CinC approved a new and more appropriate Mission for the Brigade:

'To provide and sustain current and future National and Land environment ICS capability around the spectrum of conflict'

The Brigade's capability is matched to high priority tasks in support of Land environment C2, Defence and National C2. Its Regular, TA and civilian manpower are structured and trained to provide high grade IT, HF radio and ICS installations and engineering services. The Regular, TA and civilian manpower of the Brigade are structured for wide utility within role. TA Regiments and Squadrons are recruited from across the GB. This pan-GB structure enables the Comd to develop capability and execute the Brigade's UK Base Specified Tasks in a coherent manner. Brigade capability is being progressively optimised to ensure the achievement of the Mission and tasks

BRIGADE STUDY PERIOD

In line with a change in Mission, the Brigade Study Period saw the concentration in Yorkshire of the Brigade's leadership to make an important contribution to the development of the 'Future Brigade' concept. Future Brigade will form the Brigade's input into Corps After Next and as such is key to the development of the Brigade. The two day Study Period, planned by **Maj John Russell**, was divided into an informing session with presentations from the DCinC, **Lt Gen Sir John Deverell**, the SOinC(A), **Brig C. A. Burton** with the audience of 160 officers and Warrant Officers tuning in Saturday night to GOC 5 Div, **Maj Gen A. Denaro**. Enthused **Maj Russell**, ' The Study Period brought everything that we have been striving towards both as a headquarters and throughout the units into one weekend where the key decision-makers could chart the Brigade's course'. The final day was spent presenting the results of hard worked syndicates - all contributing to satisfy one aim - moving the Brigade forward in a positive way.

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR 2 (NC) SIGNAL BRIGADE

2001 is proving to be another busy year for the Brigade with numerous operational and exercise deployments overseas. Detachments from the National Communication Signal Regiments are deploying NCRS to Germany taking advantage of a training opportunity with the ARRC; 31 Sig Regt (V) will be deploying LANWARD to the Ukraine on exercise and 71 Sig Regt will deploy a Foreign Office sponsored short term training team to the Barbados Defence Force.

97 (SFOR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) OPERATION PALATINE DEPLOYMENT

The highlight and main effort for 2001 will be in October when the Brigade will deploy a composite TA Squadron to Bosnia on Op Palatine. The Squadron, which will be known as 97 (SFOR) Sig Sqn (V) will be entirely TA, consisting of volunteers drawn from across the Brigade. The Squadron will complete a six-month tour ending in May 2002. Since the Brigade was warned for the task at the end of last year, there have been a huge number of Brigade volunteers to deploy. One factor that may have increased the number of volunteers is the flexibility that the Brigade has been given over tour lengths. At present, TA soldiers who volunteer to deploy on operational tours to the Balkans are required to commit themselves to an eight and a half month long period of service, once the six month tour, pre-deployment training and post-tour leave are taken into account. The Brigade, however, has been allowed to reduce tour lengths from six months down to two if required. This gives TA volunteers greater flexibility over when they can make themselves available for service and also gives them a better chance to receive employer approval to allow them to volunteer for mobilisation. However, there will probably not be a need for the Brigade to utilise shorter tour lengths as 70 % of the volunteers have made themselves available for a six-month tour. Throughout February Boards have selected the OC and fill all the posts within the Squadron. With so many volunteers coming forward, there are more volunteers than posts and the intent is to ensure that no volunteer goes away disappointed and the Headquarters is presently looking at other operational tasks and opportunities.

CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLGY REQUIRES CUTTING EDGE EQUIPMENT

Capt Gareth Marsh has written the Brigade's Equipment Strategy to reflect a new era in 2 (NC) Sig Bde. Says **Gareth**, ' There is an urgent Brigade need for an equipment strategy that will effectively maintain Brigade Military Capability over the next five to ten years. We will be achieving this through the modernisation of the Bde's equipment programme with new systems such as LOCK and SUNFLOWER this year. The main system within the Brigade, NCRS, will also undergo a mid-life enhancement programme, which will modernise the way the Brigade supports its National Communications role. These initiatives will ensure that 2 (NC) Sig Bde will continue to offer challenging and state of the art equipment to its TA soldiers for years to come.' **Capt Andy McCole** agrees wholeheartedly, 'New equipment combined with the enthusiasm of the TA soldier will compliment eachother and position the Brigade for successful wider deployments throughout the Land environment in support of operations and exercises. As the SO3 G2/G3 Ops for the Brigade, I am confident that we are up for the challenge.'

AU REVOIR RIEN ADIEU!

The Headquarters bids farewell on promotion to **Col Geoff Cary** whose unique sense of humour will be missed by all in Corsham. Col **Geoff** presided over a difficult time for the Brigade's ACISG with the loss of AFTS responsibilities but the opportunities presented by IT were fully exploited by **Col Geoff** and his team; resulting in the transfer of responsibility for ISIS to the ACISG. **Col Geoff's** next post is as DComd 19 Mech Bde - KFOR had better watch out! Retiring after spending a life in the Corps is **Lt Col Mike Stevenson** whose heart pounds to the beat of the Corps March. The Brigade has been very fortunate indeed to have an officer of **Col Mike's** quality in the G1/MS chair during this period of change in the Brigade. Equally the HQ is pleased (and relieved) that **Col Mike** has elected to continue his service with the Corps as an RO fulfilling his role by occupying the very hot G1/MS chair.

Finally, the staff will not see the happy, smiling face of PSAO 81 Sig Sqn (V), **Capt John Harris** anymore as **John** has taken advantage of an excellent opportunity to apply his talents elsewhere. **John** was instrumental in the move of the Squadron from Colerne to Corsham and for that we remain grateful. All the best for the future.

HEADQUARTERS
11 SIGNAL BRIGADE

Comd **Brig C. L. Le Gallais OBE**
COS **Maj R. P. Wilson**

HAIL & FAREWELL

Over the Christmas period, the Headquarters said farewell to **Brig Jonathan Cook** and **Jane**. **Brig Jonathan** has been in command of the Brigade for three years and has led with enthusiasm and dedication. It has been a busy and successful period for the Brigade. He led the Brigade through the SDR process and was the focus for the commercialisation of the Balkans. The latter is a considerable feat, for which, not only the Brigade but the Corps is thankful for the reduction in liability for R SIGNALS soldiers in the Balkans. He developed and practised challenging collective training Brigade exercises for the TA regiments, which were able to deliver effective Military Capability in support of the ARRC. He also remained at the forefront of JRRF planning with his guidance to 30 Sig Regt on operations. He leaves a Brigade that is looking forward to the introduction of new equipment and in which the ambiguity of the Chain of Command for TA units has been reduced. We wish **Brig Jonathan** and **Jane** well in their new appointment and look forward to the clear direction he will be able to give to Army Human Resources Policy. On 25 January 2001 we welcomed **Brig Charles Le Gallais OBE** and **Jackie** to the Brigade. We hope that you have a rewarding and exciting tour. We also said farewell to **WO2 FofS** 'Ratty' **Stowell** and **Jackie. WO2 FofS Stowell** was attached to the Brigade for a short period in September 1999 from 35 Sig Regt because he was too noisy. The Brigade TOT was involved in the commercialisation of the Balkans and we were able to give **FofS Stowell** something useful to do. He became the lead technical focus for Project CORMORANT and has provided a breadth of experience and advice to all units in the Brigade as well as the Headquarters. We were delighted to hear that he has been selected for promotion to WO1 because that gives us an opportunity to move him because he is getting a bit noisy for us as well.

PROJECT CORMORANT

Project Cormorant continues to heavily involve the staff of the Headquarters. The pre-contract negotiations have proved to take rather longer than anticipated and are due to be completed by the end of February 2001. This delay has been driven by the desire to have a 100% watertight contract that both meets our requirements and is within the ability of the contractor to provide. This along with the desire to have a full user trial with all the initial delivery of available equipment has lead to a change of the initial operational capability delivery to April/May 2002. However, the driver is to get it right first time and avoid any slippage in the delivery once the contract is signed. The remaining activates of preparing for trade conversion and driver training are well in hand and the future 'steady state' training plan is due to be finalised shortly. The message remains that Project Cormorant is coming, and the advanced military capability that this will deliver, will give the Brigade the tools required to meet the challenges of communications in the joint arena for the 21st Century.

BALKANS COMMERCIALISATION

Project Dagger has now been delivered to Theatre, which formalises the completion of 11 Sig Bde's commitment to the commercialisation project. Our congratulations go to the team, led by **Brig Cook, Maj Jim Foulkes, Capt John Hiorns** and **Capt Al Garrett**. A well run project that delivered modern equipment against changing operational requirements on time and released soldiers from static tasks in the Balkans.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

The Brigade Headquarters and 2 and 30 Signal Regiments have been recently re-assessed for IIP under the G6 LAND Convergence plan. We assume that all has gone well and await formal notification. There were a few tense moments when our typist, **Mrs** 'Robbie' **Bragg**, was in danger of overwhelming the assessor with her tales of Equality of Opportunity and Training and Development opportunities. She did ask to go back again after she had thought of a few things that she had forgotten first time around; but we were able to rescue the assessor by smuggling him out of the back door.

EXERCISE SAIF SAREEA

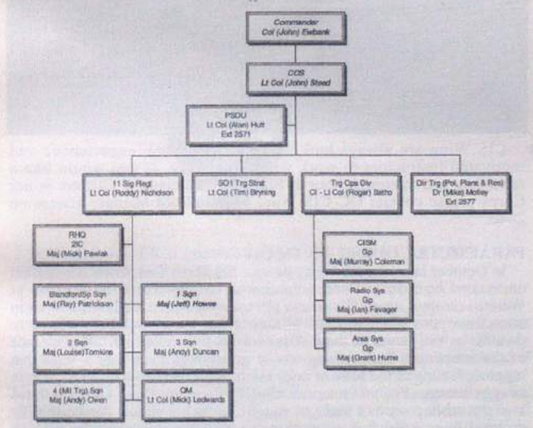
The Headquarters has been appointed as the One Star J6 focus for Ex Saif Sareea. This will prove to be a challenge, because it will run in conjunction with a full Brigade exercise cycle. **Maj Duncan Parkinson** has just returned from his first recce from the Oman and is now really beginning to look worried.

NEWS OF TRAINING

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

NEWS FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

The Royal School of Signals
Outline Organisation Chart
Italics indicate appointment in last 12 months



All change at the top of the RSS as Command of the School moves from **Col Ken Hadfield** to **Col John Ewbank**. At the same time the COS's post, which had been gapped for six months, was filled by **Lt Col John Steed MBE**.

The new Commander - Col John Ewbank

THE FUTURE
PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AND DEFENCE TRAINING REVIEW

The Public Private Partnership (PPP) pauses temporarily to note the proposed changes that the Defence Training Review (DTR) is likely to bring to Blandford. The DTR implementation team is due to arrive at

Blandford as this issue goes to press. The DTR is likely to bring substantial changes to Blandford over the next few years and whilst detail has yet to be firmed up, we can see that Defence CIS training is likely to gravitate towards Blandford in the foreseeable future.

TA HELP FILL THE GAPS AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

The TA are increasingly being deployed at the RSS through the medium of Full Time Regular Service (FTRS) a total of five TA officers and soldiers are currently serving in the RSS. This has a double benefit, it gives valuable experience to the TA, whilst helping to fill gaps that Regular Royal Signals are unable to fill.

COMMAND AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT GROUP (CISM GP), TRAINING OPERATIONS DIVISION

OC **Maj Murray Coleman**
Trg Manager **Mr Kevin Mather (C2 (HIO))**
Sgt Maj **WO2 (SSM) Paul Robson**

This may appear to many of you as a completely new and previously unheard of organisation at the Royal School of Signals (RSS). With the continued rationalisation of the training base, RSS now has only three training groups, CISM Gp being one of them. The Group is established for around 90 staff with a 1:2 mix of military to civilian. The group itself is split into five Wings, each with its own distinct and individual areas of training responsibility.

CIS Wing: is responsible for all IT training to Royal Signals Tradesman and some Command Courses with particular involvement in IS Operator training and ATacCS.
Data & Security Wing: is responsible for Keyboard, JMH, Crypto and Infosec training.
C2W Wing: is responsible for all aspects of Command & Control Warfare training, including Electronic Warfare.
Command Training Wing: is responsible for command training to the Troop Commanders course, Captains course, the Pre-JCSC Module etc as well as elements of the YofS and FofS.
Technology Wing: is responsible for vocational education to the FofS course (BSc) and the CISM course (MSc) for staff officers.

As can be seen the Group has a broad and ever expanding training remit. We are always happy to answer questions or queries on the training delivered within the Group so do not hesitate to contact us if you feel the need.

COMMAND & CONTROL WARFARE (C2W) WING

OC **Maj Graham Barber**

The Wing continues to provide C2W & Electronic Warfare (EW) training for all Officers and Soldiers within the Corps. It also provides training for All Arms and Joint courses, and lectures to students in Service Schools all over UK. One of the more demanding and arduous tasks is teaching to the NATO EW courses held in Germany and Italy.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

It's not all work and no play in C2W Wing and at a social gathering **Maj Ian Gray** (Yacht Master and Con Man) suggested a week's sailing as a challenging pursuit. He then portrayed this as a regatta with gin and tonics, calm seas and plenty of sunshine. Well to the more experienced members of the Wing (**Maj Graham Barber** and **WO1 Pat Hannan**) it was obvious that this was a classical deception plan and they volunteered to hold the fort while the rest of the wing went on their cruise! On the first day with a Force 5-6 following and six hours into a twelve-hour trip from Cowes to Weymouth, **WO2 Gordon Burns** gave up the fight to keep hold of his breakfast and proceeded to feed the fish. The rest of the week was slightly less rough and much more enjoyable as everyone got to grips with the nautical terms of sheets, yards, jibs etc. On their return our newly qualified Competent Crewmembers (**WO2 Gordon Burns** and **Sgt** 'Miffy' **Smith**) were soon swinging the yardarm with stories of the seven seas.

TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

The yearly pre-Christmas Team Building exercise was once again upon us and the OC, **Maj Graham Barber**, kindly volunteered **Sgt** 'Miffy' **Smith** to organise this prestigious event. The Command Instructors, **Capt Stuart Boyne and Capt Jim Boyle** and OC, **Maj Murry Coleman** and SSM, **WO2 Paul Robson** CISM Gp were duly invited. After many long and tedious exercise planning meetings it was decided that the exercise would take place in Salisbury. The exercise began and on arrival at Salisbury the floods which had hampered most of the country were no match for the minibus and our driver, **Capt Jim Boyle**, who proceeded to part the waters like Moses did the Red Sea. The exercise got off to a good start with an excellent working lunch where discussions focused on the route for the afternoon. With lunch over it was time for our Pathfinder, **Maj Ian Gray**, to take us to the famous landmarks of Salisbury. Unfortunately the flooding hampered this as most of these were under 6ft of water, therefore, it was decided that the best COA was to view these from afar while taking light refreshments at various old establishments. With the orienteering and physical exercise phase of the exercise over it was down to the electronic intelligence test ('Strike it lucky'). The OC, **Maj Graham Barber**, felt that the machine was no match for his team of Majors, Captains, WO's and SNCO's but, after a couple of hours and with resources running low it was agreed that we had won a moral victory. Overall a successful and enjoyable exercise which was well organised by **Sgt** 'Miffy' **Smith**.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS WING

OC **Capt (Tfc IS) Fiona Nelson**
Trg Co-Ord **WO2 (Supvr IS) George Murray**

INFORMATION SYSTEMS OPERATOR CLASS 1 (ISFR 2/00)

The second Information System Operator Foundation Class 1 course finished on 22 December 2000 and all twelve students were successful in passing the course. All of the students approached the course with a positive and enthusiastic manner, determined to learn as much as they could. They all worked extremely hard, and it was a credit to them that the Instructors commented on their thirst for knowledge and their willingness to study during evenings and weekends. The students were continually assessed throughout the course, and it culminated in a two-day exercise where they were thoroughly tested on all aspects of instruction delivered. At the end of the course a top student was identified. This was based on both the individuals performance in the various end of module tests, their practical skills and the confidence and aptitude demonstrated and assessed throughout the course. **Cpl Justin Medcraft** scored well in all of the exams and during the practical elements, demonstrating a logical, methodical approach to his work. Azlan Ltd (Training) presented the award to **Cpl Medcraft** having sponsored this course for the second time. **Ms Jenny Barrow**, Sales Manager and **Mr Alan Clement**, Public Sector Accounts Manager presented it on behalf of the Company. The Chief Instructor, **Lt Col Batho**, addressed the course, congratulating all of the students on their hard work and enthusiasm shown during the eleven weeks. The photograph shows **Cpl Medcraft** who is now serving with 15 Sig Regt with **Ms Jenny Bower** and **Mr Alan Clement** after the award presentation.

CIS Wing are always looking for high-calibre, experienced and motivated Instructors to work within the Wing. If you would like a rewarding and interesting tour at Blandford, training the Soldiers in our Corps please contact OC CIS Wing at Blandford Military Extension 2040.

PARACHUTE COURSE – by Sig Gaz Coy

In October last year my trusty partner **Sig Dave Cracknell** and myself embarked on a Joint Forces Parachute course which took place at Western-on-the-Green. The course started well with a healthy 30 or so in attendance, this wasn't to last as slowly but surely numbers started to dwindle as the nature of the course took its toll. After the full assurance of the instructors that nothing would go wrong, there was always that niggling feeling at the back of ones mind, **BUT WHAT IF**. Well, as sure as eggs are eggs fate was tempted. On Day Five, **Sig Dave Cracknell** had a slight mishap on exit and got caught up in his shoot. Amazingly he dropped from 3,500 ft in about three seconds but thankfully he escaped death, his injuries were a broken pelvis in two places and shattered pride. A very lucky escape! **Dave** is recovering at home, we wish him well and a 'speedy' recovery.

COMMAND TRAINING WING – *by Capt Stu Boyne*

What do the instructors of Comd Trg Wng do on the rare occasion when there are no courses on? Well, if it's summer they are off sailing and if it is winter they ski. That is just what happened at the beginning of December when **Capt Stu Boyne** took advantage of a quiet period and headed off to the slopes, leaving **Capt Jim Boyle** and new boy **Capt Paul Merry** in charge. Being secretary of Corps Snowboarding December provided the perfect opportunity to visit the Corps Snowboarding Championships, part of the Corps Winter Sports Championships in Zell-Am-See, Austria. The lack of snow did not deter over 50 riders from competing, however, the requirement to travel every day did curtail the level of après-ski! Unfortunately, as the Troop Commanders Course Officer, **Stu Boyne** had to return a week early. This disappointment lasted for as long as it took for **Maj Murray Coleman**, OC CISM Gp, to walk in to the office and order both **Stu Boyne** and **Paul Merry** to participate in a French Troop Commanders exercise in the Alps. Following this piece of entente cordiale, **Jim Boyne**, the old man of the Wing, will be joining the 'youngsters' when he accompanies the Troop Commander Course No 49 on their Adventure Training Qualification/Planning Exercise. It's definitely work hard play hard in Comd Trg Gp!

THE ROYALS SCHOOL OF SIGNALS MODERN APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME 'A REAL PARTNERSHIP'

The Public Private Partnership (PPP) process has stalled at the Royal School of Signals (RSS) in order to include the implications of the Defence Training Review (DTR) in the partnering requirements. While it is frustrating not to be further down the partnering route, it is refreshing to be able to report a blossoming arrangement which proves that small partnerships can work highly effectively whilst remaining flexible and sensitive to each partners needs and aspirations.

NVQs, Problem? No Problem! National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) within the Army have been for many cap badges a policy aspiration as opposed to a policy directive for the simple reason that there is currently little or no funding for NVQs within the military. As a result, different local solutions have developed with varying degrees of success depending on the enthusiasm and commitment of personnel tasked with implementing an 'NVQ policy' within their unit. The Royal School of Signals (RSS) experimented with the provision of Telecommunications NVQs in the mid 1990s with funding through a Modern Apprenticeship programme with Dorset Training and Enterprise Council (TEC). Problems were encountered with the bureaucracy and probity of the whole process and so in 1998 the decision was taken to outsource the scheme on a nil cost basis to a professional vocational assessment provider, TQ Training Management Services Limited (TQ). Today RSS delivers Modern Apprenticeships in Telecommunications by means of a highly successful and dynamic partnership between RSS and TQ. At the time of writing over 1200 soldiers are currently working towards a level 3 NVQ in Telecommunications. 370 have already successfully achieved their level 3 NVQ as well as Key Skills at the same level. The partnership was the first scheme to deliver anywhere trainees with the completed Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in Telecommunications. It is now the largest supplier of Telecomms MAs in the UK. The model has proved so successful that work is now in hand to deliver the same qualification to signallers in field units who missed the opportunity whilst at RSS. The partnering model used successfully at the RSS is also being offered to the TA.

Teaching Knowledge, Skills and Understanding. An NVQ firstly requires 'knowledge, skills and understanding' to be taught in order to prepare a soldier to carry out a job role. Thus, the RSS contribution to the partnership is to concentrate on what it does best – to train and prepare young signallers to take their place as competent military telecommunications technicians or operators in the Field Army.

Demonstrating Competence. The past culture of civilian qualifications at RSS was one of course-based assessment with the opportunity for award at the end of a training course. An NVQ is centred on the individual not a course and requires a demonstration of competence in doing the job for real in the work place. This is where TQ enters the partnership. TQ employs former members of the Royal Corps of Signals and trains them as professional and dedicated NVQ assessors and internal verifiers. The entire assessment and internal verification process is undertaken by TQ, as is all of the bureaucracy demanded by the government funding agencies, the National Training Organisations, Awarding bodies and the Training Standards Council. Assessment of each soldier begins at RSS and is completed over a period of 18 months by TQ staff in Corps field units.

NVQ Field Offices. In the past, the majority of Army NVQ schemes have relied upon mapping a course to a qualification and qualifying the instructional staff as D32/D33 NVQ assessors. The logic was that if you could teach someone to do something and then assess their competence at doing it, this would be a perfect (and easy) way of achieving NVQs in the Army. However, 'course based' NVQs are now being turned down by the Training Standards Council on the grounds that the candidate has not shown any evidence of competence back at his or her place of work after the course.

The RSS / TQ partnership set as its goal from the start, to lead the way in rigorous field based assessment and thereby provide a robust independent quality assurance mechanism. TQ personnel conduct regular visits to all Royal Signals field units and have established three permanently manned NVQ offices in York (2 Signal Regiment), Nuneaton (30 Signal Regiment) and Bulford (3 (UK) Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment) in addition to the main NVQ office at RSS, Blandford. It is anticipated that more field unit offices will open in the near future.

A Successful Partnership. The RSS / TQ partnership has provided the following advantages:

- Provision of a dedicated team of professional assessors and internal verifiers outside the current MOD funded manpower of the Corps and yet drawn from the Corps
- Removal of the burden on staff in field units and at RSS who had been tasked with NVQ activities in addition to their day job.
- Consistent and independent assessment
- Centralised responsibility for quality standards

The RSS/TQ partnership is always interested to hear from any member of the Corps who is preparing to leave the Armed Forces after a successful career and is interested in working as a professional instructor or NVQ assessor in telecommunications, ensuring confidence and competence in today's young signallers. For further details on instructor roles contact the RSS Civil Admin Officer on Blandford Mil 2251 or external 01258 482251. For details on assessor and verifier roles contact Harry Griffin or Glenn Renshaw at the NVQ Office on Blandford Mil 2968 or external 01258 482968.

11 SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 SQUADRON- EX RAGING RHINO 26 - 28 JANUARY 2001 FROM A DS PERSPECTIVE - *by SSgt McCulloch*

As this was my first time on a Raging Rhino, it seemed appropriate that I should write a few words on the weekend's events.

Friday 26 January: All the preparation seemed to be going well under the diligent leadership of **SSgt Smith**. The advance party had only departed three hours previously when a member of it called asking if there, '....was a gas bottle that the No5 cookset actually fitted onto.' Unfortunately the person who was in charge of bums to seats had gone AWOL. So by the time the main DS party came to depart, there appeared to be very little space in the one remaining Land Rover. As well as ourselves, there was also the above mentioned gas bottle plus our personal equipment to somehow fit in. I offered to stay behind and make more room but unfortunately I was an essential member of the team and had to go along. To top it all off the weather had taken a sharp turn for the worse: vertical and horizontal water descended from the sky. There was **Capt Connor**, as vehicle commander and **SSgt Dave Bousefield** as Driver, leaving **Sgt Twigg**, myself and another crammed into the rear of the vehicle. As soon as we set off, at a fair rate of knots I may add, it became apparent that the canvas over the rear structure of the Land Rover was about as much use at keeping the rain out as the Millennium Dome was at getting tourists in. The cries of, 'Are we there yet?' kept coming from **Sgt Twigg**, but 'Nasty' **Bousefield** just laughed and put his foot down even more. After **SSgt Bousfield** had managed to loose the pack of North Dorset police chasing us since the Salisbury roundabout, we arrived at the location for the exercise. Although feeling cold, wet and travel sick, I bravely struggled on to the next phase. As the troops arrived on their warm dry buses I thought that at least the worst was out of the way, but then it started to snow. The troops were moved into the harbour areas under cover of darkness, arranged their sleeping accommodation and rested ready for a full day's training the next day.

Cpl Smith's Group

Saturday 27 January: We were awoken in the morning to 'slept like a baby last night' courtesy of the dulcet tones of **SSgt Bousfield**. The Snow had gone, the sun was shining and a firm crispness of frost lay on the ground from the bitterly cold temperatures of the previous evening. A great day for training lay ahead. First on the agenda that morning was to be Map Reading, the Groups set off in sections with members of the DS acting as chaperones. The padre and the OC Sqn, **Maj Howes**, also joined in on this one and on the whole the event went well without any serious incidents, but the proof in the pudding would be the night navigation that evening. That afternoon the sections went on a round

robin visiting a multitude of stands including First Aid, anti ambush, NBC, Mine awareness and Section battle drills, all under the Watchful eye of the SSM, **WO2 Andy Harriott** and **SSgt Bousfield. WO1 Bob Clubb** and myself set out to place the markers for that evening's night navigation exercise. That Evening **WO1 Clubb** and myself briefed all the sections on our well planned and thought out evening's activities. 2 Section had an extra bit of a briefing which went along the lines of, 'If you see 1 Section can you tell them to be aware of the RF hazard at Gd.....' A contentious issue also arose when one of the section commanders spotted that the cut off time was the same for all teams, yet they were all being set off at 10-min intervals. **WO1 Clubbs** cuffed reply to this was that the groups going off first were older and slower, which seemed to be an acceptable explanation as there were no further questions from the section commanders. Fortunately **SSM Harriott** and **Capt Connor** deployed on the ground to see how the troops were getting on, but unfortunately they got lost. The SSM thought he knew the ground better than **Capt Connor** knew the map. How wrong he was, and much to the disgust of the fully tactical 3 Cdo Bde a Land Rover on full beam could be seen whizzing around Salisbury Plain for most of the night. In the end all sections achieved creditable results on what was a challenging course.

First Aid skills come to be tested

Sunday 29 January: I was yet again awakened by **SSgt Bousfield's** dulcet tones; 'Slept like a baby last night' now becoming very repetitive. However, I could handle this for two reasons, the first being it was Sunday and the last day of the exercise, and the second that it was yet again sunny, which is always nice. All that was planned for today was the patrol competition, which was the grand finale and a means to the end of the training. **Sgt Twigg** who is normally a good competent map-reader confidently deployed onto the ground to set up his NBC stand. After two hours and still no sign of the first section he realised he was in the wrong place, his explanation to the SSM was reported as, '....whilst swerving out of the way of a wild flock of sheep, sir, I got the vehicle bogged in.' The competition was deservedly won by 1 Section 1 Platoon. On completion of the patrol competition End Ex was called which only meant one thing to me, a journey in the back the LandRover with **SSgt Dave Bousfield** at the wheel. Not a pleasant thought. On the whole I thought the training went very well, due to the professionalism of **SSgt Bousfield** and his staff. A worthwhile Exercise and a good laugh (at times). Special thanks to the Gurkha Chefs for the fantastic curry on Saturday evening (We still have not found **Sig Williams**). A mention must go to **Cpl Rumble** whose elastic kept twanging him back to camp on every available opportunity and to **Cpl Lyon** who apparently couldn't deploy due to a broken nail.

EXERCISE RAGING RHINO
A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE - *by Sig Sheilds, Rhino Tp*

At approximately 1630hrs on Friday January 2001 Ex Raging Rhino began. After leaving 11 Sig Regt we headed towards the training area full of excitement about the exercise. However, this was soon quenched as it began to snow quite hard and it was settling on the ground. When we reached the training area we watched a light and sound demo after which we were led in to the harbour area. After a stand-to we set up bashas and got our heads down. However, as no white light was allowed, everything had to be done in darkness through the night that made things a lot harder. Reveille was at 0600hrs. We then stood to and then we were given time for personal admin, to clean rifles, and to eat.

As the day progressed we went to different lessons; these were first aid and NBC, mine awareness, unarmed combat, anti-ambush, map reading and section attacks. As the day turned into night the practical side of the exercise began, we started off with night navigation. Each section had ten checkpoints to go to, each checkpoint was worth points ranging from 25-150 depending on the distance travelled. The Section which earned the most before the cut off time of 2300hrs would win. As most of the teams were in before the cut off time the troops moved into the harbour areas and began the night routine of putting out sentries and standing to, followed by some much needed sleep.

On Sunday morning reveille was at a very early 0545hrs and the morning routine began at 0700hrs. For the final parts of the test phase; each section was split in half, one half of the section was going with the section IC and the other half with the section 2IC. Both halves of the section would be given a map and some checkpoints to go to. One half would cover NBC and mine awareness whilst the other half would cover First Aid and Anti-ambush, as with the night before the first complete section to be in the harbour area would gain maximum. As the very last test each section took part in section attacks to assault and overcome an enemy position whilst patrolling through a wooded area after which it was time to return back to camp after a tiring but very enjoyable weekend.

BLANDFORD CAVING CLUB

(L-R): Cpl JR Whitney, Cpl Tony Brown, Sig Amy Finnie
Kneeling - LCpl Carl Stephenson

Blandford Caving Club is a new and fast expanding club within the Garrison; with both Phase 2 recruits and Permanent Staff making up its numbers. The club is headed by **Capt Jones** with **Cpl Brown** and Cpl **Whitney** providing the training skills and technical knowledge. Although this is a new club, already three members, **Cpl Savage, LCpl Stevenson** and **Sig Finnie,** have gained their Joint Service Cave Proficiency Award and are all looking towards their Cave Leader Training courses. During its first few months the club has organised two trips to Yorkshire, descending some of the finest caves in the country; Alum Pot, Swinsto Pull-throu, Bar Pot into Gaping Gyll and Ireby Fell Cavern (a cave which recently took the lives of two cavers). It has

Taking a rest in Rhino Rift
(L-R): Sig Amy Finnie, Cpl JR Whitney, Cpl Ritchie Savage

also attended a Combined Services Caving Meet in the Mendips and has also had a trip to South Wales into Ogof Draenan, a cave which is proving to be one of the largest cave systems in the UK. The Club is very active with trips already planned for Yorkshire and Derbyshire. Some members are already booked onto an overseas trip planned for Northern Spain in September. If anyone should require any information on the Blandford Caving Club, do not hesitate to contact either **Capt Jones** on 94371 2041 or **Cpl Brown** on 94371 2702.

DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LCpl Carl Stephenson — prussiking out of Rhino Rift

2 SQUADRON - IRON TROOP - *by Sig Elliot*
PARACHUTING COURSE

We arrived at Netheravon Camp on 28 January and we were shown to our accommodation. The course started at 0830hrs on the Monday morning with a couple of hours spent doing admin. We paid for six months membership and insurance with the British Parachuting Association. After completing the paperwork we started the ground training with our instructor, **Ian Cessford**. We started learning the stable position required for safe deployment of the parachute. This position was coupled with the five-second safety count, which is the time it takes for the parachute to fully open. The training also taught the correct position to adopt in the door of the aircraft to ensure we faced the wind on exit. We were given instruction on all of the equipment that we were going to use, and we were taught the drill for dealing with a malfunction of the canopy. This involved the procedure for cutting away the main chute and deploying the reserve in the case of an emergency. We practiced all of these drills every morning in case we had forgotten anything.

The weather was not good during the week but, fortunately, on Friday afternoon the winds dropped below 15mph which allowed us to jump. We lined up in groups of 13 and all of our equipment was checked before we went out to the plane. The chance to jump came without warning so I did not have the chance to get nervous. However, I became progressively more tense during the time it took the plane to get to 3500feet. Once we were at the correct height we were individually told to 'Get in the door'. When the word came to 'GO', everything seemed to go blank for me until the canopy opened and I had a few minutes drifting down to a soft landing. Fortunately a camera was mounted on the aircraft, so we were able to study our technique, or lack of it, in the post-jump debrief. The ground training had proved it's worth and, from the video, it seems that the area to work on was our position in the air, which is quite difficult to maintain. Due to the bad weather, we were unable to jump again until the following Wednesday. This meant that we had more spare time than usual so we did some course bonding at the local swimming pool. The course was made up of people from all three services and this made the atmosphere more informal and relaxed.

We felt more comfortable jumping again on the Wednesday, because we knew what to expect. This allowed us to concentrate more on our technique. We made a further two jumps on the Friday, getting progressively better with each one. The bad weather stopped any further jumps, but we can go back at weekends and pay as we jump. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and I look forward to having another go in the future, hopefully progressing further in the sport. This experience has also given me an interest in military parachuting although I will have to work on my fitness if I am going to make the grade in 216 Sig Sqn.

2 SQUADRON - BEAUFIGHTER TROOP

WO2 'Ginge' **Haynes** approached the Troop Staff last week with a wonderful idea. He had been asked by the 'Cranborne Ancient Technology Center to help build a Bronze Age roundhouse. Yes, I can now see you all sitting up with interest embedded in your eyes! The Troop asked all 273 members for volunteers, of which seven decided that their ancestor's history needed to be rebuilt for all to see. So on a Cold, wet, miserable day they set off with the SSM to Cranborne to cover a 25m diameter roundhouse's roof with soil so that it may be seeded or turfed in time for its official opening in May. The roundhouse is based on and archaeological survey of middle Bronze Age sites on the Isle of Man. The main structure is an enormous timber frame supporting a (pitched) turfed roof. The structure itself can hold approximately 200 personnel.

SSM — at the bottom of the hill
Informing everyone of his parade tomorrow
and don t forget your uppers.

Chain Gang top to bottom

WO2 SSM Maynes getting blisters on his hands for the first time

The day was spent with the team digging holes in the waterlogged soil, only to fill buckets and pass them up the chain to the top of the roof to empty them. **Sig Heavey** stated that she now knew how her grandfather felt working on the Chain gangs. The Troop did make a substantial breakthrough with the project, having completed the whole task by 3pm. The Staff at the centre were obviously impressed that the roof had been completed. They were also shocked that so few could accomplish so much in such a short period of time. They had, under guarantee, never seen a group of Phase 2 soldiers working with their favourite SSM before.

The highlight of the day turned out to be a guided tour of all the very interesting buildings by **Mr Ben Koralek**, who had brushed up on the history of each building for the interested troops. Also when **Sig Adams** stated that he had had enough of everyone taking the mike out of his ears, and gave them something else to laugh about, he informed everyone that his name was **John Wayne Adams**. The Troop returned to Blandford very wet muddy and tired at the end of the day. However, they felt pleased with their workload having achieved such a large amount in the day.

SATISFIED SOLDIER SCHEME – AFCO INVERNESS
by Sig Worthington

The following is a brief account by **Sig Worthington**, 3 Sqn, of her own time spent in the AFCO Inverness – 11-20 December 2000.

The end of the theory phase of my technician course was fast approaching, providing me with another opportunity to go on the 'Satisfied Soldier Scheme' (Sat Soldier). Fortunately for me **Sgt Gallagher** from AFCO Inverness had been down to RSS Blandford for the 'Recruiting Convention 2000'. **WO1 Skimming**, my Troop OC, had met up with **Sgt Gallagher** and they had discussed the scheme, both agreeing on the benefits derived from sending a SATT (Soldier Awaiting Trade Training) back to his/her home town and welcoming the continuation of the program. **WO1 Skimming** was keen to make SATTs available to the AICOs and AFCOs and my application to undergo another stint was therefore accepted. Living and working in Blandford, Dorset, puts me some 14 hours (by train) away from home and as a result I had not been back to Inverness for over four months. Now I was being awarded the opportunity to return home for a couple of weeks and also to give something back to the careers office where I was recruited.

I walked in the office on Monday morning, 11 December 2000, at 0845hrs – a somewhat later start that I had become accustomed to in recent months. It was a relief to see the same faces that had been there both for my last Satisfied Soldier visit and also throughout my own recruitment phase. They were all keen to find out how I was progressing and were quick to make me feel welcome. It's not often that someone of higher rank offers to make you a brew, so when **SSgt Elder** (RLC) volunteered to make me a coffee, I wasted no time in accepting. In the run-up to Christmas things become quieter with fewer potential recruits dropping into the careers office. I was still given the opportunity to share my experiences of life in basic training and pass on whatever advice I could, to better prepare new recruits for their 12-week introduction to Army life.

Many of the outlying areas that come under the boundary map of AFCO Inverness are more than 100 miles away (those on the mainland) and even further if you take into consideration the Orkney Islands and the Western Isles. I was fortunate enough to accompany **SSgt Elder** (RLC) on a school visit to Portree on the Isle of Skye. The aim of the visit was to update the vast array of Army literature held in the school library and to meet with the senior pupils interested in a career in the Army. These school visits are a valuable recruitment tool for the remoter areas and chatting with the youngsters about the opportunities I have already had provides some realism to go with the promotional information. From the questions asked, I knew the visit had been a worthwhile exercise. The remainder of my time in the AFCO Inverness passed quickly. My time was occupied manning the front desk and with visits to various job centres.

For the majority of 'new' soldiers, Phase 2 training proves to be a difficult period and family support can provide the necessary boost to ensure trade training is completed successfully. Where Phase 2 training lasts over a number of months the soldier can become disillusioned with Army life. Personally speaking, I have benefited greatly from the atmosphere on offer at the AFCO Inverness. The banter is a light-hearted change and my colleagues did all they could to make the experience enjoyable. Discussing my short, but 'developing' career in the Army and any achievements since last time, certainly makes me realise I made the right decision way back in November 1999 and has refuelled my enthusiasm of making the Army a career.

4 (MILITARY TRAINING) SQUADRON
by Cpl Barnes (216 Sig Sqn)

RSJCC – A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

I knew that the RSJCC (Royal Signals Junior Commanders Course) had changed dramatically over the past few years, so I approached the course with an open mind and took it one day at a time. It was just as well because on only the second day of the course, the PT kicked in! From this point onwards, the PT got progressively harder and I came to the conclusion early on that this was not an attendance course. During the first week, there were a few classroom lectures, presentations and discussions, these were needed so we could move on to Week 2 and get stuck in to more practical work and command tasks. This second week proved to be a good laugh and really pulled the section together as a close-knit team. In more relaxed environment, we cracked on with our command tasks and were then assessed at the end of the week.

After two weeks on the course, we were at the half way mark and really looked forward to the remaining two weeks in Sennybridge (the warmest and driest place in Europe!) Everyone got forty winks on the coach up to Sennybridge, not too sure when the next sleep would come. Week 3 was very interesting, we covered map reading including a hard night navigation with full kit, (the incentive to do well was a warm dou bag at the finish and a rare opportunity for a good night's sleep for those that were in before 0300hrs). Lots of excellent range work (including pairs fire and maneuver and Section in defense) and some tactics lessons follwed. The first five days in Sennybridge were covered in slow time ensuring we got a grip of the mechanics and the correct drills in order for us at Junior Commander level to lead our subordinates. We then moved into the Final Exercise for the last five days, fully tactical. This combined everything we'd been taught throughout the course. The first night we stayed in some old buildings with all our defenses out, everyone was on edge as contacts were initiating left right and center. The sheep didn't help our cause as they set our trip flares off and we stood to unfortunately, there wasn't much sleep that night! The final Exercise was hard, bergans seemed to get heavier by the day, everyone was tired and morale was dropping. There were a few moves during the ex and everyone was assessed at Section Commander and 2IC level. We made our models, briefed the Section on our orders and then carried out Recces, Standing/Clearance Patrols, Fighting Withdrawals and Vehicle Anti-Ambush Drills with a Troop attack ending the Exercise. Endex was called and we boarded the coaches for our return to Blandford. Everyone was fast asleep before the coaches were out of the Training area.

Looking back, it was a very demanding course which sets you up well on return to your working unit. The instruction was excellent throughout and fortunately the weather held up with only small downpours. I left Blandford with Top Student and Top Field Soldier and recommend anyone attending the course soon to remember your matchsticks – they will come in handy to prop up your eyelids!

ROYAL SIGNALS TA CORPORAL'S COURSE
by LCpl Snell 31 Sig Regt (V)

It was surprising to discover on arrival that we were to be treated as junior leaders from the start-with the opportunities to develop leadership skills and take on responsibilities from day one. A challenging first week was thrown at us with the need to learn and understand a number of new subjects such as giving orders, method of instruction and internal security. This involved long hours from the students but the knowledge that the DS were always on hand to offer advice when necessary. The exercise in the second week was a chance to put into practice the skills taught in the first week. Whilst hard work, I think everyone would say they learnt a lot. All in all, the detachment commander's course is hard work, challenging, but above all, enjoyable at least it feels it on the final Saturday.

ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT BASSINGBOURN

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj F. E. Hargreaves**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. V. Slaney**

ALPHA TROOP

Alpha Tp says farewell this month to **Capt Emma Bruce** who is moving over to Wray Company to take up post as the 2IC. The Troop would also like to congratulate **Sgt Paul Conroy** on his promotion, and wish him well as he leaves the mainland for a tour with 39 Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron in Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

The November entry of recruits has recently passed out of training. Special mention and congratulations must go to **Sig Briffett** (Best Recruit), **Sig McCallum** (Best Shot), **Sig Binder** (Best at PT) and **Sig Lewin** (Best Endeavor) - Well Done and keep up the good work. The Troop as a whole is deserved of praise for the hard work they put in at Wimpole Farm filling in potholes and digging out roads as their 'Charity Event'. Wimpole Farm is a National Trust site that relies heavily on voluntary assistance in order to keep the establishment running. The Trust was extremely grateful for the help offered by the 36 eager recruits, and several members of the public commented on the hardwork and effort shown by our 'willing volunteeres'. Moreover, it was excellent practise for all shell-scrape digging and filling in that was to ensue on the forthcoming exercises!

(L-R): Sigs Pitt, Phillips, Phoenix, Byrne, Keight and Stow working hard at Wimpole Farm

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Stuart Gunson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mac McIntyre**

For avid readers of the Brave Tp column, you will be disappointed to hear that nothing new or out of the ordinary has happened with this, the latest, course of Phase 1 recruits. If you are new to reading about us, the last edition of *The WIRE* will fill you in. This leaves us with Hellos and Goodbyes. After a brief spell as Troop Sergeant we say farewell to **Sgt Jackie Collins** as she crosses the road to take on Aisne Pl. All the best with the sick, lame and lazy! Welcome and congratulations to the new Troop Sergeant, **Ian** 'Mac' **McIntyre**, who after a stint as a B Troop Corporal many moons ago, returns from the depths of rehab Pl to take over the rightful slot for his new rank. Welcome also to **Cpl Danny Cooper** who joins us from HQ LAND and has taken over **Cpl Doyle's** Section. Finally welcome (once more) to **Cpl Andy Doyle** whose return from representing the Regiment at skiing has been eagerly awaited. Only in the hope that we will be able to get him to do some work now.

ARMY WHITE WATER KAYAK CHAMPIONSHIPS

After the build up to the Army Championships, ATR Bassingbourn knew that they were in with a chance after winning the Land Command Championships and doing well in the individual events at the Inter Corps. Postings had left the original two, three-man teams depleted to one mainly R SIGNALS team consisting of **Lt Stuart** 'Gunny' **Gunson** and **SSgt Shane Wright** with a token Royal Engineer, **Capt Darren Talbot** to make up the third member. The event was run on a cold and miserable weekend at Llangollen with the Dee at an exceptionally low level. This provided for an interesting race as the nature of the two biggest rapids was totally changed. Competition was fierce on the first day with most of the army's best competing for the team trophy. The temperature of the water and the time spent battling around the Bassingbourn lake paid off though as we came in first in the team event. This, it has been claimed, is because the team wanted to get off the water in record quick time and take the shorter, more fun, play-boats down to Eddylines and practice their rodeo skills Absolutely not true! Sunday saw the individual events where the team did reasonably well. **SSgt Wright** came 16th, **Lt Gunson** 21st and **Capt Talbot** 27th, this is despite **Capt Talbot** stopping to empty his boat after folding it in half on the Serpents Tail, a lucky escape and a good story. Congratulations to ATR Bassingbourn Army White Water Racing Champions

COMMANDING OFFICERS SPORTS COMPETITION

The CO's Sports competition drew to a close for the year with the Basketball Competition where the Squadron achieved a commendable third place against very strong opposition. With this result, 1 Sqn achieved second place overall in the competition beaten only by HQ Coy. HQ Coy winning obviously came as a shock as the PTIs are not expected to be good at sports. The competition had been well supported throughout the year by all members of the Permanent staff but particular mention and thanks is due to **WO2 (SSM) Tony Slaney** and **SSgt (SQMS) Andy Crawford** for their dedicated coaching and enthusiasm in all events throughout the competition.

CHARLIE TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Ben Howarth**
Tp Sgt **Sgt** 'Harry' **Ramsden**

Following a successful CMS(R) the Troop passed off the square in fine form. **Cpl** 'That's a bollard' **Brenen** saving his pride by a little fancy footwork. **Cpl** 'Flopsywopsy' **Knowler** took his place as a slightly embarrassed usher out of harms way. Many thanks go to his wife **Emma** who spent a good three hours bubbling him at the parents' evening. I don't think the services of 'DIY' **Dave** will be too much in demand in the Squadron. Also on parade were **Cpl** 'Thank goodness my wife kept quiet' **Nuttall** and **Sgt** 'That's another bottle Boss' **Ramsden**. Amazingly 39 recruits had hung in there long enough to allow Charlie Tp to dominate the parade and the Training Team wish them (and their instructors) luck at Blandford. Charlie Tp will not reform until 14 May so the JNCOs have been temporarily seconded to bolster the other five Troops and the Troop Commander and Sergeant are rushed off their feet doing the sort of work that suits them best. 'Pass another biscuit Harry…'

DELTA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Hervey J. Scott**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Dougie Icke**

Once again Delta Tp has succeeded in raising a staggering amount, £2200, for its two favourite charities, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Sunshine Pre-School. Delta Tp is now aiming to do even better with the next intake and beat the £3000 mark. Welcome to **Cpls Andy Campbell** from 1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **Ann-Marie Ambury** from Alpha Tp. **Cpl Campbell** is now busy enjoying his OASAA and the ITGIS courses before he gets stuck back into the training of recruits! A special mention goes to **Cpl Ambury** for winning the prize of Best Section in the CO's Competition. Congratulations to **Cpl Jas Woosnam** on passing his All Arms Drill Course and good luck to **Cpl Lyndsey Payton** who is preparing to go to Blandford for her Class One training. Meanwhile back in Bassingbourn **Sgt Dougie Icke** is keeping very busy organizing the Squadron's Trailwalker (UK) Team and raising even more money for a charity trek to Jordan later this year. **Capt Hervey Scott** is now back in work having spent three weeks in Belize running a diving expedition and trying to get a suntan!

ECHO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Chris Biddulph**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mickey Piper**

Welcome to our new arrivals, **Sgt** 'Mickey' **Piper** who arrived as the new Troop Sergeant joining us from 14 (EW) Sig Regt and **Cpl** 'Baz' **Bazzard** who comes to us fresh from sunny Cyprus. Farewell and best wishes go to **Cpl** 'Wayne' **Bramwell**, who leaves on promotion to 3 (UK) DSR.

The months of January and February have presented Echo Tp with change if nothing else. 'Mid-Ex' and 'Final Fling' went very well and without hitch despite weather that would make brass monkeys shed a tear or two. **Cpl** 'Fester' **Teasdale** has since been advised to consume a great deal of carrots. Despite the magnificence of consistently bright moons and clear skies, he still managed to find himself topographically misplaced during a night patrol, 'Tactical use of Terrain' came his retort!! Next time, 2 Sect will be issued with water wings, in case **Cpl** 'Fester' **Teasdale** decides to make the same 'Tactical use of Terrain' again.

A big thank you must to the US Marine Corps for donating more boxes of MRE (Menu Ready to Eat) than we could shake our racing spoons at. **Capt Biddulph**, however, managed to put a substantial dent in the supply. We watched in amazement and wondered, ' Where does he put it all?' The phrase 'boy in a sweet shop' best explains the picture! Echo Tp Pass-Off looms this week and so Troop moral is high, then we start all over again!

FOXTROT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Dave Jackson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Craig Purdon**

The start of the New Year signals the start of a new pick up for F Tp who loaded up the last Troop onto the bus to Blandford just before Christmas. F Tp managed to raise over £1000 for the Royal British Legion with a golf drive. **Sigs Brimfield** and **Anderson** achieved more yards by throwing the ball than they did by hitting it. Good luck to all those from F Tp who are down at Blandford at the moment. A welcome back goes to **Cpl Dale King** who is now of some use to the Troop having passed his SAA course. **Capt Jackson** welcomes **Cpl Sean Fielding** into the Troop so the two of them can talk about the good old days in 3 Div and how great armour really is. One final word of warning goes to **Sigs Thompson, Tipping** and **Bodle,** wherever you hide we will always be watching you.

DON'T BE DISSAPPOINTED
COPY FOR
THE JUNE ISSUE
MUST
REACH THIS OFFICE BY
15 APRIL 2001

263 (HARROGATE) SIGNAL SQUADRON
ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE

Sqn Comd **Maj Mel Rayner**
SSM **WO2 Hogan**

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Squadron welcomes the following 'new boys' **WO2 Hogan** fresh in from 264 Sig Sqn, who takes over as SSM, **Lt Miles Booker** from 30 Sig Regt who takes over in junior term as OC Penney Tp and **Sgt McMullan** from 14 Sig Regt (EW) who takes over as Troop Sergeant for Bradley Tp. Good luck and thank you go to **SSgt (SQMS) Les North.** Good luck on your forthcoming marriage to **Joy**, we all hope that you have a great time on Valentine's Day (you ole romantic!) and thank you for your efforts as acting SSM for the last few months!

INTAKE 00B PASS OUT

Well done to Penney Tp who passed out of the College on 21 December 2000. A great performance on the Parade Square and we all hope that you're working hard and doing well at Blandford. Congratulations to **Sig Binner** on winning the Commandants Trophy and the Prize as Best Royal Signals Apprentice.

PERMANENT STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

A big thank you to **Cpl Jackie White** and **Sgt Mandy Korchel** for all their efforts in organising a successful and enjoyable Christmas party. The Squadron permanent staff donned their glad rags, headed for the Lakeside Hotel at Frimley and partied the night away. At the end of the evening **Cpl Clubb** kept the stragglers entertained whilst they waited for transport with his rather interesting impression of a baby giraffe – needless to say after that display we were moved on by the bouncers!

SAILING ON THE SOLENT - *by AT Wood*

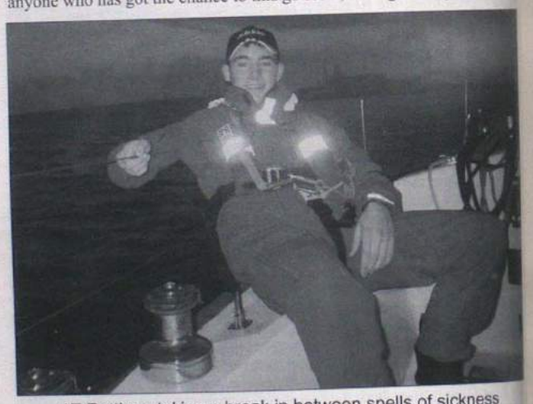
AT Allen, AT Dawes, AT Maxwell, AT Green, AT Cooper, AT Rattigan, AT Kemp and I were leaving early on Monday and so we arrived at a flooded College on Sunday night. Everyone was excited and wondering what was going to happen, as the weather was really bad; we didn't even think we would be going as everywhere was flooded and there was a really strong wind. Anyway morning came and we looked outside the girl's block, and it was flooded! **Lt Shakespeare** came and met us at 0700hrs and said everything was all right and that we would still be going. At the time I thought great, but that was before I knew what was in store for us.

We travelled by minibus to Portsmouth Harbour and that is where we met our skipper **Joel** and found out what boats we would be travelling on. I was travelling with **AT Allen, AT Cooper, AT Rattigan** and **Lt Shakespeare** on the boat Lambis. We had our safety brief and were issued with all our kit and food (Rat Pack)! Through the day we were taught about the boat, what to we had to do. We learnt that we had to take turns in cooking and washing-up each day; **AT Rattigan** had volunteered to be duty mum first so he had to cook dinner that night. Later on, we had sorted all our stuff out and **Rattigan** made something that he said resembled food! We prepared to take out the boat for a practise and I was thinking how rough the harbour looked, (well at the time I thought it was rough)! We went out and each took turns at steering the boat and practised a few other things at the same time.

The next day reveille was at 0700hrs and I was duty mum. I can't really cook but I got cooking some bacon sandwiches. It can't be that hard, I thought! I was in a bit of a mess so **AT Kate Allen** helped me a bit, also we had to call each other by first names, which was really weird, and some of us couldn't do it. I thought my sandwiches were OK but everyone said I was trying to poison them with raw bacon. More practice was needed. About 0900hrs we set off to our first destination and left the other boat, we had to cross the south Solent to get there and I got a turn steering the boat first that day. It was fine I was doing OK the water was alright, we were slightly tipping over to the right but not much, suddenly a gust of wind came and tipped the boat and made me fall off the seat. I dropped the helm so **AT Kate Allen** took over cause she has done sailing before and knew what it was like. I then started to get quite seasick and I felt horrible. What made it worse was that I had to make dinner! I put some sausages in to make some more sandwiches I thought, I won't under cook these I know what I'm doing now! Dinner came and I took the sausages out they looked a little crispy but I didn't think much of it until everyone tried to eat them! You could use them as hammers they were that hard I couldn't even cut through them, so yet another lovely dinner by myself I think everyone was hungry by then so I asked **AT Kate Allen** to cook for tea. Everyone seemed to be quite pleased, I didn't think I was that bad. Anyway **AT James Cooper** and **AT Lee Rattigan** were really ill. Next thing you know they were both taking a closer look at the sea!

Wednesday we set off to Ocean Marina harbour. The weather was a bit worse than the previous day, Force 4-5 and we practised tacking and jibing, about turns, and all other things we would need to learn to do. Anyway the duty mum **AT James Cooper** had decided to cook some bacon forgot it was there and after smoke started appearing decided to open the oven, the bacon was cremated! **AT Kate Allen** had to sort it out once again. Anyway we carried on with our journey and had decided to meet up with the other boat (*Janthina*). We met up at this really posh place. It was the most expensive but it was good it had everything you wanted there from shops to restaurants, it also had showers which were a welcome treat. We sorted out the boat and went for something to eat. The next day we got news of Gale Force winds of Force 8-10. I thought that they would not let us out in something that is really bad so we got ready and set off. As we set off into the storm, we were told to strap onto the boat and put on our life jackets. All I could think was Oh my God! The wind started getting stronger the rain started to pour, the waves became higher and it started to hail. It was then I knew that we were in the storm. The waves were 6-10 foot high and I don't like water! I thought I was going to die! The boat was tipping over at a 45° angle. I thought it was going to tip as the wind was only safe up until it hit 40 knots and when it reached 46 knots I thought we were going to die. Everyone else was saying don't worry but I could see they were scared too. We then headed back to Cowes, things started to become calm, but the waves were still high and when you looked off the back of the boat the waves looked massive. It was great.

Well that was that day and we went and met the others. When we pulled in at the side of *Janthina*, **AT Lee Rattigan** decided to jump off the boat and tie the rope, but as he was doing so he lost his footing and fell in the water! It did not take him long to jump back out again! We cleaned the boat out and then went out with the others. Friday we went through the Solent back to our start point, also we had a tea break because the weather was calm. Someone had to go up the mast. I was the smallest so I thought why not? As I got to the top the others started to have a cup of tea. I was hanging umpteen feet in the air and they were drinking tea! Then they decided to rock the boat from side to side so I was flying all over, it was really good though and we finished the day by putting up the spinnaker and sailing back to the harbour where we started. The next day we gave all the equipment in and off we set back to camp with the compulsory stop at Macdonald's first. Overall I would advise anyone who has got the chance to this go for it, it's a great experience.



AT Rattigan taking a break in between spells of sickness

AT Wood up the mast!!

A NEW YEAR – A NEW INTAKE

Monday 8 January 2001 saw intake 01A walk through the gates of the College to embark upon 28 weeks of glorious training! The following are the thoughts of one of the new intake…….

My first few weeks in the Army!! - *by AT Harper Penney Tp*

When I first came to the College, I had all kinds of doubts in my mind. Would I like it? Would I fit in here? The first night was terrible! I was in a room with complete strangers and I felt a bit home sick. Over the next two weeks, I got to know the girls in my room and some of the boys in my section. I found we all got on really well because we had so much in common. This made life really easy in and around the camp. I had made new friends and enjoyed working together with them in a team. At first, I didn't feel that I was part of the Army, everyone else in the barracks (the Seniors and the Permanent Staff) all seemed so settled. They wore uniform, we wore Corps tracksuits and I felt that we all stuck out like sore thumbs. Soon we got to wear our combat 95's and I felt a great sense of pride. I thought to myself, 'This is what I want to do.' Once we moved into Week Three, I was really settled. I still missed home and released that there was a lot to do, but I thought to myself if I work at this I could have a career for myself at the end of the course. If I stick at it, I could get away from the dead end jobs in Amble, and get a life! I know there is still a lot of work to be done if I plan to make it in the Army, but I am more convinced and determined to make it work now than I have ever been. I want to make it work for me and get a good career, but to do this I know I am going to have to work hard and put the effort in because I still have a very long way to go. All I have to do is remind myself that it will be worth it in the end. I want to feel proud of myself and I want my family to feel proud as well. To do this I feel I have to pass out in August because nothing would make me happier.

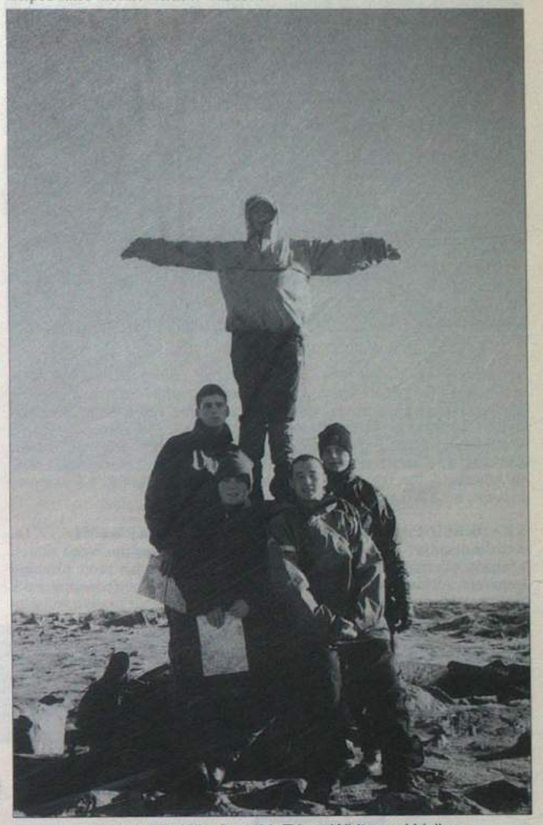
ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wednesday 31 January 2001 saw five intrepid members of 263 (H) Sig Sqn side step Leadership Week in favour of a trip to Colerne for the Corps Cross Country Champs. Anything has got to be better than strangling chickens at Bramley Trg Area! The Team comprised **Maj Mel Rayner, Cpl Nikki Dean, LCpl Caz Burrows, AT Robertson** and **AT Lees.** The course was two laps of a 2-mile loop which went from open exposed airfield to muddy, wet woodland tracks. It was a glorious day for the Squadron as **Cpl Dean** finished a convincing first, followed by **Maj Rayner** in second and **LCpl Burrows** in third. The fate of the Squadron now rested in the hands of the two ATs. They both finished in strong positions and ensured that the Squadron won the Championship. Both **AT Robertson** and **Lees** are congratulated on their excellent performance in their first Army competition. The euphoric bubble of victory was soon burst for the two ATs as they had to return to Arborfield and go straight back on exercise! College sights are now firmly set on the Army Inter Unit Championships on 14 February 2001, when the R Signals contingent is bolstered by the REME and the AGC (ETS). The team have high hopes of a good position in the competition – victory is within our grasp!

Squadron Cross Country Team
Maj Rayner, Cpl Dean, AT Robertson, LCpl Burrows, AT Lees

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP II - *by AT Tring Rawson Tp*

We were all looking forward to going to 'Sunny Sennybridge' for the second time in about two months. We couldn't wait to do two days walking in the rain! On EL I it rained constantly the whole week, I was kind of hoping, in a round about way, that a sudden, small miracle would occur and the rain would stop! We boarded the coach and within ten minutes everyone was asleep. **AT Schofield** then got out his guitar and gave us all some mid-journey entertainment. Lo and behold a miracle had happened and the rain stopped. Off the coach, drop kit off, pick walking kit up and off to play 3-legged football! All of a sudden, I found myself strapped to the admin vortex, thorn in my side, **AT Ross**!! The whistle blew and the game began, I nearly wet my pants laughing! Everyone was falling everywhere but eventually **AT Ross** and I made quite a good team. Our side eventually won, naturally! The walking came next, it was a good laugh, we had **Capt Farrimond** as our instructor. Our hill walking time can be best described as 'a comedy of errors'. We invented a few new games whilst up on the hills, such as 'The Voller', (this involves body surfing down the mountain on your belly in the ice – invented by **AT Voller** of course!) and 'Sawyerski', which if nothing else helped raise morale when it was low.



(L-R): AT s Wieckowski, Tring, White and Volle standing high AT Tweedie

Doing the Voller

Next was the much dreaded activity of caving. **Cpl Sawyers** was doing a fantastic impression of 'Bob the Builder'. Into the caves we went and as soon as I got into the darkest, holiest, caviest cave my light ceased to work and I had to do the whole cave with no light. Just my luck! The next day brought canoeing in open, 2-man, Canadian canoes. I was quite looking forward to that. I boarded my canoe with **AT Urwin.** We were doing really well until we capsized and after that I was absolutely freezing and couldn't wait to get out as I couldn't feel any part of my lower torso. Never mind we weren't alone as **ATs Morris, Hetherington, Kirby, Lyons** and **Ross** (to name but a few) also got a good ducking! Conservation day came and went…..rather slowly! Climbing Pen-Y-Fan four times became a tad tiring.

Two Section. Winners of the Conservation Day Challenge

Saturday was a visit to Swansea.....enough said! Saturday night was the climax of our Inter-Troop pool competition, which had been ongoing all week. It had been organised by **AT Castledene**, and was very well run indeed, I may add. The final comprised my good self verses my Troop Commander **Capt Farrimond**. He beat me hands down, not bad for someone who has never played. Yeah right! Sunday came and it was back to Arborfield, the Troop as a whole had a really good week, a few minor hiccups, but everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

LEADERSHIP WEEK: 30 JANUARY – 3 FEBRUARY 2001

In the senior term, the ATs take part in Leadership Week which comprises command tasks, the assault course, a stretcher race, planning exercises, survival training and much more besides. The following are a few thoughts on the week from members of Scott Tp

COMMAND TASKS - *by AT Rae*

Leadership week is brilliant as it not only builds leadership skills, but also builds teamwork, friendship and most importantly trust. The best points about Leadership Week are the command tasks. A leader is selected and they have to brief, command and complete each task. The brief must be completed first as it tells the Section what the task is and what materials they have to complete it with. Then the commander must keep control of the Section as they try to complete the task. This gives them a chance to 'shine' and prove that they can become leaders in the future.

THE SURVIVAL EXERCISE – *by AT Cryle*

I thought this would be good, however it was far too easy and nowhere near 'survival'. We had our shelters almost ready made; we had tins ready to be used as pans for cooking and Oxo Cubes! Where are you going to find Oxo Cubes when you're surviving? It's not as if they grow on trees! Other than that it was cold and didn't really test us on how we would cope. (Shouldn't really say things like that as the exercise can always be made harder). I did enjoy the map reading phase though. Also keeping the fire alive was hard as the smoke kept getting into your eyes and collecting dry firewood was a real challenge. We had to pull together as a section and sort out our admin, sort out a stag roster and keep the fire alive, so maybe 'Survival' wasn't such a waste of time after all.

STRETCHER RACE – *by AT Ross*

At the start of the week, I thought it would be all paperwork and individuals trying to impress to gain their 'Lance Jack'. Then came the 'Stretcher Race'! I was dreading it as I had seen the previous Troop do it. As we picked up the stretcher and began to race, I was surprised at how well we worked as a section; we struggled and struggled but pulled together and got through it. We raced from one point to the next, doing command tasks on the way, swapped the stretcher for jerry cans, then got the stretcher back again. On and on we went. When it was all over, we were surprised to find out that we had won.....the wooden spoon! At least we did what we were supposed to have done and worked as a team. As it turned out, the stretcher race was nothing compared to the final race as we had to complete the assault course as well as command tasks, a land rover push and a stretcher carry!

NEWS FROM THE BALKANS

MULTINATIONAL DIVISION (SOUTH WEST) AND BRITISH FORCES SIGNAL TROOP OPERATION PALATINE

OC **Capt G. J. Oliver**
TSM **WO2 (SSM) Churchward**

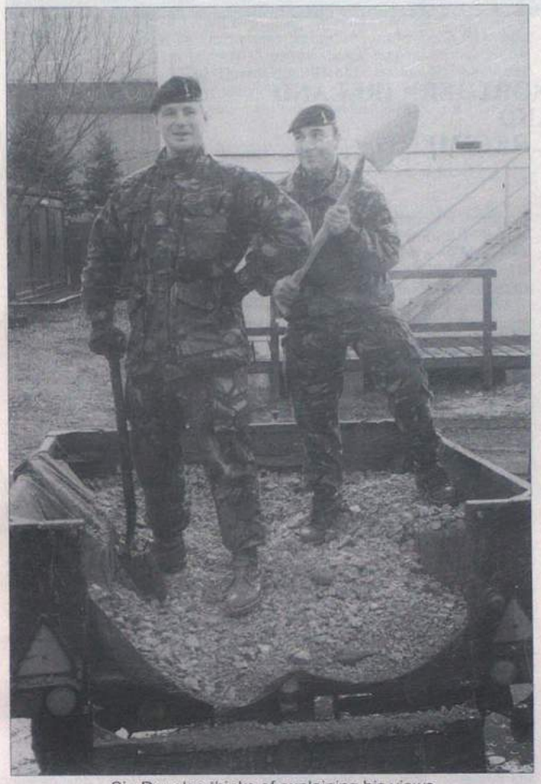
A composite Troop from 16 Sig Regt took over the responsibility for the British Forces Signal Troop in Bosnia-Herzegovina over the period 3-10 December 2000. Responsible for the provision of CIS to HQ BRITFOR and BRITFOR Troops within Theatre, the Troop has been kept busy, providing a reliable and professional service throughout the winter months. Although most (34 out of 43) of the Troop are from JHQ, we have been provided with welcome assistance by soldiers from 7 Sig Regt, 30 Sig Regt, 32 Sig Regt (V), 35 Sig Regt (V) and last but no means least, the RAF (1001 SU).

After a through hand-over from 7 Sig Regt, the Troop has been trying to attain as much road mileage as possible, between Glamoc, Sanski Most, Sipovo and Mrkonjic Grad, with a few additional trips to Sarajevo and Split thrown in for good luck. **SSgt (FofS) Campbell** has been keeping all of his technicians busy, maintaining and repairing the MYRA system and providing assistance and liaison to the Dutch Signal Support Battalion. Meanwhile, within the heart of the Troop, **SSgt Bath** has had the Network Control Centre (NCC) technicians and operators running around busily, with the exception of **Sig Barker**. She has admitted that the whole thing is far to technical for her and now makes the tea as **SSgt Bath** and **Sgt Simmons** explain it to her in slow time. The remaining sections of the troop have all been keeping themselves busy. Nearly all of the junior ranks have now managed to get through a week of adventurous training in Brac (see the article below) and everyone is now enjoying the regular Saturday morning PT and Spring-clean.

VISIT THE MUSEUM WEBSITE
www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/museum/

Saturday mornings are always fun
The Troop carries out maintenance of the vehicle-park after days of heavy rain

For those members of the Corps that have spent a winter in the Balkans before (and who hasn't?), we are pleased to say that whilst December and January were a tad chilly, we have only had three days of snowfall since the start of December. Indeed, we are now considering a change to shirt sleeve order as we bask in a regular 17ºC temperature during the middle of February. The CO 16 Sig Regt, **Lt Col Morphet**, visited the Troop in early February could not believe the weather system (or the fact that we were having our third mid-winter Troop BBQ) as he last saw Banja Luka in a chilly -20ºC haze in February 1997. Despite the hardships of good weather, and a relaxation on the two can rule, the Troop is now looking forward to the end of our tour in mid March, when 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt replace us.



Sig Douglas thinks of explaining his views
on WO2 (SSM) Churchward's Sandcastle Building Competition

COMMCEN BRITFOR – *by Cpl Andy Adam*

We took over from the 7 Sig Regt COMMCEN team on 5 December 2000 and headed straight into a busy period, during the lead up to Christmas. With the DSO (**Cpl Tony Cherry**) at the reigns, polishing and making minor changes in the way we do our work, we were soon firing on all cylinders. For the younger members of the COMMCEN, there was a steep learning curve as they tried hard to remember the JMH instruction they had received on their Class 3 courses. Whilst everyone refreshed their skills, there were still some schoolboy errors, such as **Sig** 'Fast Eddy' **Edwards** attempting to reply to a test fax over the TG circuit.

At the start of January, the Support Helicopter Force and the 21 Sig Regt (AS) Signals Det pulled out of Split. This resulted in over one third of our message traffic disappearing overnight, just as the DSO's stationary demand arrived. Apologies go out to the rest of the Royal Corps of Signals, as COMMCEN BRITFOR now owns nearly all of the A4 paper and Fax Rolls in the Army - It has now been put under lock and key and has better security than the ODA. The other members of the COMMCEN, **LCpls** 'Paddy' **Grills** and **Anthea Purvis** and **Sigs Sarah Howie** and **Shaz Norcross** have all been kept busy. Especially on the day shift, whilst the DSO oversees and practices his managerial skills (via Actua Sports' Premier Manager) in preparation for his impending move to the 92nd (UK) Civilian Division. There have been some movements within the section, with **LCpl Anthea Purvis** returning to Scotland and 32 Sig Regt (V), being replaced by **LCpl Steve Carroll** who has joined us from 16 Sig Regt for a five-week medal tour. There is also a big hello from **Sgt Karl Woodray** and **Cpl** 'Flash Gordon' **Scott** who are being kept busy (so they tell us) behind the locked door of the ODA.

Cpl Pinkney smoothes away the bumps on the Troop ice rink, assisted by Boycee the local BFBS Engineer

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING IN BRAC - *by Cpl Paul Munslow*

After working in Banja Luka for two months, we were happy to take the opportunity of spending five days adventurous training on the island of Brac. Keen to do something different than our routine work, the promise of a few days of sunshine and outdoor activities was gladly accepted. Four members of the Troop, **Cpl Jane Pinkney, LCpl** 'The Head' **Lambert, Sig** 'Ears' **Beckett** and myself (**Cpl Paul Munslow**), all from 16 Sig Regt were fortunate enough to be the first Troop members to see what Brac could offer us. Over our short time in Brac, we managed to get involved in canoeing, sailing, rock climbing and sub aqua diving, all in great weather and a 17ºC temperature - far better than the cold weather we had left behind in Banja Luka. Although we only had an insight into each of the activities, it was an enjoyable package, allowing us to break up the monotony of life and get a few days in a nice hotel, with good food and lovely surroundings. Overall, we all had a great time, and despite the ten-hour coach trip each way, the adventurous training package offered to the British forces in the Balkans is certainly not to be missed.

Cpl Munslow (Sitting, Front) and Cpl Pinkney (Sitting, Back) during the five day Adv Trg package on Brac

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NEWS FROM NORTHEN IRELAND

XV

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND AND 15 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col M. P. Llewellyn**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) A. Balsdon**

Lt Col Gordon Rafferty did not want any fuss when he left the Regiment. As **Sig Dunham** drove him the opposite way out of camp against his final orders, with the spurious excuse that the road was dug up, **Lt Col Rafferty** was exasperated that his driver was once again doing his own thing. **Sig Dunham** was forgiven, however, when he drove out past the line of Officers and Warrant Officers allowing the CO to share a final bottle of port with his 'team'. We wish him congratulations on his promotion and his new job as Chief of Staff at HQ SoinC (A), and wish **Debbie** luck as she begins her weekly commute to London. Moving into a thatched cottage seemed like an attractive prospect until the stream changed direction and flooded the place!

On 13 November 2000 **Lt Col Malcolm Llewellyn** assumed command of the Regiment and the role of Chief G6. He has already made his mark and his Staff Officers are enjoying fresh challenges! We wish a warm welcome to him and his wife **Carol** (and also **Gregor** the dog) and hope they have an enjoyable tour.

'Congratulations are due to **WO1 (RSM) Al Balsdon**, **WO1 (YofS) Rose**, **WO2 (YofS) Jenkins** and **WO2 (YofS)** 'Tac' **Bartlett** who have recently been selected for Commissioning. **WO2 Andrea Dunford** AGC (SPS) is also congratulated on her selection for promotion to WO1.

THE OCCASION OF MISS KATHLEEN HUSTON'S RETIREMENT

Kathleen Huston has been a member of the MOD since 1984 serving as a Military Telephonist initially in Armagh, then Portadown, and latterly in the Lisburn Telephone Exchange. She is to be commended for her dedicated service over the last 16 years. **Kathleen** will be missed by all her working colleagues at the Lisburn exchange but we wish her a very happy, healthy retirement. The photograph below shows **Lt Col Llewellyn**, CO, 15 Signal Regiment, presenting **Kathleen** with one of the many gifts she received on her retirement.

Kathleen Huston receives flowers from Lt Col Llewellyn

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. E. Mullender**
SSM **SSgt Grattrick**

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

QM **Major J. E. Mullender**
RQMS **WO2 Inman**

Welcome to the new Royal Signals 'Province' Depot. Not only do we look after Headquarters Northern Ireland & 15 Signal Regiment, but now we are the Province store for all IT, BT, Motorola radios, Rigging equipment, and if you believe DLO, Province Cougar as well. These past four months have seen the busiest time known to the QM's Dept since the bomb in 1996, which saw the destruction of the old building 153. It started with the move into the new building 153 - thanks go out to the civilian removals firm who moved RHQ, Comms branch (now G6), and others into the building. It's all right fellows we did it ourselves, with the builders still rectifying faults around our ears as we moved in. On top of the move we conducted a Regiment Board of Officers, followed by the annual PRE (now ECI) and the bi-annual station armoury inspection. Not a bad feat for a department that is effectively five accountants short. After a hectic time we were all looking forward to our over generous 3-day Christmas and New Year break.

Welcome to 2001, which commenced with an increase in working hours and all leave cancelled, yet again due to our shortfall in manning and additional tasks as well as the LSI in March. However, this did not cause concern amongst one member of the dept namely **Sgt** 'Down trodden' **Bradley** who had managed to plan all leave before the new RQMS arrived. This resulted in a three week holiday in Florida in the month of December, coming back just in time for the Christmas break. Hence when the RQMS took a closer look certain members did not have any leave left to take anyway!

On a more cheerful note, we would like to say a fond farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) Tony Frost**, **Sgt Kev** 'Caveman' **Joyce** and **LCpl Chrissie Davies** (nee Marston). The department also welcomes **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Inman**, and **Sgt** 'Smudge' **Smith**, welcome to Hell(es), the new building 153, hope your tours are safe ones.

COMMCEN TROOP

Everyone in the Troop gives a big welcome to the following people: **SSgt Karen Ripley**, **LCpl Lee Dickenson** and family, **LCpl** 'Paddy' **Hayes** and **Sig Chris Buck**. The Troop says goodbye to the heads of the escape committee: **LCpl Nicki Bird** and **Sig** 'Matty' **Matthews** who are both leaving the Army to pursue new careers and challenges in civy street. Good luck to you both.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj M. J. Smith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. S. Thorne**

December was the culmination of a challenging and rewarding year for the Squadron. In a time of testing manning states, numerous operational commitments, and the highs and lows of the sports pitch, the spirit of the Squadron has carried it through the tough times and the good times. In November the Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Shooting Competition, one of the CO's Cup events, on a bitterly cold day at Ballykinler. Several different shoots were run, culminating in the Fire Team Assessment, which caught a few of the more inexperienced firers unaware! A good learning experience for all, and a very enjoyable day. Perhaps more pleasing and worthy of note is the victory of 225 Sig Sqn in the Mercury Cup. This is contested over the year between all R Signals Units in Province and focuses more on military skills and endurance competitions. It is good to know that the continual banter of 'Lisburn - rear echelon' can be defied, and that our soldiers cut the mustard alongside the Brigade Signal Squadrons! The festive season was celebrated in style and we now focus on supporting operations in Northern Ireland in this new year.

225 Sig Sqn Shooting Team win the CO s Cup

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt P. R. Griffiths**

It has been a period of change for SHQ Troop, as there has been a large turnover of personnel. Our new Sqn Clerk, **LCpl Karina Kendall** has been thrown in at the deep end, but is coping admirably, and seems to be settling in well to Squadron life. She is fast learning to deal with the constant stream of questions, quirks and labour involved in sorting out everybodys leave and travel. No-one has been sent to Outer Mongolia (yet), so she must be doing a good job! The Squadron MT has received a new fledgling from 1 (UK) Armd Div - **LCpl Stu McCrone,** who has been catching up on some well earned leave. We look forward to your return! After three years, one month and 28 days (but he wasn't counting!) **LCpl Daz Pullen** is leaving at last. He will be taking up the post of MT Corporal at 16 Sig Regt if he can remember where he has put his Combat 95. **LCpl Jo Quinn** also leaves us to join 7 Sig Regt as a storeman. She will wear her well deserved second tape on arrival. At the time of going to press **LCpl** 'Danny Boy' **Richardson** has just completed his resettlement and will be reduced to the ranks of 'passenger' on the plane home. Thank you for your hard work and best of luck to all three of you.

ECHO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt F. A. W. Stewart**
OPSWO **WO2 (Supvr R) P. F. Gardner**

It has been a quiet period at work for the Troop, and thankfully the majority of the Troop managed to be home for Christmas or New Year. The Squadron bar has been lively with various watches celebrating the festive season in style. An excellent evening's entertainment was organised for the Squadron by **Cpl Scanlan** in the form of a horse racing night. All proceeds were donated to the Lisburn Station playgroup, Bo-Peeps. A big hand of respect and congratulations go to all those who competed in the Commanding Officers Cup Physical Challenge. This year's challenge was particularly arduous with multi-skill events testing the teams cohesion, stamina and determination. The final result was a draw between 225 Sig Sqn and 233 Sig Sqn, and the starred event gave them a narrow victory. We'll meet again soon for a re-show!

Many congratulations to **WO2 (Supvr R) Gardner** who was selected for promotion from the last board. Good luck to **Sgt** 'Monkeyboy **Marrs**, **Sgt** 'Handy Andy' **Ball** and **Sgt** 'Loz, who me?' **Hill** who have started their Supervisor Radio Course. Welcome to **Sgts Steve Ayres, John Chambers** and **Mark Hopkins** who step into their shoes. Good bye for now to **Cpl Kennedy** and **LCpl Fox** who have departed to sunny Chicksands on their T1 upgrading course, we look forward to your return in June. Best of luck for the future to **Sgt Foster** who has taken the leap of faith to make his fortune in civilian life.

GOLF TROOP

Tech Adjt **Capt I. R. Hargreaves**
FofS **WO2 (FofS) A. G. Jenkins**

After the busy Christmas season things have settled down to normality very quickly, in fact so much so that January seems to have passed very quickly, and with no events worthy of note. We sadly say farewells to **LCpl Gaz Stokoe**, **LCpl Lee Stafford, Cpl Stew Street**, and **SSgt Brian Wilkins.** Many congratulations to **WO2 (FoS) Jenkins** who was selected for commission on the recent Commissioning Board. The very best of luck at 7 Sig Regt, you will be missed by the whole Squadron. We trust that **LCpl Stokoe** and **LCpl Stafford** will be setting a fine example to the new recruits at 11 Sig Regt, whilst on their upgrading courses. Also welcome to our new arrivals, **SSgt Dave Wilson, Cpl Mark** 'Paddy' **Partington** and **Cpl Ewen** 'Boz' **Litster**.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj A. N. Walker**
A/SSM **SSgt Alan**

After the festive season the Squadron has returned to normal and is enjoying the calm before the storm. Plans are getting underway for numerous exercises, competitions and adventurous training whilst any remaining budget is now being hastily spent and Corporal CR's rapidly written. The Squadron extends the warmest of wishes to **WO2 (SSM) Rob Dunseith** for a speedy and full recovery.

With one event left in the 2000 CO's Cup, the Squadron has accepted that 225 Sig Sqn are well on track to keeping the silver. However, with the New Year has come new energy, and a well-deserved victory for the Squadron in the first event of 2001. The 'Tough Guy' competition involved a Land Rover pulling race, a mutli-gym activity challenge and a swimming competition with burden. All competitors were tested to their limits, and by lunch-time 233 Sig Sqn had won the closely fought battle. Long may it continue - we look forward to the next event with a definite psychological advantage!

The Squadron is particularly grateful to **Capt Helen Bosley** who has spent the last few months of her military life filling the rather vital role of Squadron 2IC. **Capt Bosley** arrived on completion of her tour as 2IC 3 Bde and Sig Sqn in Portadown and immediately got to grips with the large amount of Squadron administration. Her support has been invaluable and she is wished all the very best for her departure to civvy street and in her new job as she plunges into a world of PR and the big city life of London.

INDIA TROOP - *by Sig 'Steve' Moran*

Tp Comd **Lt T. E. Grey**
Tp SSgt **SSgt C. Marlowe**

The last month has been a relatively quiet period for India Tp, recovering from the Christmas and New Year period. On the subject of 'Hello/Goodbye', the first welcome goes to **Cpl** 'Lovejoy' **Ford** and his antique furniture. A warm welcome to the delights of Data Entry! **Cpl Ford** has taken over the DSO reigns from **Cpl** 'Ross' **Menzies**, who on promotion to Sergeant has moved onto bigger and better things and joined the System Administrators in the queue for 'Tea and Toast'.....Congratulations **Ross!** Congratulations also go to **LCpl** 'Mini-me' **Smith** on promotion to Corporal and **Sig** 'Karate Kid' **Manifield** on his long wait for his well deserved (?) promotion to Lance Corporal. Farewell to **Cpl** 'Jean-Luke' **Meeds** who moves on in search of new worlds and civilisations.....Beware 280 Sig Sqn, he will assimilate you! Finally, 'Bon Voyage' to **Sgt** 'Mick' **Stoneman** who has recently departed on a 'short tour' (did you see that in writing?) of the Falkland Islands. See you in the summer.....Baby-fever has also hit the Troop with the birth of **LCpl** 'I'm Losing Weight' **Lucas** and his wife Apples' baby boy Bradley.

The main event to report was the Troops Ex Indian Summer presentations, which were delivered in the presence of the OC Sqn and the Troop 'Headshed'. The purpose of the presentations was to select an Adventure Training/Fund-raising package for the Troop to organise and participate in. The Troop was previously divided into 'hand-picked' syndicates, and was tasked to research (some in more detail than others) a variety of ideas and then deliver their chosen plan of action. One of the more notable briefs was delivered by **Sgt** 'Err...' **McArthur** with an 80's style PowerPoint presentation, involving the clever use of several spelling mistakes (Technical Sergeant eh.....? Never mind.....) The Troop now awaits the return of the OC, whereupon he will select and nominate the lucky syndicate who will see their idea come into fruition.....or something like that.

As this article goes to press, **Sgt** 'Ian' **Clark** and **Cpl** 'Hat' **Butterfield** are experiencing the delights of Ballykinler Training Area as they participate in the Pre-RSSC/RSJCC work-up package organised by the Regimental Training Wing. Keep smiling lads.....it's only rain.....and wind.....and snow ! No doubt more of their exploits in the next issue.

NETWORK CONTROL CENTRE – *by LCpl Mike Davies*

Tp Comd **Capt A. M. Haresign**
Tp Sgt **Sgt S. D. Johnson**

Hello and Goodbye: There have been a lot of changes in the Troop recently. **WO1 (FofS) Chris Gill**, **WO1 (YofS) Paul Rose** and **WO1 (Supvr IS) Mick Brooks** have all moved upstairs to joint the new G6 Branch. **WO2 (YofS) Russ Darlington** has exchanged sunny Lisburn for sunny Nuneaton and joined 30 Sig Regt. **Sig Dave Rhodes** has signed off and joined '1 (UK) Civ Div', whilst **Sgt** 'Mac' **Macgibbon** and **LCpl** 'John-Boy' **Walton** have both joined Romeo Tp. There have also been several postings into the NCC. **WO2 (FofS) Rick Gorman** and **WO2 (YofS) Rick Carley** have replaced the outgoing seniors and the NCC Incident Team. **Sgt Nige Cathrew** has hung up his spurs with Romeo Tp to join us along with the newly posted **LCpl Paul** 'Westy' **Westerman**. Congratulations: NCC Tp would like to send congratulations and best wishes for the future to **Cpl Linda MacCulloch** and **LCpl Sharon Pillans** who both marry their respective partners in the near future. Congratulations also goes to **LCpl Tony** 'Nigel Mansell' **Wressel** who has returned from leave after losing £185 on the 'Drivefast' plan.

ROMEO TROOP - *by Cpl Mason and LCpl French*

Tp Comd **Capt R. A. Hamilton**
Tp (YofS) **WO2 (YofS) N. J. Bartlett**

First and foremost, a big hello to the new arrivals. Into the sleep deprivation seat goes **Capt Hamilton** ably supported by **Sgts** 'Mac' **McGibbon** and 'Spike' **Kennedy**, **Cpl Kev Abbott** and **LCpls Steve Boyd**, 'Boz' **Bostock** and 'John-Boy' **Walton**. A big thanks goes to **Sgt Nige Cathrew** for his time with the Troop and we wish him the best of luck in NCC. Final farewells and thanks go to **Sgt Craig Brooksbank** and **LCpl Matt Thomas**.

Due to operational commitments, it has been difficult to fit in all the training and range days that the role requires. However, the new arrivals have attacked the challenge with vigour and are now coming to grips with the equipments and weapons used by the Troop within the Province. R Tp did find time to have a Christmas party ably organised by **Sgt** 'Tug' **Wilson** and the raffle by **Sgt King**. How come the Sergeants' Mess went away with all the good prizes? Otherwise, R Tp has been preparing itself for 'the busy season' and possible future operations. As the adage goes 'One in, all in' and all personnel have kept to that ensuring that the Troop is permanently ready for the unexpected.

Those of you who miss or stand up are going to get the Good News

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt E. L. McLellan**
Tp SSgt **SSgt F. Jarvis**

Let's kick off with the arrivals and departures. Firstly, goodbye to **SSgt Daz Ware** who has gone off to join the dark side at the Tesco building and seems determined to take half the Troop with him, so much for his loyalty over the years. The contribution he has made to the Troop has been a significant one and **SSgt Ware** is thanked for his dedicated efforts as both Installations Staff Sergeant and more recently as Troop Staff Sergeant. Mean-while best wishes to **Sgt Dave Hansen** who has gone to sun it up with 30 Sig Regt, shame he hates flying! Also goodbye to **Cpl Joe Smith** who is off to Blandford on his T1 and **Cpl Tanya Ballard** who has gone to 12 Mech Bde, best of luck to all of you. Hello to **LCpl Scott Duffie**, who is joining TM Tp from sunny Cyprus, and **Sgt** 'Harry' **Harris** who has just come from 16 Sig Regt.

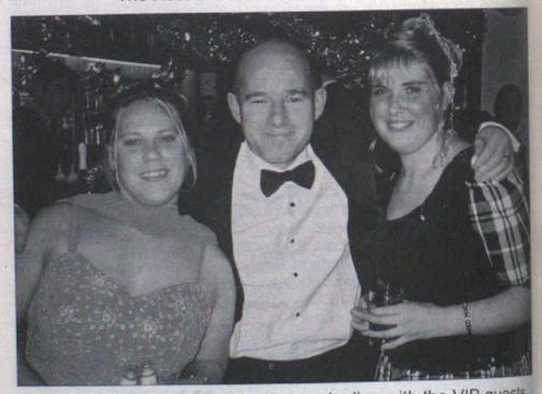
The Troop's best wishes go out to **LCpl Pherris Baldwin**, who is currently enjoying the selection process for 264 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Stevie Hicklin** on his Class 1 course in Blandford and also to **Cpls Micky Lake, Micky Partridge** and **Jay Lowe** who are currently on their Junior Commanders course. Well done to **Cpl Chris Renshaw, LCpl Dave Rice** and **Sig** 'Gaz' **Mugford** for all passing their Team Medics Course at Ballymena. Especially well done to **Chris** for scoring 98% in the final exam. Congratulations to the 233 Sqn Military Skills Competition team for coming a very close second. The team comprised of: **SSgt Craig Marlowe, Cpl Si Wellsted, LCpl Alford, LCpl Pherris Baldwin, LCpl Manifield, LCpl Dave Rice, Sig Jackie Bridger** and **Sig Steve Moran,** with **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Briggs** as a one man admin team! The stands in the competition were a Rummage search, Assault Course, a Timed Shoot, Observation, Incident Handling, Navigation and First Aid.

On the social side, **Sig Michelle Rayner** excelled herself in organising 'A Night at the Oscars'. All the boys were quite literally frog-marched to hire black tie, and didn't they all scrub up well! **Cpl Joe Smith** assumed the role of **Sig Rayner's** charming assistant host and between the two of them they awarded the various stars of TM Tp for their outstanding contributions to technical expertise, course attendance (biggest swan), sweetest smelling, best hair and many more achievements. A rather fine roast turkey dinner was provided by the chefs of the Sandhurst Restaurant and the EOD are thanked for the use of their bar the 'Felix and Firkin', where we hope to enjoy many more 'quiet sociables'. Those unfortunate enough not to be a part of the TM revelling were able to enjoy the annual radiance of the 'Lisburn Star', rigged to the top of the tallest tower on camp, the huge structure shining down gracefully on all.

The Felix and Firkin overflowed with Celebrities and Elvis

A Night At The Oscars with Technical Maintenance Troop
The Host and Hostess take centre stage

Cpl Joe Smith
a man who oozes charm, elegance and style, apparently



Sig Michelle Rayner plays hostess, mingling with the VIP guests
WO2 (FofS) Rick Gorman and Cpl Danni Tutton

3 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (203)

Sqn Comd **Maj D. B. Warne**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) A. M. Maxted**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS - CONGRATULATIONS

All SHQ congratulate **LCpl Williams** on her promotion. Well done.

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP

OC Tp **2Lt Lord**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Warm greetings go to **SSgt** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** from Aldershot, **Cpl Dave Owen** and **Cpl Wayne Topping** who both had an exciting first job as barman on the Squadron Bar and haven't actually touched any kit yet. **Sig Andy Hall** who joins us from the MT who can make vehicles you thought you were using disappear in front of your eyes, **Sig** 'Dan' **King** and **Sig** 'Sammy' **Wood** from 249 Sig Sqn ((AMF)L), **Sig** 'Dave' **Smart** from 30 Sig Regt and **Sig** 'Sammy' **Samson** from 12 Mech Bde.

Goodbyes to **Cpl Chris Bain** who is bound for Chelsea Bks after getting married, **Cpl Jase** 'Too old' Craddock, off to the TA and **Sig G.** 'I'll sign back on for that carrot' **Pyrah** who is promoted on posting to Cyprus. We regretfully say farewell to **SSgt** 'Bob' **Wallace** who leaves us for 2 Sig Regt, everyone is sorry to see you go **Bob** (at least that was the message

from 2 Sig Regt). We also say goodbye to **Cpl** 'SF' **Link** who is posted on promotion to 7 Bde, and last but by no means least, farewell to **Cpl** 'Don' **Garner** who also leaves us on promotion but stays within 3 Bde as the rear link Sergeant with the southern Armagh Battalion. Congratulations go to **Cpl Matt** 'Wide Boy' **Dawson** on returning from his Class 1 as an Installations Tech wearing his second tape. This year sees some members of the Signal Squadron attempting arduous courses. We see **Sig** 'Dan' **King** attempting P Coy for the third time (lucky) apparently he feels the course is so easy he has to attempt it three times, good luck **Dan**. **Sig** 'Sammy' **Samson** goes off to attempt 264 Selection, with only three days notice of his course, but we know he will do well. Lastly we see **LCpl** 'Mat' **Page** attempting his leadership course. All in all we look forward to a hectic year with Drumcree looming over the next couple of months.

CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

After a long time of preparation and planning by **SSgt** 'Nobby' 'Sites' **Noble, Sgt Andy** 'Smiler' **Lloyd** and **Sgt** 'Gilly' **Gilchriest**, the new FRT system has finally come into being. The die hard Radio Techs are now having to come to terms with the flashing lights and drop tests while the System Techs are still trying to figure out, 'Why is the line wavy?' and, 'Where are all the marks and spaces?' All in all, our new system should allow us to have more time off for fun things like PT at 0730hrs, **Cpl** 'Edward scissor badge' **Chwieseni** is very pleased with the increased numbers he now has at his lessons. In other news, **LCpl Nick** 'But I checked the fuse' **Watson** is the most slabbed tech in the Province but is slowly being caught by **LCpl Ian** 'slow motion' **Bradshaw**. **Cpl Richie** 'I want to go to a depot' **Birch** is away shortly on his Skill At Arms course and should return just in time to witness the birth of his first baby liney. **Cpl Matt** 'closet gwa' **Cree** has managed to sneak off on his fibre course after getting away with having Christmas and New Year on leave. The only people not mentioned are **Cpl** 'Hatch' **Hatcher, LCpl L. J. Murray** and **LCpl Iain** 'I'm old school, me' **Good**, who might be upset if they weren't.

SUPPORT TROOP

OC Tp Capt Wright-Jones
Tp SSgt SSgt Rodgers

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

It is with much regret that we bid farewell to **LCpl** 'Dino' **Kirk** who is now off to Civ Div. She has supported the Troop and the MT with her experience, and she will be sadly missed. We will have to find someone else to keep the bar profit coming in and we all wish you the best for the future. We will also like to say goodbye to **Sig Andy** 'Turncoat' **Hall** who has moved to TM Tp, you can now start making molehills out of mountains, and **Sig Steve Brown** who has moved within the Troop to the SQMS's Dept, one day they will let you count the eiderdowns. On a more serious note they were both an asset to the MT and their departure has been felt throughout. We would now like to welcome **LCpl Dom Ceolho**, don't worry things do get better, well you do have marching season to look forward to. The Troop has been busy coping with getting ready for our Equipment Care Inspection (oops what generators) and trying to get some Christmas leave in. We now wish we had spent less time on documentation and more time checking windscreen wipers. At least the Quartermaster, **Capt Wright-Jones** has stopped seeing red now and has calmed down to bright amber. We would also like to thank the members of the MT Dept for the hard work and quick thinking that went into the armed alone weekend. Last but not least we would like to thank **Cpl** 'Higgy' **Higgins** and his merry chefs for all the work that went in over Christmas and New Year. We all appreciate the hard work you have done for us.

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (213)

Sqn Comd **Maj A. R. Knott**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. M. Lockwood**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Well done to all those involved in the recent exercise to ensure that the Brigade Officers are up to speed on their ITDs. The two day package was well received and on the whole enjoyed by those participating. Thanks must also go to WIS for providing the specialist weapons with which the RSM had so much fun!

Lockwood, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt S. Y. Richardson**
Tp Sgt **SSgt R. Atherton**

OPERATIONS SECTION

Arrivals and Departures: A big Ops Sect welcome goes to all the newcomers in the Troop. The word is obviously out that Syscon is the place to work, as in the last two months they have been arriving in their droves. Hello to **Cpl** 'Bobsleigh' **Kemp, Sig/LCpl Carol Westerman, Cpl** 'Norry' **Crook** and **Cpl Brett Grist.** We hope you will all be very happy here. A sad farewell is given to **Sig** 'Snowboarder Supreme' **Buyers**, who after helping the Brigade to win the Corps Championships left for better things. The guys in the block would like to thank him for leaving behind his bed, his sunbed and of all things his car! **Sig** 'Dinga' **Bell** has also moved on to pastures new, finishing his tour with a friendly football match damaging his knee in the process. **LCpl Charlie Henry Wood** has left the Troop. The Group has become a much quieter place, no longer can we hear the cheerful little tunes being sung. We wish you the utmost success in your future career.

Section News: Congratulations and best wishes go to **LCpl Mick Constable** and his wife **Karen** on the birth of their son **George**. May the nappies always be clean and the nights never sleepless. Congratulations also go to **Sgt** 'Norry' **Crook** on his recent promotion. He is delighted with the event as he moves from sharing a four-man bunk in the Sandhurst Block, to a freshly painted room on his own in the Sergeants' Mess. Well done 'Norry', it is well deserved. Well done to **Pte** 'Stretch' **O'Hare** on passing his MPC course, to **Pte Andy Aitchison** and **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Allinson** on receiving the first class passes for their Police Advanced Driving examination and well done to **Pte Haley Andrews** who received a second class pass. A Troop mascot has appeared in the form of a small female Alsation/Collie Cross. **Kirby Athertonis** a delightful addition, although not according to **Sgt Paul Faizey**, who found a little present behind his desk! Good Luck Staff, in keeping your sandwiches to yourself.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION

Arrivals and Departures: Two new Systems Engineer Technicians plus one Technician are the arrivals this month in the forms of **LCpl Fredrick Tedby, LCpl Robert Dilger** and **LCpl Craig Bate**. Welcome to the better section of the Troop, prepare to fight for our honour. Goodbye and good luck to our resident DJ, **Sig Billy Ellam** who finally gets out into civvy street after four and a half years of suffering under the guise of being a soldier. **LCpl Tim Davies** has also been posted to civvy street, while **Sig** (soon to be a Lance Corporal) 'Huey' **Lewis** moves on to bigger and better things. We wish them the very best of luck and thank them for their efforts whilst in Province. Well done to **Cpl Mick Jennings** on his recent promotion, sorry you had to wait so long but blame the Foreman.

Section News: **SSgt Terry McIntyre** has been attached to 15 Sig Regt, paving the way for chaos and mayhem to reign. No, my mistake it is only **Sgts Jonah Jones** and **Paul Faizey** taking charge. For all you worried sailors, Fear not, he will be participating in the two weeks jolly, I mean hard work crewing, on Ex Kattergan Backstop. Well done to those of you who managed to acquire a few days extra leave after the weather closed in on Cambletown.

TM Section Christmas Function: (*written by LCpl Lord)* It was a dismal winter's evening, but spirits were high and festive, for the night held in store dancing and singing (most of it bad), as well as a raffle, Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Billy' **Lilburn** for winning the main prize of a DVD Player, to **Cpl 'Scott' Tomblin** who won an MP3 player and **Sgt Lee Rotherford** for winning the 14 inch Television, which will replace his old one that required turning on in the morning so that you could watch it that night!

LCpl Lord and Sig Roberts show their special bond!

I am sure that everyone had a really enjoyable evening and the highlight in my opinion was the rigging section taking to the dance-floor, with their rendition of the 'Birdie Dance', spectacular lads. However, thank you to the aforementioned riggers for the superb organisational job they did of arranging the night. Well done to the Squadron OC for clearing the dance-floor with an attempt at Dancing Queen and thank you **Pte** 'Stretch'**O'Hare** for being the evening's DJ. I would finally like to thank the Troop OC and all the Seniors for attending and making everyone feel young again.

The TM Section girls
make the most of the evening to dust off their glad rags

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt G. Maddison** RLC

RQMS' Department: Cpl McGuinness has decided to confuse all Squadron members by changing his name. He is, from this day forth, to be called **Cpl Davies**, or for those of us who are having trouble, **Cpl McDavies** gets a response. Congratulations to **Sgt Al Keir** and his wife **Helen** on their recent marriage. We all hope that you will be very happy together.

MOTOR TRANSPORT

It is with great sadness that the MT have to bid farewell to their very own 'Freddy Mercury' look-a-like, **Cpl Stevie Hooper**. The time has come, the walrus said, (Well they both have moustaches) for Cpl H to transfer his allegiance to the AGC SPS. We wish you all the very best and are sure they will realise your potential.

SQUADRON EVENTS

CORPS WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

DECEMBER 2000 - *by Cpl 'Mac' Davies*

On departure from a dizzly Belfast, the 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn snowboarding team were hyped up for a hard two weeks training and competition in Kaprun, Austria. After an arduous journey **Cpls** 'Mac' **Davies, Neil Beedon** and **Sig Jamie Buyers** arrived in Austria with the same expression, 'Where is the snow?' We were soon told that Week One Training had been moved to St Jacob, near the Italian border due to a lack of snow. This move, however, proved to be fruitful as **Cpl Neil Beedon** soon found out that novice training was harder than it looked. During the week, **Cpl** 'Mac' **Davies** and **Sig Jamie Buyers** were to find out, courtesy of the Dutch coach, that everything they had taught themselves over the years, was in fact wrong.

Week Two was held on the notorious Kitzsteinhorn Glacier and the competition started with two races of giant slalom, in which the team finished a full 55 points clear of the rest of the field. The next day's racing was to decide the individuand team placing, all resting on the performance in the slalom. After two races the team were guaranteed a first place and soon to be returning with some silverware to the Brigade. Well done to all the guys involved and a thank you to the Squadron for sponsoring us for the event.

NORTHERN IRELAND BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to the 39 Brigade female basketball team, who strove to victory in the recent Northern Ireland Championships. Man of all the matches was **LCpl Vicky Moran**, who has proven that she is on the mend from her operation, showing her speed and accuracy under pressure. With regards to the male team, a nice effort but no cigar. The males crashed and burned but have vowed to come back with a vengeance next year.

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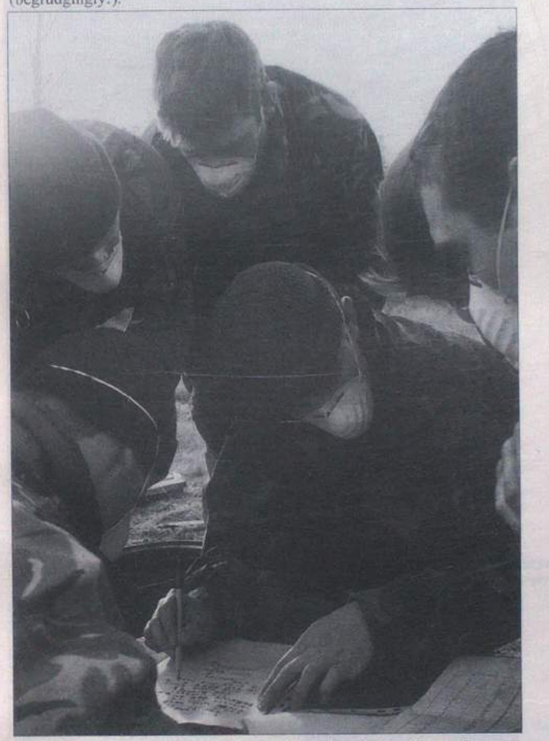
NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

1ST (UNITED KINGDOM) ARMOURED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

MILITARY ACTIVITIES - EXERCISE BOLD ENDEAVOR

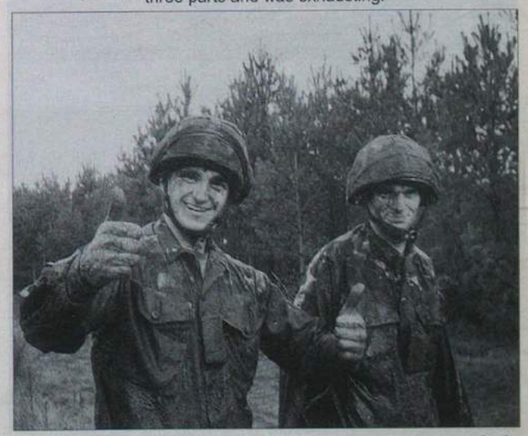
November saw 36 lucky members of 212 Sig Sqn participate in a three-day Squadron Cadre Course. Participants were chosen from Signaller to Corporal, and the course was designed to put soldiers in an environment where any latent leadership qualities could flourish. It was characteristically wet and cold for the duration (no surprises there!), and most of those who completed the course would later be heard to admit that they did enjoy it (begrudgingly!).



Protected from the lethal effects of the chemical spillage, Group Four struggle to translate the secret code which tells them the safe exit from the area - and the command task

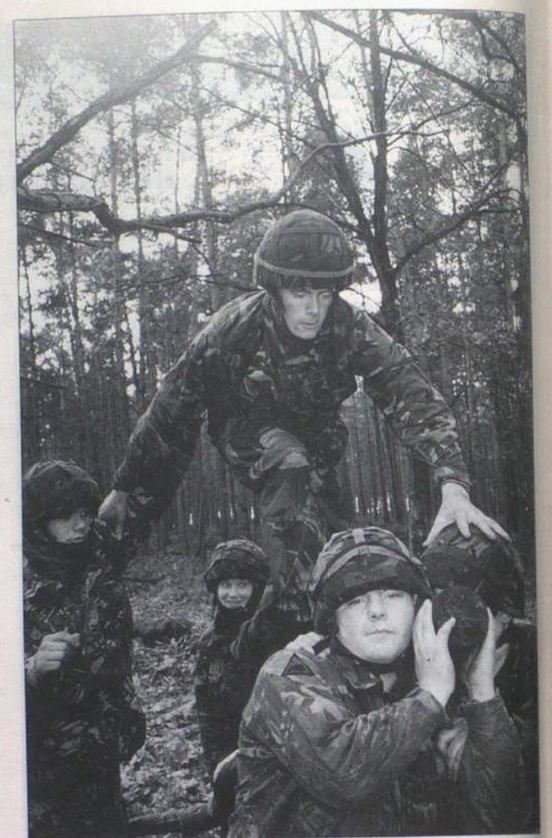
These lucky soldiers found themselves part of a gruelling endurance stand - this part, the stretcher race, came at the end of three parts and was exhausting!

The Team after they finished the assault course phase,
I said that it was cold and muddy,
it was, and it got worse as more teams went through it!



Sig Murphy and LCpl Harvey show their contempt of exhaustion!

LCpl Roberts gets to grips with mouth to mouth, during the first aid stand



Sig Johnston delicately makes his way along a slippery log held by his team - a good idea, but it led to bruises!

EXERCISE SHELLDRAKE SWORD

Just prior to the Squadron's cadre course, 201/211/212 Signal Squadrons were engaged in the annual major Arty live fire exercise, Ex Shelldrake Sword. This Exercise gave the much vaunted Offensive Support Group portion of Divisional Headquarters the chance to fire in anger.....

Soldier posing with a 3.5 kva generator under camouflage netting

LCpl Tiplady takes a massive chance with his life by allowing Sgt Maskerlyn of the RLC (our resident exercise chef and all round mad up for it bloke) to take a test drive of the ASV 436! A scary moment.....

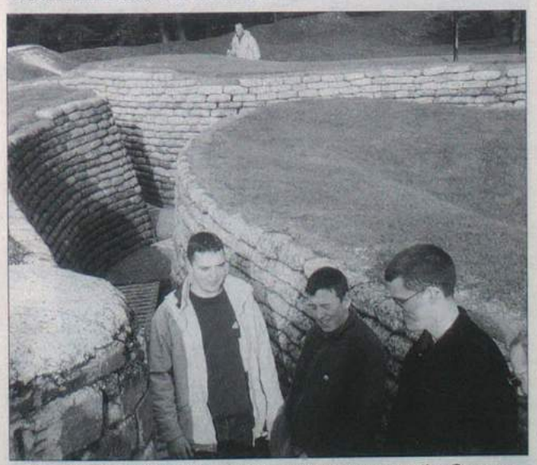
This exercise provided the opportunity for our soldiers to see AS90, MLRS and 105mm firing live! This open day included a look at the Rapier Field Standard C air defence system

The two Sqn Dvr Maintenance Instructors, LCpl Tiplady and LCpl Roberts teach the much loved track bash on their driving course

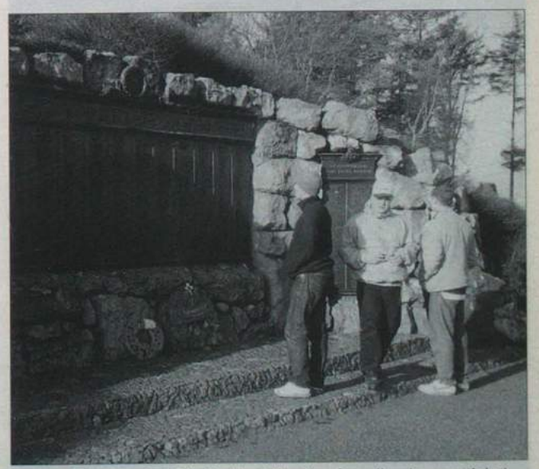
Taking advantage of the slightly more sedate pace of the exercise, members of the Squadron are familiarised with the various quirks and characteristics of the much loved ASV 436

EXERCISE SOMME EXPLORER 6-8 FEBRUARY 2001

Ex Somme Explorer was a Squadron run battlefield tour to the WW1 battlefields and memorials in the Somme area of France. 24 members of the Squadron took part, visiting the memorials at Delville Wood, Thiepval Ridge, Beaumont Hamel and Vimy Ridge. There was also an opportunity to visit the Museum of the Great War in Peronne.



Sigs Whitfield, Vickers, Hesketh and Smith explore the German trenches at the Canadian Memorial at Vimy ridge



Cpl Gallacher and Sig Smith at the Newfoundland memorial at Beaumont Hamel

2 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col I. Cameron-Mowat**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. C. Keilty**

NEWS FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS
FAREWELL TO THE COMMANDER 11 SIGNAL BRIGADE
BRIGADIER J. R. B. COOK

In October a select band of Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers from the far flung corners of 11 Sig Bde made the journey to the 2 Sig Regt and York Garrison Sergeants' Mess for the dining out of **Brig Cook**, 11 Sig Bde Comd. A very memorable night was had by all. The Mess President, **WO1** (RSM) **Keilty,** was ably assisted by **WO1** (Corps RSM) **Hodgson** and a plethora of other senior RSMs and Warrant Officers. The Commander can be seen departing the Mess with typical Sergeants' Mess panache. On behalf of all your Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers good luck and farewell in Upavon.

Departing The Sergeants Mess

GRANDMOTHERS VISIT THE MESS

Late last year saw the doors of the 2 Sig Regt Sergeants' Mess flung open to some of the grandmothers of the Mess Members. What an enjoyable night they had, almost drinking the bar dry of milk stout, port and lemon and nice cups of tea. Rumor has it that some of them even ventured into the City of York for an evening's entertainment, looking for a Bingo Hall the writer suspects. The Mess Members thoroughly enjoyed the evening's conversation something along the lines of:

Gran – 'EEEH isn't he smart' Member – 'How are you then?'
Gran – 'EEEH smart yes' Member – 'No, how are you?'
Gran – 'Milk stout luv' Etc.....

Thank you ladies for a pleasant evening.

Identify The Grannies
(Answers on a postcard to the Mess President)

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

OC **Maj M. Bailes**
SSM **WO2 D. Hancock**

EXERCISE COLOMER EBOR
(EXPEDITION TO THE PYRENEES)
by SSgt Angus MacPherson MBE

It was dull and drizzly in Imphal Barracks on the day of departure, Saturday 13 January 2001. The party left camp at 1330hrs with all equipment and baggage loaded into two minibuses. We travelled to Colchester for an overnight stay due to the early flight the following morning courtesy of Buzz Airlines. We landed in Toulouse at 1000hrs local time. We were then met at the airport by **Tpr John Howie** and taken to our hotel in Luchon. The following morning we set off on a beat-up walk with light packs from the Col de Portillon (1293m). In deep snow our trek took us to the summit of Pic de Aubas (2071m) and across and onto the Pic de Arres (2161m). The next day we travelled over the border into Spain for a days Ski de Fond. Along the way we saw some spectacular falls and the prize for the best effort must go to **Sig** 'Geordie' **Cummings** for his acrobatics. **Cpl Steve Hayward** came a close second with a nosedive into a cluster of trees. The main 3-day expedition saw us trek from the Banos de Tredos (1810m) to the Refuge de Colomers (2140m), out over the Port de Colomers (2591m) and onto the Refuge Ventosa (2290m). **Sig Roy Taylor** was glad to see the Refuge as he panted around trying to find his cigarettes. The next day saw us walking out over the Port de Caldes (2570m), back past the Refuge de Colomers, to collect our transport at the Banos de Tredos. Quote of the day (as large white flakes fall from the sky):

Tpr John Howie – 'Here comes the snow again!'
Cpl Steve Hayward – 'How do you know that it's snowing?'

The Gang

The final day of the expedition took us to Peyresourdes where we spent the day downhill skiing. It was extremely busy with dozens of young children on the lower slopes. **Sig Roy Taylor** only managed a few hours before retiring with a sore knee and **SSgt Colin Dawson** managed to continue for the whole day despite injuring his side. We returned to Luchon for a spot of souvenir shopping before sampling the nightlife prior to our journey home. The flight was on time and this saw us back in York at 1630hrs on Sunday 21 January 2001.

In summary, the expedition ran very smoothly and apart from the snowhole all the other aims of the trip were achieved. Everyone had a fantastic time and most are already talking about returning to the Pyrenees in the summer. This was my third expedition that I had organised to the Pyrenees over the past two years and it doesn't get any easier, as you still have the same barriers to get over, time and time again. Overall it has been an absolute pleasure taking personnel from the Regiment to visit the glorious sites of the Pyrenees in France and Spain. It is now time for someone else to continue the motion and I'm sure the Pyrenees will be part of 2 Sig Regt for many years to come.

NEWS FROM 214 SIG SQN

Sqn Comd **Maj** 'Jamie' **Compston**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) K.** 'Are you calling me small?' **Smith**

FREEDOM OF YORK PARADE 27 JANUARY 2001
by 2Lt Senneck (214 Sig Sqn) and LCpl Dawson (HQ Sqn)

2 Sig Regt has been awarded the City of York's highest honour. On 27 January 2001 the Regiment was given the Freedom of Entry into the City of York. This means that the Regiment is allowed to march through the city, with bands playing, swords drawn and bayonets fixed. Not, alas, free booze in all pubs and clubs in the City. The honour was bestowed on the Regiment in recognition of its close ties with the city and the work it has done for the local community. This includes the links that the Regiment has with various charities including Mencap. The Race the Sun competition is also a large contributor to local charity funds, having raised over £85,000 in the last ten years. The work undertaken by the Regiment in the recent floods received particular attention and it was this, together with the numerous charity events accomplished over recent years that led to the Regiment receiving the award.

With only a few weeks notice of the pending parade, the Regiment was thrown into a fluster of action practicing drill and sorting out No 2 dress. The great day was well planned and eagerly anticipated by all. Unfortunately the weather failed to register the importance of the occasion and it was a dark, very cold and wet morning. The fog eventually lifted but the rain continued - perfect weather for a military parade through the streets of York. It did not, however, effect the performance of those on the parade as the command to 'Draw Swords and to Fix Bayonets' was given, the Minster forming the perfect backdrop. The parade lasted about 30 minutes, during which we tried not to move in between our drill movements, having to stay perfectly still. Families and friends of all those on the parade were stood in front of the Regiment, either side of the podium. A quick smile is all you could manage as long as you did not get caught. The Lord Mayor of York inspected the front rank of the parade and had a quick chat to some of the soldiers as the band began to play 'Rain drops keep falling on my head' to try and keep us all cheerful and alert.

The Lord Mayor, CO 2 Sig Regt, Sqn Comd 219 Sig Sqn
and the YofS 219 Sig Sqn
at the Freedom of York Parade

Three squads of sixty then proceeded to march through the cobbled streets of the City in front of the large crowds that had gathered to line the route and to watch the parade. HQ Squadron, 214 Sig Sqn and 219 Sig Sqn just about managed to keep in step as they were led by The Commanding Officer past the Mansion House to give 'Eyes Right' to the assembled VIP's. There was the **Lord Mayor of York, the Master of Signals, GOC 2 Div**, and the **Sheriff of York**, who all later congratulated the Regiment on their smart turn out and their drill (they obviously did not notice 219 Sig Sqn later marching to their own timings). The parade was soon over and we were whisked back on to the coaches, where the warmth was heartily welcomed as we all chatted about the parade and whom we had seen on our way round. The police again escorted the coaches back to Imphal Barracks where we quickly alighted and trooped into Kohima Restaurant. All those involved in the parade returned to Imphal Barracks with family and friends where they were able to mix with the **Lord Mayor**, her dignitaries and other VIP guests and enjoy the excellent food and drink provided by Regimental kitchen staff.

NEWS FROM 219 SIG SQN

Sqn Comd **Maj** 'Super quiff' **Stocker**
SSM **WO2** 'Are you calling me small?' **Renshaw**

EXERCISE KALI GANDAKI EBOR
16 NOVEMBER 2000 – 7 DECEMBER 2000
(EXPEDITION TO NEPAL)
by Sig Mitchinson (219 Sig Sqn)

Expedition Members: **Capt** 'Boss' **Tyndale**, **2Lt** 'Black Dog' **Hodgkinson**, **SSgt** 'Q-silly hat' **Tuff**, **Cpl** 'Beard Monster' **Ross**, **Cpl** 'Flower pot Man' **Brewington**, **LCpl** 'NE' **Edwards**, **Sig** 'Blonde Moment' **Greenhalgh**, **Sig** 'Dangerous Dougie' **McAtear** and **Sig** 'Evil Mitch' **Mitchinson**.

Ex Kali Gandaki Ebor was a three week expedition to the Annapurna region of Nepal undertaken by 219 Sig Sqn, with the exception of **2Lt Hodgkinson** who is from 214 Sig Sqn and was a last minute (literally!) replacement. We departed from London Heathrow and twelve long hours later arrived in Kathmandu, a city bustling with activity and noise from the people, vehicles *and* animals of various sorts. At least the climate was considerably warmer than in the UK. The following morning we were taken on a sightseeing tour of the capital, which provided us with many fascinating and extraordinary sights. Street sellers desperately trying to sell us their merchandise soon plagued us. Most of us quickly learnt to ignore them but the girls just could not do that and ended up buying dozens of bracelets, rings, necklaces and all sorts of trinkets. They became less courteous as the days went by but I think it was the incident of Tommy Two Thumbs that was the final straw! We went on, past a man swallowing a snake, people kneeling or lying on the ground in prayer and up a couple of hundred steps, to the fascinating 'Monkey Temple'.

It was quite a relief to get away from the frantic bustle of the city and into the hills to start our trek. The bus ride to the starting point was fairly nerve racking due to the surface of the roads but the beautiful scenery soon distracted our attention. The weather was still extremely warm and carrying rucksacks all day was certainly taking it out of us. We found the opportunity to bathe in the river one evening, which was very pleasant until **Cpl Brewington** and **Sig McAtear** decide to be adventurous and cross the river and were unable to get back again quite so easily. Meanwhile **LCpl Edwards** tried to go paddling and ended up swimming for her life. The trekking route is becoming steeper and Day 2 will be a lasting memory for all of us; hill, hill, mule, hill, mule, climb, mule, mule, hill, what path? Hill, hill, hill, NOT ANOTHER MULE! We had an unexpected rest on Day 7 as **SSgt Tuff** had an unfortunate bout of food poisoning but, after being briefly admitted to hospital, he returned to the group and floated over the hills! Forever upwards we went until we finally reached the top of Thorong La pass where we were treated to some really spectacular views that were most definitely worth all the effort.

Day 2

DON'T SEND DIGITAL PHOTOS

The Top At Last

Our journey down the other side of the pass was considerably quicker than that going upwards, funnily enough! The most notable occasions on the downward journey were the windstorm - **2Lt Hodgkinson** was blown over TWICE, and the glorious hot springs at Tatopani. The expedition finished with a day white water rafting, which was excellent fun and saw us throwing one another in within 60 seconds of getting into the boats. We also soaked a boat full of Germans for good measure but they failed to see the amusing side of it. After a night camping, in the lightest sense because the facilities were so luxurious and comfortable it was not really camping, we endured a truly frightening bus ride to Kathmandu for our final night in Nepal. A night out on the town could not be avoided. It is quite a miracle that we all managed to make it to the plane at 0530hrs the next morning and meanwhile, some poor Nepalese man is still looking for his rickshaw……..

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON CHRISTMAS FUNCTION
by Sig Marshall (219 Sig Sqn)

The Organising Party

The 219 Squadron Christmas function this year was a stylish event that was held at the lavish Novotel Hotel in York and saw the men wearing Tuxedos and the ladies some very elegant dresses. The event organisers were **LCpls Matt Lutkin**, **Kelly Thompson** and **Lee Turnbull**, ably assisted by **Sigs John Kama** and **Diane Turner**. The evening began with a flying start when the guests arrived and were greeted with a champagne reception in the hotel's main foyer. From there it was into the bar for a few more drinks before we all sat down for a delicious four-course meal. Entertainment followed shortly afterwards, courtesy of a band who covered songs from all the up to date artists and a few of those good old 60s tracks thrown in too. The band was excellent - they just happened to be cousins of **LCpl Lutkin**, and they soon had everybody out of their seats and moving around the dance floor in a variety of manners! The award for best dancer has to go to **Cpl** 'Centurion Willy' **Rushton** who thought it would be a good idea to show people how it used to be done 'back in the day of Julius Ceasar'. Many prizes were later to be won from a raffle and the 'Money Tree'; the star prize up for grabs was a 28' colour television, won by **Sig Tom** 'Geordie boy' **McGaritty**. A DJ was supplied to fill in the gaps between the live band and the prize draws and meanwhile the alcohol continued to flow, causing the dancing to become more frantic and embarrassing! The real party animals played on until the early hours of the following morning and were eventually ordered to leave by the hotel staff! All in all an excellent night was had by everyone who attended and a big pat on the back should go to the organising committee who did a superb job. Well done - and let's have another one next year!

EXERCISE JOLLY EBOR
25 NOVEMBER – 17 DECEMBER 2000
(REGIMENTAL EXERCISE ON *HMS YORK*)
by 2Lt Croslegh (219 Sig Sqn) & Sgt Tervitt (HQ Sqn)

This was a joint training exercise during which six members of 2 Sig Regt spent three weeks working alongside The Royal Navy onboard *HMS York*. During this period the ship was due to sail from Antalaya to Gibraltar via Naples. The exercise began with a 0230hrs start – nice! We caught the plane to Turkey via Brussels and as if the early start were not enough we discovered to our horror, on arrival at Istanbul, that our baggage had not flown with us. It eventually turned up four hours later and once we were cheerfully reunited with it we jumped on the bus for a thirteen-hour journey to Antalaya – nice! When we eventually arrived at the ship we were greeted with the unwelcome sarcastic comment of, 'Ah, the missing Army!' The remainder of the morning was spent finding our way around the ship, particularly the route to the accommodation. This became quite tricky as we were all separated and housed in different areas of the ship. **2Lt** 'Jay' **Croslegh** ended up near the bridge, **Sigs Reeves** and **Brittin** with the stokers, **Sig** 'PK' **Pikendra** and **LCpl** 'KH' **Khadgajung** with the ship's resident Gurkhas and **Sgt Tervitt** ended up in the PO's Mess. We were each assigned a specific area of the ship to work in; **LCpl Brittin** on the galley, **Sig Reeve** in the comms centre, **LCpl PK** in the engine room, **Sig KH** in the engine missile room and **Sgt Tervitt** with the weapons. We rotated between each post after 48hrs, giving us the chance to see different parts of *HMS York*. When not on duty we spent the following days looking around 'Ant', as it became known. It was impossible to ignore the locals who were pressing us to buy all sorts of items from carpets to coats and watches. We later sought solace from their pestering in a restaurant where we dined like kings for only £4.00 – cheaper than McDonalds, bargain!

The ship at last set sail and one of the first mornings was spent in a shooting competition between the RN and the Army using a 5.56mm shoot. The target was a buoy that was trailing behind the ship. The grand prize for winning was a crate of beer and naturally, we drank to the RN's health later that night. In an attempt to win back their beer, the Navy again challenged us to a shooting competition, this time using a GPMG but they were again to be disappointed. As we collected our second prize in as many days the Captain of the ship was heard to mutter, 'You Army guys sure do shoot funny, you actually aim at the target'. On the 4 December the fleet held a 'Steam Past', which is when the ships form up in a line and the rear ship overtakes all the others. For this event, the ship's crew was in fancy dress and the fire fighting equipment was made ready. As each ship sailed past frenzied water fights ensued. Once the Steam Past had been completed the ships lined up along side each other and a 2km race began. *HMS York* started well and finished in joint first position.

A couple of days later we arrived in Naples and providing we had no duties onboard, we were able to go ashore and visit most of the major sights in the area. On the first day we visited Pompeii where the ruins are very extensive but well worth a visit. Well into the tourist spirit we then went to Rome, which offered some fabulous sights: the Spanish Steps (although not many were visible because it seemed the entire population of Rome was sitting on them eating their lunch), the Vatican and finally the Sistine Chapel. One of the main highlights of the entire trip was the Christmas meal, which was served by the Officers and was soon followed by an excellent Christmas show. The next day, we arrived at sunny Gibraltar where we were due to leave the ship and begin our return journey back to York. Arrangements were made to cross the border and take a train to Madrid and then another one to Bilbao where we would catch a P&O ferry to Portsmouth. However, upon reaching the border we encountered a major problem; the Spanish refused entry to the Gurkhas in the party without a Visa. An alternative plan was hastily hatched and the Gurkhas ended up flying from Gibraltar to the UK direct. Meanwhile the rest of us shot off for Bilbao and once there were presented with another disaster; the ferry had been delayed and would not arrive until 0200 the following day – great! The remainder of the day was therefore spent investigating what Bilbao had to offer, which was very little until we discovered the shopping mall. Finally we set sail at 0400hrs and eventually arrived in the UK the following afternoon and after spending two hours tracking down the hired minibus, we headed back up to York for a much-needed Christmas break.

HADRIAN'S VALLUM - *by Cpl Ralley (219 Sig Sqn)*

This charity event was organised to raise £3000 for **Sig Leon Creighton**, who was tragically injured in a swimming accident whilst serving on the last unit deployment to the Falkland Islands. He has been left paralysed and requires the use of a wheelchair. The money raised by the charity event is to be spent on upgrading the wheelchair. After some hard thinking and considerable debates, **SSgt Pete Curtis** came up with the idea of completing the entire 73 miles of Hadrian's Wall in a day by running, tabbing and cycling. He was never one for good ideas but many individuals eagerly volunteered to participate in the event. The whole stretch of wall was divided into ten legs and a team of four would each complete a leg. Legs 1 to 5 started from Bowness on Solway and would finish in Housesteads and legs 6 to 10 would start in Housesteads and finish in Wallsend, Newcastle. The legs varied in length from around 12 miles for the cycle legs and 6-7 miles for those who were either running or tabbing.

An 0700hrs start was in order for Leg 1, and the individuals concerned were soon wishing they had not gone out for a couple of quiet ones in Carlisle the night before. There is a rumour that **LCpl** 'Davey' **Campbell** did not let go of the safety Landrover for the whole 13 miles of his leg. It was cold and wet but everyone put in maximum effort and completed their legs in good time. **SSgt Curtis** helped his promotional prospects by giving the CO, OC, RSM and the SSM the hardest leg of the day! Although the girls would tell you something different, from what they were saying you would have thought that they had cycled up Ben Nevis.

A big thank you goes to **34 (TA) Sig Regt** Newcastle for allowing us to use their facilities after the event. **Sig Creighton** was also there and it was an excellent opportunity to see him and wish him well for the future. A special mention most go to **LCpl Di Turner** who raised nearly £400 pounds by herself in sponsorship money and we are now well on the way to raising the £3000 needed for **Sig Creighton's** wheelchair.

3(UNITED KINGDOM) DIVISONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col Davies**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Kidd**

WO1 Chris Kidd would like it known Corps wide that he is the RSM of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. Despite reaching the pinnacle of his career in Bulford after 20 years service and having a whole board dedicated to himself in RHQ (They wouldn't give me one – 2IC) he still felt aggrieved that I left him out of the appointments list in the last issue!

SPORTING SUCCESSES

With some sporting superstars hitting key appointments in RHQ we must be in with a shout for the Birtwistle Sporting Pennant. Here is photographic evidence of our recent achievements ……..watch out for the Regimental Angling Team!!

Cpl Davis
pictured during one of the GB Women's Bobsleigh World Cup races in Calgary, Canada

Royal Signals Cross Country Champions 2001
You know the names already !!

Our star man on the day
LCpl Smith, third overall the first of our seven scorers in 24

Royal Signals Ladies Cross Country Runners Up
Lt Coslett, LCpl Fraser, LCpl Sweeney, SSgt Matheson, SSgt (YofS) Rouse

202 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Long**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) McNaught**
OVERLOON TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Irwin**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Rowe**

It's been an eventful couple of months for the mighty Overloon Tp when first and second lines have been a major priority. Ex Tricorn Bull was an educational exercise for the newer members in the Troop like **LCpl Ange Nichols** who has joined us from 16 Sig Regt. We had only just welcomed her to the Troop when she was whisked off to Bosnia on Operations. The Regimental Sports Week was a great challenge for us playing Football, Rugby, Hockey as well as many other events. We finished a quite respectable second place.

Farewell to **LCpl Bob Rankin** who's off to 4 Brigade, **Sig** 'Pie' **Maxted** who is promoted on posting to 2 Sig Regt and **Cpl Kenny** 'Garage King' **Irwin** who's going to 8 Inf Bde in Ireland. They will all be missed. After a great leaving do for all of them in the town of Swindon the local coach company are beginning to trust us to be a fun loving friendly bunch. Farewell also to **LCpl Sid Marsh** leaving for civilian street and welcome back to **LCpl Evans** and congratulations on her recent marriage to **Cpl Trev Evans. Sig Rateliff** arrives in the Troop, posted in from HQ Sqn. Lucky fellow.

WATERLOO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Simpson**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Ashford**

Life with armour is currently hectic with the seemingly endless cycle of inspections and exercise. The Troop was able to let off steam, however, by taking an afternoon away from the labours of exercise prep to trash go-carts at the Thruxton circuit. Sig **Fildes** swept the board consistently knocking everyone off the field (At least those of the racers who didn't make up their own route around the course, (that's you **LCpl Cloughton).** Congratulations to the new **WO2 Craig** 'DJ' **Bruce BEM** who managed to arrive, get promoted and leave all in the in the space of a couple of months. You were probably the shortest serving troop staffy we've ever seen! The Troop also welcomes **LCpl Kelly** 'Sonic the Hedgehog' **Cloughton, Sigs Susanne** 'GWA' **Cooper, Andy** 'Weiner' **Wennington** and **Darren** 'Mudflaps' **Fothergill** on board the fun bus. Tearful farewells were said to **LCpl Chris** 'Call that a punch?' **Beevers** and **Sig Tony** 'Peder' **Fildes,** who are shortly going to have to fend for themselves in Civvy Street. **Sgt Navik** 'Norgee' **Elliott** also leaves us to go and earn medals in Northern Ireland. The whole Troop is taking on a family atmosphere too. The Hardy twins **Emma** and **Lee** got married. (Will that couple making doe eyes at each other please stop and do some work?) **Cpl** 'Faz' **Fazackerley** and **Sig Tony** 'Funky Moped' **Knight** both got engaged (though not to each other).

BUSSACO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Lumley**
Tp SSgt **SSgt McGuinness**

Sig Cotterell driving the GOC's Tac

Well, 2000 with all its hype has come to an end and 2001 has begun. Last year ended with the usual flurry of Xmas parties and functions that left most members of the Troop pretty skint even before going on leave. The year kicked off with Ex Tricorn Bull 1 and the members of the Troop refreshing their skills in a Squadron exercise, one that would not have been complete without a touch of snow and Gulf War stories from **SSgt Joe** 'Nosey Neighbour' **Rowe** and **SSgt Frank** '16Air Asslt Giftshop' **McGuinness**.

The technicians are still 'under-manned' in the Squadron, and with that we would like to welcome **LCpl Backhouse, LCpl Roberts, Sig Patten and Sig Smith** to the Troop and we hope that you are not worked too hard by **WO2 (FofS) Andy** 'I'm always in control' **Paton.** We would also like to extend a welcome to **Sig Brooksbank** and **Sig Gavin** who have quickly become experts at maintaining vehicles and 'driving' around orienteering courses. As usual, Bussaco Tp continues to support Officer Recruiting by putting on displays involving the GOC's Tac HQ lead by **Sgt Jim** 'Hairy Man' **Gray.** The Tac Crew would also like to wish **LBdr** 'Soon to be LCpl RSIGNALS' **Howell** well with his operation and his re-trade to the Corps.

Finally, we would like to wish **Sgt Jim** 'Hairy Man' **Gray, Cpl Bobby** 'I like small families' **Ball, Cpl Paul** 'I'm an individual' **Coates, Cpl Rob** 'I hope there's a sun bed in the Balkans' **Hickley** the very best as they prepare to go to either Kosovo or Bosnia – get out there lads and do your part in defending the free world! Oh, **LCpl** 'Dirty Harry' **Symons**, we know that you have crossed over to the other side and are now a key member of the RP staff, but please, come and visit us some time…

206 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Adsett**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Smith**
INKERMAN TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Freemantle**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Angove**

The 'Fighting Elite' of Inkerman Tp have returned from Christmas leave in high spirits (still drinking the same as they were before they went on leave). We returned to face a Squadron training exercise where the younger members of the Troop were put to the test by being placed in command of the rebro clusters…. God help us all!

The exercise passed by without mishaps with some of the troops performing better than others did. The majority of Mons Tp additions were not able to handle the fast pace of life in the 'Fighting Elite'. As the exercise went on rest became a distant memory and we all wondered what a sleeping bag was, (Unlike the DS that managed to stay bright and full of sound, especially **Sig** 'stand to' **Rodda**).

The troops of Inkerman Tp would like to congratulate **LCpl Anderson** and **LCpl Brown** on their promotions! We also have to say good-bye to a few members of the 'Fighting elite' which include **LCpl** 'Radcon' **Richardson** who has moved over to the gym and **Sig Carol Westerman** who has moved to Ireland. Congratulations to her and her husband on the announcement of her pregnancy. Last of all **Sig Harris** who has gone to 16 Sig Regt. Inkerman Tp wishes all of them the best. We have got some new members to our elite Troop, **Sgt** 'Smudge' **Smith** who has joined us from Bassingbourn and our new Troop Commander, **Lt Freemantle**, who is going to Blandford in a little while to complete his Troop Commanders course, we wish him all the best for that.

222 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Appleton**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Nuttall**

Members of the Squadron meet the 2IC, Capt Bee Bryan, disguised as a Beefeater on Arabian Challenge

On 18 November 222 Sig Sqn departed for the bracing sea air of Napier Barracks, near Folkestone for their Battlecamp 2000. This was to be a week of range work and ITDs followed by the fun part, two days of sailing and watersports. Yeah right, unfortunately the OC, **Maj Appleton** and **WO2 (SSM) Nuttall** had other ideas! The week started with the range work, consisting of the Small Arms Trainer (SAT), zeroing, a fun shoot and an APWT on Lydd Ranges. After the evening meal we started the ITDs with the rest being completed by Tuesday evening. This left two days for the sailing and watersports….or so we thought.

EXERCISE ARABIAN CHALLENGE

SSM Nuttall had arranged a little surprise for us. At 0400hrs on Wednesday we were rudely awakened to find that the two days watersports had infact changed to an initiative exercise called Arabian Challenge. So with our ID cards, a letter of explanation, a 50p coin, a packed lunch and a task list, we were dropped off in-groups of twos and threes somewhere in the county of Kent. As many of the tasks had to be completed in London, the aim for the groups was to make their way to the capital from their various drop off points. We had to complete tasks such as: meet a Squadron personality at a certain pub at a certain time, don't eat the packed lunch, sing in front of 100 people, get football memorabilia of Middlesborough and Everton FC, milk a cow, gut a fish etc, etc. At the end of the exercise on Thursday evening the Squadron seniors had arranged a smoker consisting of skits and awards. The awards went to:

Best shot on SAT: **Sig Hawkes**
Best fun shot on SAT: **LCpl White**
Best shot on ranges: **Sig Bradley**

All in all a brilliant couple of days!……By the way are the Squadron management team back from that pub yet?

Why not visit the Royal Signals Museum?
For opening hours ring : 01258 482248

7 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col J. E. Richardson MBE**
RSM **WO1 Smoothy**

The last few months have been very hectic for the Regiment as we begin to welcome all the Troops home from various Operational tours in the Balkans and 231 Sig Sqn from The Falkland Islands. Welcome back to Germany!

KREFELD BIKERS CHARITY RUN
(MAD DOGS & BIKERS) - *by SSgt Steve Behan*

Early December 2000, I received a phone call from **SAC Pete Way** from the RAF, Club Secretary of 'The Adler' Motorcycle club in RAF Bruggen informing me that the club would be organising a charity 'ride out' in aid of 'Kindersdorf St Josef' orphanage on 15 December 2000. The word was passed to the boys and girls at Krefeld that the event would be taking place, and that money and presents would be required to present to the children on the day. **Mr Simon Lees**, collected all donations and presents on the 8 December and presented them to the Committee of the Motorcycle Club, so that a consolidated presentation could be made on the 15 December 2000. 15 December arrived .....and so did the weather, dark and overcast with the real threat of rain in the air. Eleven bikers turned out to 'brave' the elements, all dressed ready for a 'Michelin Tyre' advert.

RAF & Army Combined
(Note: Police Motorcycle without the mud!)

Krefeld Chapter Charlie s Angels

After an impromptu photo shoot, **Cpl Craig Bowman** decided additional photographs would be in order, to which he promptly lay down in the middle of the road, and snapped away. Weaving and swerving became a fine art at this point, especially on cobbles.

Krefeld rides out

The ride to Bruggen was uneventful, albeit a little chilly on the hands. We all assembled outside the RAF Police post for a consolidated photo, and to admire the large collection of presents, totalling 300 in all. Twenty-seven bikers were to be escorted by two Police outriders through the route. The signal came to start up and ride out, all with zeal and enthusiasm. One of the Police outriders had too much zeal, and 'dropped' his bike into a ditch directly outside Bruggen Station, much to the amusement of the remainder of the group, which in turn replied with a volley of left handed applause.

We arrived at the orphanage and were greeted by **Herr Fester** (No relation to the Adam's family), the Deputy Manager to the orphan village, and invited for coffee and biscuits. After all the formalities of presenting the gifts, all bikers made a separate 'bomb burst' back to home locations. Krefeld lads headed straight for a wall of rain, which accompanied us back home. All in all, DM3500 was raised to purchase some 300 gifts for the children at the orphanage. The weather could have been kinder, but what can you expect in December. A personal thanks goes out to all bikers of Krefeld, military and civilian alike, for donning thermal underpants and running noses for a worthwhile cause.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj** 'Wally' **Drain**
SSM **WO2** 'JR' **Ewing**

The squadron Christmas function was held on Thursday 14 December in the Regimental gym. The Regimental Admin Office were issued with a route card stating directions to the event. The function was organised by 7 Sig Regt LAD led by Santa, **SSgt Pete Lucas** and his little helpers (the LAD). The gym was decorated with balloons, in the shape of Santas and Christmas trees. We were entertained for the evening by a live duo, 'The Look'. After the live band, we moved on to the disco where members of the Squadron proceeded to strut their funky stuff. Also on the night there was a money raffle, first prize went to **Cpl Dave Harthill** (LAD) second prize was won by **Cpl Bradley** also LAD (not a fix really), third prize went to **SSgt** 'Open all hours NOT' **Prime**. All winners received DM485.00 each. There was one more prize a golf jumper that was won by **Sig Verrill** (improving his dress sense 10-fold). **Cpl** 'John Boy' **Walton**, of the Regimental restaurant provided the food. It was of a very high standard (he must come from Bradford). All in all a good night was had by everyone involved, and many thanks go to **SSgt Pete Lucas** and his team for a great night.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

With Christmas out of the way, it was back to the graft for TM Tp. It took a while for everyone to settle down and work again after such an excellent leave period, especially now as the Regimental Foreman **Capt** 'Tommy' **Steele** has left to become the TOT of 30 Sig Regt.

LCpl 'Jezebel' **Rees** and **Sig** 'Kev' **Taylor** had a hectic time on their return, as they had the joy of moving to one of the field squadrons, so we bid farewell to them. **Cpl** 'Bobby' **Hill** is also due to leave our presence, as he goes to Blandford on his T1 course. Good luck 'Bobby', and be careful, Blandford has a lot of shop windows, try not to fall through any of them, or else that will be your T1 bonus money down the drain! The Troop also welcomes a few new Techs, **LCpl** 'Harv' **Harvie** arrived from 14 Sig Regt, and **LCpls** 'Kim' **Roberts**, 'Mack' **McCreadie** and **Sig** 'Mus' **Musgrave** came to the Troop fresh from the sausage factory.

The Troop would like to congratulate **LCpl** 'Mr Magoo' **Logan** and his wife **Becky** on the birth of a baby girl. Well done mate, didn't think you had it in you!

HQMT
MTO **Capt Neil R. Coatsworth**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Phil Hay**

Sadly, we must begin with a few farewells. **Sgt** 'Taff' **Kinsey** who departs for 14 Sig Regt (EW), **LCpl** 'Big Jack' **Russell** who's off to AFCENT (unlucky), and 'Big Si' **Lees**, our friendly civilian Servicing Bay assistant, who has left to wash up and do the dishes, and last but by no means least, **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Scott** who departs us for Civvy Street after 22 years service. The latter was given a send off worthy of a Regimental Sergeant Major as he was dined out in style at a dinner hosted by the OC HQ Sqn, and waited-on by the Officers and SNCOs of the same Squadron. Meanwhile at the MT Christmas bash, **Sgt** 'Bri' **Sheard** was leading the way in the Indoor Go-Karting Championship, not only is he now the fastest thing on two legs, he can also go a bit on four wheels, securing himself the fastest lap of the day and a large shiny trophy. Not to be outshone, the JNCOs sent in their best man for the next event: The **'All-In'** Chinese Buffet. Up step **LCpl John** 'Feed Me' **Phoenix**, (who is rumoured to have been evicted from a 'All the Pizza you can eat for a Fiver' promotion in Pizza Hut after devouring £240:00 worth in his first sitting). He proceeded to eat through the buffet in more style than **Sgt Sheard** managed on the Go-Kart field…..most entertaining. More was to come, this walking digestion system left with a doggie bag later on! Anyhow, to all those who leave us, farewell and good luck, and to all those who arrive, we hope you enjoy your time with us and until the next time, when the photographer will be someone other than **Sig** 'Lens Cap' **Clark**…..Cheerio.

GUARDROOM
Provo Sgt **Sgt 'Paul' Deaville**
Provo Cpl **Cpl** 'Stan' **Knight**

The Squadron would like to say farewell to the Provo Sergeant, **Sgt Paul Deaville** (undefeated cross-country super veteran), his wife **Petra** and son **Daniel**. He leaves the Regiment after completing 22 years colour service in the Army (ten of those years being spent here with 7 Sig Regt, hence the grey hair). **Sgt Deaville** will be completing his last six months at 2 Sig Regt based at York, and upon completion of which his family and he will start civilian life in Rotherham. Both the Squadron and the Regiment would like to thank **Sgt Deaville** for his loyal dedication to his duties whilst serving with the Regiment and sincere wishes to **Paul** and his family for the future.

Farewell to Sgt Paul Deaville

229 (BERLIN) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj D L Webster** Royal Australian Signals
SSM **WO2** 'Taff' **Burdge**

Life in 229 Sqn has been hectic as usual, with the troops getting larger as more people return from Op tours. Just before Christmas we welcomed back all those remaining in Bosnia, and most from Kosovo leaving only a couple of EDs and Techs out there. The troops should soon be splitting back down to Charlie and Whiskey Troops and life should get back to normal. Yankee Tp has once again been showing off its sporting prowess in a Regimental Basketball competition. They sailed through all of the rounds even beating the COs team who were favourites to win. The final was a close match against X-ray Tp A Team and was won on a sudden death basket at the end, scored by the star player **Sgt** 'Woody' **Wood.**

X-RAY TROOP

New arrivals to the Troop have been brushing up their military and detachment drills recently on Exercise Young Shakedown. The exercise, which ran from 22-24 January consisted of both practical and theory lessons. The lessons, conducted in Bradbury Barracks, included harbour drills, convoy drills, vehicle contact drills, defence of a comms site and personnel admin in the field.

The exercise phase took place at Leuth training area. The students lined up in convoy under the watchful eye of packet commander **Sig** 'Ted' **Heath**. After taking an 'alternative' route to the one on the route card, everyone got there safely. Once on the training area, the dets were tasked to find their own harbour areas. This, however, involved some map reading and ended up like a scene from Wacky Races with dets driving all over the training area looking for the right location. The night passed relatively quietly with each det moving two or three times. However, the students would like to thank **SSgt Ian Thourburn** and Sgt **Tom Anscomb** for the free PT lesson first thing in the morning.

The exercise ended with a section attack on the enemy, under the command of **Cpl** 'Murph' **Murphy.** The attack was fairly hard, with one section giving covering fire and another attacking. However, a difficult railway crossing accounted for more members than the enemy.

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj P. C. Baker**
SSM **WO2 I. Carter**

The Squadron members have all happily returned from Christmas leave and have been thrown straight into typical exercise season. Ex Arrcade Warrior 1 staged at Ayrshire Barracks (again) started well until the ground suddenly changed into a quagmire and most of us changed from being in the green cloth to brown. However, the exercise went well and for the first of 2001 it certainly set us up for Ex Arrcade Guard in March. The Squadron would like to say farewell to **Sgt** 'Drew' **Drewitt** who is posted with his family to 15 Sig Regt, also the SQMS leaves us **SSgt Aidy Chapman** posted on promotion to a far off land. A very special goodbye is said to **SSgt Al Ironside** who leaves the conferences in 232 Sqn to grace 16 Sig Regt with his presence. Top Tip for 16 Sig Regt, don't let him say anything in a conference or it will never end!

DELTA TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt** 'One Time on Running Camp' **Allison**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Tony Taylor**

Delta Tp had an excellent December with plenty of Christmas spirit, as well as welcoming some cheerful new faces. First of all **SSgt** 'Come on you blues, TNT' **Taylor** has arrived from Ireland to take the helm. Sgt 'Grimes, I love lime scale' **Overend** has also come to help him. We also welcome 'Paddy' **Morrison** who's seen the light and left the almighty Tac to join delta force. Finally, a big hello to **Kate Connelly** joining us from the factory. Goodbye to **SSgt** 'Still recovering from the Spanish fiasco' **Newton** who's left us to go and sort out the TA. His antics will never be forgotten! We also say a fond farewell to **Sig/LCpl** 'I know I've signed off, but please don't make me leave or I'll top myself' **Chico Ankers**. He's off to conquer the world, or Northallerton at least and will be greatly missed by all, especially those bar flies not unique to 7 Sig Regt. You know who you are! The Troop's Christmas do was a shopping trip to Oberhausen. (got to keep the wives happy, you know how it is!) We started off with good intentions clutching our shopping lists, but the crowds were just too much to contend with so we spent the best part of the day in the Irish bar. The die-hards amongst us did do a bit of shopping as we decided to stay there all night and so needed some new groovy clothes to hit the club scene. The lightweight fairies of the Troop and a number of guests decided they needed their beds and went home, although a few were left behind, by accident of course! Recently the Troop all piled in the mini bus and went to Lazerquest, Venlo as a farewell outing for **Chico Ankers**. The Stonegrill dinner was superb, although the concept of having to actually cook your own meat at the table proved far too confusing for most of the blokes! A good night was had by all and a fair amount of alcohol must have been consumed as a number of members of the Troop accidentally forgot to pay their bar bills – allegedly.

HOTEL TROOP
Tp Comd **SSgt** 'Al' **Ironside**
Tp SSgt **SSgt George McGuire**

Hotel Tp would like to wish everyone a happy New Year but before we look forward to the future we would like to say thanks for last year. From a very successful Ex Arcade Fusion last year came the 'A' Team, equally led by **SSgt** 'More Torrent' **Ironside** and **SSgt** 'Expensive Pizza' **McGuire**, troops included **Cpl** 'Rosy' **Rose**, **Cpl** 'Dunna' **Dunnington** and **Sig** 'Barman' **Harmon**.

On to November and the traditional German St Martian's Day, Hotel Troop took the lead for this event, and from the cast of 'One' **SSgt George McGuire** volunteered to run this event. **Cpls** 'Fire starters' **Rose & Sigston** made sure the fire burned brightly, maybe even a bit too brightly, Ask the Kids! The Troop held their Xmas Function organised by **Cpl** 'Rosy' **Rose** at Taurus (A Tropical theme activity centre) near Venlo.

We all enjoyed an evening of bowling, barbecue food and laser quest, even though we had to keep reminding **Cpl** 'Jeff' **Sigston** and **LCpl** 'Scouse' **Girvan** that it was only a game. **LCpl** 'Scouse' **Girvan** can't remember much of the Do apart from waking up in a 2ton trailer.

A big welcome to our three new arrivals **LCpl** 'Jim' **Rees**, **Sig** 'Louis' **Armstrong** and **Sig** 'Kev' **Taylor** – Welcome to your *worst* nightmare. A sad farewell to **Cpl** 'Womaniser' **Wilson** who has gone to Blandford and **LCpl** 'Lenny' **Victor** who has left us for 1 UK Civ Div, best of luck to both of them. Not to be outdone by the 'A' Team photo, which was most upsetting, **Cpl** 'Jeff' **Sigston** decided to become a real life 'HERO'. **Jeff** amongst others helped to get a RTA under control – Sources tell us that **Jeff** single handily put out an un-extinguished cigarette. The Dutch driver would like his cigarette replaced. (Only Joking **Jeff** – Well Done Boys)

Finally, congratulations to **LCpl Rees** and **Cpl** 'Matt' **Duddles** who performed their first Gig of the Year. They would like to thank the Troop and TM Troop for coming and supporting them. They will keep you posted as to their next gig, so you can put your leave in! (Only Joking), Well Done.

PAPA TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt** 'Gorg' **Endean**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** Kev **German**

Christmas has now been and gone but the bellies remain full of beer. As we enter a normal German Winter, freezing cold and still no heating in the Papa Tp garages, we would like to give a warm welcome to straight from the factory, **Sigs Carr, Donald, Fitzgerald, Thorburn** and **Laker** not forgetting **LCpl Hindson** from 16 Sig Regt. Also welcome back to **LCpl Steve Beedie** who on his first day back from leave took a dive during the warm up to a PT session and will be out of action for at least six weeks. Big congratulations to all those who were recommend for promotion and also to **LCpl Si Cartmell** and **LCpl** 'the gob' **Sykes** who both came third in the Corps Skiing Championships. As always a sad farewell to **Cpl** (now Sgt Bubble) **Baxter** and **LCpl** 'Mac' **McLaughlin**, along with **Sig** 'BA' **Williams** posted out and moving within the Squadron, **LCpl** 'Shortcut' **Stanley**. Finally myself **Sig Jim Alderman** and **Sig** 'Wasser' **Wass** would like to say goodbye to all our Readers out there until the next time.

JOINT SERVICES SUPPORT UNIT (AYIOS NIKOLAOS)

CO **Lt Col R. A. Sharp MBE**
Stn SM **WOI (RSM) D. Richardson**

COMMAND GROUP

January saw the hand-over of command of the Unit from **Lt Col Whitby**, who leaves on promotion to the Main Building at the MOD, to **Lt Col Sharp.** Congratulations to the out-going Commanding Officer and our best wishes go to him, **Sarah** and their family. It was no doubt a busy appointment that saw the amalgamation of the former 9 Sig Regt (Radio) and 33 Sig Unit into the Joint Service Signal Unit (Ayios Nikolaos). His departure through Mercury Barracks included the two transportation modes he became most accustomed to during his tour, the CO's car and his boat. The Unit welcomes **Lt Col Sharp** from LAND Command and we wish him, **Erin** and their family a happy and successful tour here at the sharp end of the Mediterranean. Also recently departed is the Adjutant, **Capt Alan Owen** who leaves on promotion to 11 Sig Regt. We will miss his sense of humor and unique dress sense. I'm sure he'll enjoy the challenges of Blandford and the Military Training Squadron but the RAF miss you already! Welcome in his place, and also from Blandford, to **Capt Andy Greenfield** who will probably hope to play some golf during his tour but arriving at the same time as a new CO has so far curtailed any hope of that.

Lt Col Whitby handing over command of the Unit to Lt Col Sharp

Lt Col Whitby being towed out of Mercury Barracks

The Chief of the Defence Staff, **Gen Sir Charles Guthrie,** made his final visit to Cyprus and this included a tour of the Unit where he was updated on the current situation and where he met Unit personnel.

SUPPORT SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Flt Lt J. D. Cumming** RAF Regt
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. Buxton**

SHQ has said farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Steve White** who remains on Island but moves across to the QM's Dept. The Squadron would like to wish a warm welcome to the new Squadron Sergeant Major, **WO2 (SSM) Rick Buxton** who has recently arrived from RMAS.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT
QM **Maj (QM) P. Whitehouse**
RQMS (Ops) **WO2 (RQMS) D. Thornton**
RQMS (Stn) **WO2 (RQMS) S. J. White**

Contrary to popular belief it has been another busy period in the QM's Dept with the majority of the work directed towards the success of the recent Board of Officers. It also seems to have been the period for promotion within the Department. Congratulations go to **Sgt Tony Waddington** on his recent promotion also to **LCpl** 'Pickles' (Bosnia) **Hayward** and **LCpl Ivor Williams** (RLC) on their selection for promotion to Corporal. Further congratulations go to **LCpl Tony Murray** and wife **Sabine** on the recent birth of their son **Lewis**.

TRAINING SUPPORT TROOP
Tp SSgt **SSgt G. Steel**

. . Training Support Troop continues to tick over. During recent times the troop has seen members participate in a number of events. **SSgt Nikki Pearce** APTC took part in the Cyprus Walkabout. This should consist of a two-day arduous navigation competition where competitors cover a distance of at least 90kms (depending on map reading skills). What she may not wish to mention is the fact that she was disqualified on the first

day in tandem with the CO's wife. **SSgt Gaz Steel** and **Sgt Dave Churchward** took part in Ex Shifting Sands in Jordan assisting the Cyprus Logistic Unit with various field-firing exercises. That left **Sgt Steve Hills** RAF holding the fort back at camp continuing with annual guard force training and preparation for the Stations' annual military training exercise. The Troop would like to say farewell to **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Reece** RAMC posted to Depot Royal Marines on promotion, to **Cpl Steve Forster** RAF posted to RAF Brize Norton and to **SSgt Pete Rouse** and wife **Louise** who move to Aldershot. Quiz nights will never be the same without **Pete's** sad knowledge of Coronation Street. A warm welcome though to **Cpls Chamberlain** and **Shaw** both posted to the gymnasium. **Cpl** 'Granddad' **Chamberlain** was only on the island for two bleeps of the MSFT before going to Blandford to complete his Class 1. Finally congratulations to **Sgt Dave Churchward** and his wife **Sandy** on the recent birth of their son **Jack**. More helloes, goodbyes and congratulations are in order. Goodbye to **Cpl** 'Baz' **Bazzard** and his wife 'Shookums', they are off to ATR Bassingbourn. Thanks for all the help down in the Training Wing. Where's my CD Rom? Goodbye also to **LCpl** 'Andy' **Lawless** (RAMC). He is off to Aldershot to instruct Phase 2 training.

EXERCISE MERCURY BREAK

December saw the Training Wing organize the Unit's military training exercise, Ex Mercury Break. Due to problems with Cypriot public holidays and not being able to exercise on those dates we had to re-think our plans and conduct the whole exercise from RAF Akrotiri. This, however, proved to be an excellent facility to run the exercise from, being central to both ranges and training areas. The exercise was geared towards IS scenarios and planning for contingency operations, culminating in a 24hr deployment in Paramali village, home of many Ex Lion Suns. The exercise proved to be challenging and there were some outstanding performances. **Cpl Forward** has to be congratulated on the way he whipped (not literally) his Troop into shape when it was his turn to be Troop Sergeant. **SAC Stuart** was another who was up to the challenge and as he took on the role of section commander it was hard to tell that he had never done that job before. It was also an opportunity for the Unit to host three potential officers and give them an eye opener and under the watchful eye of **Capt** (in *The WIRE* again) **Woodbridge** they got stuck into every task. Well done to **OCdt Marsh** who handled the 'press' (**Sgt Dave Churchward, Sgt Jack Teague** and **Craig Share**) excellently? It has to be said that the biggest embarrassment of the exercise though was suffered by the DS, who put in an attack of the village with the EU pyro mountain only to discover that the troops had bugged out 30 minutes previously - nice one.

MOTOR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Tp SSgt **SSgt M. Fitz-patrick**

A turnover of personalities in this period sees farewells to **Cpl Guy Cresswell** back to the sunnier climate of Catterick with 19 Mech Bde and to **LCpl Pete Stainforth** and **Mia** who are off to 30 Sig Regt. In their places we welcome **Cpl Trev Shippey** RAF and his family, **LCpl Dave Collin** and **LCpl Andy Kinnaird.** May you all enjoy a great tour at AY NIK.

840 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Sqn Ldr M. Edwards** RAF
WO Eng **WO Dave Watson**

840 Sqn continue to go about their business but have also become heavily involved in schemes to raise money for charities and other worthwhile causes. In recent months they have run charity cycle events not just around the Island but also up and around the Troodos mountain range. Their most adventurous, however, was the recent running of a Unit 24 hour Sportathlon with competition between the three Squadrons and a ladies' team. The competition kicked off at midday with a gentle game of cricket but got more serious as the other 11 sports unfolded. The competition was made somewhat more tasking as several of the events took place within both the Famagees Families Club and the 840 Sqn Bar. A saving grace in the early hours was the ready available Red Bull that kept spirits high and the energy levels replenished. Congratulations to 840 Sqn who walked away with the trophy but then they did organize it and do have more time to train!

840 Squadron winning sportathlon team

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LCPL CRAIG BOWLES

LCpl Craig Bowles served in Operations Squadron as a Specialist Operator with 9 Signal Regiment (Radio). Tragically **Craig** was killed in a motorcycle accident in January 1998 whilst riding from Dhekelia to Ayios Nikolaos. Ayios Nikolaos Motorcycle Club, the Bondu Rats, felt it appropriate to mark the opening of their recently refurbished Clubhouse with a service to commemorate **Craig** at the site of the accident. The memorial is in the form of a large wooden cross upon which is mounted a brass plaque with a message from the Club. The service was led by **Rev Pluck,** Ayios Nikolaos Station Chaplain, and a wreath was laid by **Lt Col D. J. Whitby** R SIGNALS, the current Commanding Officer of JSSU(AN). The service was attended not only by representatives of the Army and both civilian and military members of Ayios Nikolaos but also the RAF Akrotiri motorcycle club.

Lt Col D. J. Whitby laying a wreath at the memorial service for LCpl Craig Bowles

CYPRUS SQUASH OPEN 2000 - *by WO1 (FofS) Steve Bason*

Royal Signals players competed in the 2000 Cyprus Open Squash Championships held at the Dhekalia courts. The competition was open to all squash players on the Island with entries ranging from military personnel, United Kingdom based civilians, local Cypriot players, visitors and holiday players. Two newly built courts offered excellent if not somewhat hot and testing conditions and an entry of 32 players in the Open afforded a punishing schedule of squash. In the Plate Competition **Capt Gary Stratton,** based at HQ British Forces Episkopi, faced **Vaso** the Cypriot No 2 player who proved too young and who eventually went on to win the Plate final 3-0. In the Over 35's Competition the final saw **Vaso** again, but pitted against **WO1 (RSM) Dean Richardson** from the Joint Service Signal Unit (Ayios Nikolaos). Royal Signals gained revenge with a comfortable 3-0 victory. The Open competition was hard fought in terms of the quality but also quantity of matches that had to be played over a short period of time. In one half of the draw **WO1 (FofS) Steve Bason** progressed through to the final, defeating a UK based civilian player who was out on holiday and in the semi-final overcame the tournament's No 1 seed **Mr Rob Page** in a close fought 3-1 match. In the other half of the draw **WO1 (RSM) Dean Richardson** progressed to the final following a semi-final victory against **Mak Khan,** a renowned Pakistani player on the Island from the 'Khan' dynasty. The final was set with two old Corps adversaries to the fore. **WO1 (FofS) Steve Bason** was the first to draw blood, quite literally when there was an altercation between **Steve's** racket and **Dean's** face. **Steve**, already impeded by the knowledge that his wife was due to give birth, at any time, to his fourth child ran out of dirty tactics. He lost in three punishing games to the older

man. Many congratulations to the Royal Signals three who ventured up and down the A5/A2 and the corridor road in the mid-summer in search of glory.

WO1 (RSM) Dean Richardson receiving the Cyprus Open squash Winners trophy

234 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj A. Urwin**
SSM **WO2 (Super R) S. Smith**

The Squadron has seen a great deal of change over the past few months with the hierarchy being completely replaced with a better looking team! In August we said goodbye to the OC, **Maj Mike Griffiths**, who has moved to the MOD. We welcome **Maj Tony Urwin** who brings his wife and family from DERA, Malvern, we wish them a safe and happy tour. In October we said farewell to the outgoing 2IC, **Capt Steve Palfreyman** who has packed his golf clubs and returned to JSSU (Digby) on promotion. **WO2 (Super R) Steve Smith** has returned from Kosovo and is now firmly ensconced as SSM. **WO2 (Super R) Martin Boston** has moved onto pastures new in the QM's Dept and is busy counting blankets, we think!? **LCpl Pat Abel** volunteered to deploy to Golf Tp and her replacement **LCpl Mandy Clapson** can be found rearranging furniture when the OC and 2IC are away!

ITS

Life in ITS has been its usual busy self both in and out of work. The daily barrage of phone calls continues, 'My computer is broken...' or 'My computer doesn't work...' The majority of the calls, however, focus on the extra curricular activities currently being run out of this department! If it's not **SSgt Pete** 'Go-Kart' **Howlett**, then it's **Sgt Craig** 'Stables' **Share,** but more often than not its for **SSgt** 'Cossie' **Calabrese,** who has been busy organizing the Garrison Hockey side, the Adjutant's leaving do and the Station Bonfire Night. Recently **Sgt Share** competed in and won the Horse Riding Military Cup. This was a 3-Day event at Episkopi that included the All Island Horse Riding Championships. **SSgt** 'Cossie' **Calabrese** endured a busy week with the Royal Signals Ladies Hockey Team who spent a week playing games around the Island. The Girls certainly played hard both on and off the pitch winning all their matches and ensuring that the bars and restaurants in the Lamaca area, especially 'The Edge' will take some time to recover from the teams social antics!

FLS

FLS has endured yet another busy period. We said a fond farewell to **WO1 (FofS)** 'Hair-comb' **Lane** who leaves here on commissioning to 14 Sig Regt (EW). We welcome **WO1 (FofS) Mick Solomons** who joins us from Hereford. He has already brought a speedboat and completed a dry slope ski course so his hand-over notes must have been good. The Troop has been busy supporting the Squadron in most sporting areas as well as finding a little time for some adventurous training. Despite some manpower shortages Troop morale is still high and all are looking forward to some seasonal celebrations over the Christmas period. Earlier this year **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Tonks** arrived to assume the position of NCO I/C Line Section. The Telemechs have enjoyed some success with **Sigs Kev** 'Fat Ginola' **Clark, Ritchie** 'The new Diamond' **Saether, Adie** 'Magoo' **Stokes** and **Baz** 'Why is it always me' **Molloy** passing their Class 3-2 Upgrade with flying colours. **LCpls Neil** 'Gummy Bear' **Leatham** and **Mike** 'the Scrooge' **Ridley** have also been busy upgrading and learning the finer arts of Fibre Optic cables. The ownership of a sick chit seems to be a fashionable item at the moment with all but one member of the Line Section temporarily 'biffed'. This has had a severe knock on effect as the SSM has been unable to use anyone other than **Sig** ' Why am I always on fatigues' **Saether** to represent the Troop on every work party. The Mech's have also taken every opportunity to down their splicers and make the most of the Cyprus sun with one or two barbecues. One of this year's highlights was the Tele-Mech's Convention, held by 259 Sig Sqn at Episkopi. Despite only being a handful strong the section managed to beat 259 Sig Sqn convincingly.

F TROOP

The Troop would like to welcome **Cpl** 'Terminator' **Howarth** and his family who have recently joined us from the colder climate of Troodos. We congratulate **Cpl Claire Waldron** on passing her T1 Upgrade and **Cpl Richie** 'Skid' **Rowe** on passing his Diving Instructors Course - when are you taking us on a Troop try-dive? (Preferably down at Nissi Beach!) We bid **Cpl Andy** 'Angry' **Johnson** a fond farewell as he moves all of ten meters to H Tp.

ALL ABOARD *HMS CORNWALL* - Cpl 'Boris' Wade sets sail with the Navy

Working with the Royal Navy does have its pluses as I found out when **WO (CT) Sheppard** RN was able to get me an attachment to *HMS Cornwall* for two months. I joined the ship on the final stage of Naval Task Group 2000 'East Pacific & Caribbean Phase'. I flew out to San Diego and was met by one of the ship's company who introduced me to the rest of the company in various bars down town! San Diego was a maze of neo-clad buildings knitted together by a mass of overhead wires and streets packed with people. Finding the rest of the crew didn't take too long! I spent the rest of the week in San Diego learning the ship's daily routine, which included the actions on fire and flooding - daunting prospect! Whilst alongside I had a stroke of luck one night and bumped into a Top Gun aviator **Capt** 'Nobby' **Clark** USN, callsign 'Ripper'. He invited me on a tour of his ship the *USS Carl Vinson*. The arsenal of fighter aircraft and weapons on board was amazing. The only thing they didn't have on board was a MacDonalds!

Soon enough we had set sail onboard *HMS Cornwall*. We headed along the coast of Mexico towards Panama. The views were fantastic and quite often whales and dolphins would swim alongside the ship. My first stop was Caracas in Venezuela and after coming alongside I was eager to get my feet on dry land after being at sea for three weeks. However, I had to wait a few more hours as, on arrival, we were informed by a British Liaison team that there had been 28 murders and 2 kidnappings over the previous two days! Ayia Nappa sounds a safer night out! We headed away from Venezuela after a couple of days leave and I was eagerly awaiting my flight back to Cyprus from Antigua. However, I then received news that I was going to have to stay on board until Plymouth! It did mean that I was able to enter the Miss Cornwall competition, which I won, even if I did have to play the part of Mistress Gimp! (photo withheld). In summary I had an excellent trip working alongside the Royal Navy on *HMS Cornwall*. All I can say is if you ever get the chance to work with the Royal Navy, snap it up, you'll love it.

Cpl Wade goes matelot

H TROOP

With the onslaught of the harsh(ish) Cyprus winter the more adventurous members of the Troop were once more heading for the Troodos Mountains to put their bodies on the line. With the aid of **Cpl Carl Gaber** (FLS), the Troop was able to enter two three-man teams in the 12SU Walkdown Competition. In order to get the best out of our Technician he ran with the boss, **WO2 Nick Smith** and **Sgt Daz Middleton,** while **Sgt Guy Townsend** and **LCpl** 'Days to do' **Booth** volunteered to show **Cpl Rob Forwood** the way to do it! Having completed the Cyprus Walkabout Competition **SSgt Nige** 'Blisters' **Francis** was champing at the bit to attend but the kids Christmas party will always take precedence (apparently!). Happily we can report that all team members reached the bottom in one piece, although **LCpl Booth** will undoubtedly be purchasing a different pair of shorts if he is ever to attempt such a feat again! With hardly time to draw breath **Sgt Guy Townsend** and **Cpl Rob Forwood** were away on the annual Mil Training Exercise (Ex Mercury Break). It proved to be an interesting experience all round, not least because the RAF have widely differing views on the standard of transit accommodation for exercising troops (long may it continue we say!). Having spent the week dealing with a small band of anti-British desperados (and winning naturally) it was back for the Inter-Squadron Cross-Country and the Troop Christmas do.

12 (SU) WALKDOWN - 2 DECEMBER 2000 - *by Cpl Leah Steward*

On Friday 1 December, several members of the JSSU (AN) traveled down to Episkopi Garrison in preparation for the 12 SU Walkdown Competition. Alas this meant that we would have to forego an afternoon in the Squadron bar! That evening all the teams met for some last minute carbo loading before getting an early night in preparation for an early morning reveille - 0500hrs. In total there were nearly eighty teams competing. The teams all gathered at registration in order that the officials could check each team for the mandatory equipment and full

water bottles. Buses were used to transport all 240 runners to the start point in Platres village. The idea of the competition is to run from Platres in the Troodos foothills to Episkopi Garrison, a distance of eighteen miles cross country. On arrival at Platres we stood around waiting for our turn to start - it was freezing! My team, The Bondu Babes, consisted of **Capt Caroline Woodbridge, Mrs Lesley Urwin** (The bosses wife), and myself. We had some T-shirts made sporting our team name on the front and our individual names on the rear. We set off from Platres at an even pace only to find 5km down the road that we were all rather warm. After removing our woolly hats and thermals we continued on to Checkpoint One. All told there were three checkpoints. They were spaced roughly six miles apart over some steep terrain. The first 15km passed quite quickly before cramp and fatigue began to set in. As the day wore on we slowed our pace but our spirits remained high. **Capt Caroline Woodbridge** annoyed us all by insisting on taking photographs, especially during the hilly bits! Our navigation was 'spot on' throughout the day although the safety vehicle at Checkpoint Three misinformed us when they told us the finish was only 1.5km away -it was in fact 4km away! We arrived at the finish elated to have completed the course in just less than five hours. Despite **Mrs Urwin's** cries of 'I'm never doing anything like that ever again', we have plans for next year! Our hard work paid off and brought a smile to our faces when we realised we had finished as the second ladies team and waited for the presentation to receive our trophies. A really enjoyable hard day in the hills and definitely recommended to any budding long course orienteers.

14th SIGNAL REGIMENT (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON (EW)

The Christmas period proved an eventful time for the Squadron. In ebullient mood that the CO's Squadron Inspection had gone so well, **Sgt Mick** 'Toothless but Ruthless' **Thorpe** had pinched **Sgt Jez** 'You won't get any sympathy from me' **Ward's** chips and in the course of escape and evasion, managed to fall off a wall, breaking collar bone, arm, jaw and tooth. Christmas dinner had to be imbibed through a straw - hope they were good chips!

In preparation for deployment, members of Kosovo Tp have been on a two-week Albanian Course and have completed OPTAG training in Catterick, as well as ODETTE - and comms training. As Rear Details Tp fondly observe, 'It is with a tearful eye that we bid farewell to our men and women going off to war. Not because of any care for their safety but because of all the work they have left behind.' **Sig** 'Richy (Unprintable Nickname' **Bastable** has thoughtfully organized some Troop Go Kartiog in Haverfordwest to help his mates get over the sorrow of being left behind for four months. Don't worry lads, I hear that **SSM Tony** 'Why didn't I get a **mention in th**e last Issue?' **Frost** plans to whip you into a frenzy of vehicle maintenance; mil skills and adventure training. On the agenda, (because I know that the suspense is killing you) is climbing and kayaking in the Peak District in June; Bavarian beer-swilling in September; and for the non-asthmatic, 2IC **Capt Mark** 'How big do you like your peaks lads?' **Davies** is planning a South American climbing extravaganza later in the year. As the OC, **Maj Dave** 'Deals on Wheels' **Drinkall** watches his boys head valiantly off to Kosovo under the proud command of **Lt Phil** 'Home Brew' **Waddell**, he tells me he is eagerly contemplating some hill- walking in the Black Mountains with **WO2 Tony** 'No really Boss, I'm happy with my car' **Watters**, as well as the chance to focus on his flourishing second hand car business. You did want a plug for that didn't you Sir?

Closer to home and just a few weeks away is the Regimental Boxing Competition. **Cpl Seth** 'I don't like running' **Campbell** (SHQ Tp) and **LCpl Biggs** 'Sorry, I overslept' **Hancock** are planning to lose 10 stone between them. That's gonna mean no Brawdy Lanes' pizzas lads. Special mention for **Sig Julie** 'Watch out for me left hook Tommy' **Parry** as she represents 237 Sqn in the female match.

New arrivals to welcome to our happy clan are **2Lt Liz** 'How much AT can a Troopie fit in at Brawdy?' **Robson**; **2Lt Eddie** 'Hammer' **Maskell-Pedersen** ; in the MT, Sgt 'Yes I really did volunteer to come here' **Newton** and **Sig Russ** 'Lambrini' **Mowatt** all keen and fresh from the factory. Congratulations to **Sig Mark** 'Boy' **Thompson** on his wedding and thanks to 226 Sig Sqn for stagging on so that 237 Sqn could all celebrate with him.

It has been an extremely rewarding and diverse year for 237 Sqn; we have deployed to Kenya, Canada - where we got in some excellent AT in the Rockies - and the odd lucky one got to Australia on Ex Long Look. We have had an equally high profile in the UK, attending demos all over the country, exercising on Salisbury Plain and participating in a joint comms exercise with the Royal Navy. However, for Adventure Training opportunities, it's all an our doorstep. With an on-site AT Centre, and the likes of Newgale Beach a mile down the road, Brawdy certainly takes some beating.

16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

EXERCISE INSTANT WHIP 19 – 26 JANUARY 2001

HQ Sqn deployed to the first of many locations led by **Maj Bob Taylor**. There were no hassles, despite the driving wind and snow of Germany. They were content to have their own personal German guard force, which the CO found were very thorough, not even allowing him on site without an escort from the Echelon. The new members of the Sqn were soon to discover the joys of movement and learn their new skills and drills. The SQMS quickly became a casualty of war so another fortunate soul replaced him who immediately drew up a new set of rules such as tables at meal times are for food not weapons. **WO2 (SSM) Baird** seemed to lose many an item, which **Sgt Andy Hayler** was always on hand to retrieve (or did he do it). After visits to Leuth, Arsbeck and Leuth again Endex was called and all returned joyful to camp safe in the knowledge that all had benefited from the experience.

TRAINING WING PRE RSSC/RSJCC 2001 - *by Sgt Andy Hayler*

After many weeks planning the course was about to start but the inevitable happened. After Christmas the sick chits surprisingly appeared and very soon out of the original !4 volunteers only four remained. The Training Warrant Officer, **WO2 Chris Ward** promptly asked for permission to cancel the course, and the CO tasked us to organise the course for the following week and with much hard graft all was complete. Then came the students, ready (were they?) and willing to learn. The commands and orders given and the fun was on its way. There were many incidents, one to mention was **Sgt** 'Where's my S10?' **Hoskins**, who in a smart and soldier like fashion informed the DS he had mislaid his respirator somewhere in the mud. The mud took a few more victims such as **Cpl** 'Help me' **Appleby**, last seen calling for assistance sinking into the never ending mud. The course was a success and achieved its aim and the proof will be in the improvement in quality of the soldiers attending the RSSC and RSJCC.

230 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Ian Lawerence**
Sqn SSM **WO2 (SSM) Rob Hood**

TRUNK NODE 015

Tp Comd **Lt Knightly Brown**
Tp SSgt **SSgt McNeill**

Farewells go out to **LCpl McDiarmid** and **Sig Langley** to 15 Sig Regt and **Sig Joyce** to Civvie Street. Welcome to **Sigs Patman, Robinson, Middlemiss** and **Brookes** fresh from Blandford!

EXERCISE INSTANT WHIP 2001 - *by Lord Bedford*

Congratulations to TN015 for an admirable performance on the first exercise of 2001. A whole host of records were broken over the week, but first a few thank-yous to the attachments. **LCpl Si Macey**, the Chef, well done, **Sig** 'I don't care' **Daniel**, **Sig Kelly** 'Buttercup' **Butterfield** and the unusual number of Techs. **Cpl Pete Burgess**, **Cpl Lisa Jacklin**. **Cpl George** 'I'll stab myself to get out of exercise' **Harrison**, **LCpl Dave** 'Certa Cito' **Driver**, **LCpl Danny** 'Sprog' **Miller**, **LCpl Jim** 'Sprog' **Duffield**, **LCpl Sunny** 'I need a drink' **Faid** and **LCpl Richie** 'Spoggiest' **Knight**. The Node could not work without you.... The Node was run with ease, ably assisted by **Cpl John Hall** and **Cpl Matt Finney**, newly promoted to Node Command and supervised by **Sgt Scott** 'I want the bacon fat and the congealed lard' **Day**. The Switch crew ran into problems on Arsbeck Training Area with SHF shots. **LCpl Nige McDiarmid**, **LCpl Stu Williamson**, **Sig Ricky Baron**, **Sig** 'Paddy' **Irwin** and **Sig Scott Cameron** were rescued by the heavy mob, **Sgt** 'Party' **Poppa** and the Rotweiller, **Cpl** 'Dinosaur' **McMinn**. Comedy value on exercise goes to **Sig Priest** who spent four hours getting a light bulb up in the Admin tent, they don't make EDs like they used to! He was then tasked to put toilet rolls in all the portaloos this he did without question, putting them on those handy little shelves otherwise known as urinals, another record was broken by the Chef, **LCpl Macey**, who used four pans to make custard. Finally the Admin was run by **SSgt John** 'The DAD' **McNeill** ably assisted by his Lordship, **Lord Billy Bedford** who lowered himself to wait on everybody hand and foot, the Node should be eternally grateful. A mention must go to the QRF team of **Sig** 'Golden Blanket' **Denham** and **Sig** 'I'm putting my jacket on' **Langley** who impressively always allowed the phone to ring four times before waking. P.S. DAD = Defence, Admin, Discipline...!

TRUNK NODE 016

Tp Comd **2Lt Sarah Pittaway**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Dean Wilkinson.**

TN016 has hit the ground running since returning from Christmas leave. **Sgt Wilkinson** has taken over from **SSgt Coleman** who has been posted 400m to the palatial HQ Sqn on promotion. **Sgt Wilkinson** has filled not only the Staff Sergeant's shoes but also the desk! All members of TN016 (with the exception of **Sig Nowell**) extend a warm welcome to **Sgt Clark** who joins us from ATR Bassingbourne. **LCpl Vingoe** settled into the Regiment by rescuing his neighbours from their burning building; an act dramatic enough to elicit an interview from BFBS that's a slab thanks! Welcome too to **Sig** 'Felix' **Feline** who joins us straight from training at Blandford. Fond farewells go to **Capt** 'Ollie' **Dinnis** who has gone to 7 Armd Bde; RQMS Dave Coleman who has been posted within 16 Sig Regt, **LCpl Tim McGukin** who joins 101 Log Bde in Aldershot and **Sig Al Cowen** who has gone to 21 Sig Regt. Christmas leave was brought to an abrupt end by the deployment on Ex Instant Whip. Our strength was bolstered by the addition of **SSgt** 'I play American Football' **Lewis** who joined us from Support Tp and **Pte** 'Can't cook, won't cook' 'Daz' **Brook** the chef. Ex Instant Whip provided us with a full spectrum of climatic conditions from snow to sunshine; it was a shame the Yeoman, **SSgt (YofS) Faramus**, couldn't provide us with a full spectrum of frequencies!

EXERCISE ARRCADE FUSION - 255 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj A. Burgin**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Aimer**

The recent ARRC exercise to Wildflecken, South Germany, brought a few surprises for the fitter members of 230 Sig Sqn. The local German community invited the squadron to enter their annual 'Run up the Hill' competition. This described perfectly the 5km uphill slog over cobbled German streets. The Squadron had many willing volunteers and successes! Unaware of their success, the team left the event early only to be summoned back to collect their prizes. **LCpl Merrick** won his category and **Cpl McMinn** won the over 50's.

Sig McGukin - Wildflecken October 2000

LCpl Walsh, Sgt Clarke - Wildflecken October 2000

230 Signal Squadron - Wildflecken October 2000
(L-R): LCpl McDiarmuid, Sig McGukin, Cpl Shepherd,
Cpl Countes, Sig Daniel, Maj Lawrence, SSgt Perham
(L-R): LCpl Walsh, LCpl Fail, Cpl McMinn, LCpl Merrick,
Sgt Clarke

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Jo Stokoe**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Cooper**

EXERCISE INSTANT WHIP 1

The Squadron deployed on the Regimental FTX with the aim of practising the deployment and movement of its Ptarmigan assets. Support Tp personnel found themselves working throughout the Squadron on either a Trunk Node, SAN Group or with CP16. The exercise got off to a good start when the 230 Sqn Radio Relay, attached to TN095, ran out of diesel on the initial deployment – nothing like prior preparation and planning! The 'no comms' record was set by SAN 882 who (through no fault of their own!) were out of the system for 19 hours! Fortunately, for the SAN GPs, end ex came 48 hours early and they returned to camp leaving TN095 exercising along with the TNs from 230 Sqn. **LCpl Bishop** worked tirelessly on the generators as no end of problems arose throughout the exercise. **Sgt Cooper** spent most of the time wondering what on earth he was doing there! Whilst 230 Sqn, who ran the exercise, enjoyed the culinary delights of fresh rations and chefs, 255 Sqn soldiered on with the delights of 'Pack and Go' dehydrated rations. This meant that **2Lt Emily Greenwood** could constantly be heard complaining about how hungry she was! Despite these minor problems most people returned from the exercise having learnt something.

MAN TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Jeffery**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Fensom**

MAN Tp would like to welcome **Sig Jamie Buyers** from 39 Inf Bde & Sig Sqn and **Sig Taylor** and his family from 14 Sig Regt (EW) into the Troop. Farewells go out to **Sgt Dean Royle** on his new post at 7 Sig Regt; **LCpl Nat** 'Klump' **Kemp** to 39 Inf Bde & Sig Sqn; **LCpl Jayne** 'Cover girl' **Robinson** to RSS and **LCpl Kerry Sims** to 21 Sig Regt (AS); we all wish them the best in their new jobs. Post Christmas blues have now washed over as the busy exercise season starts again both for the Regiment and ARRC. Congratulations go out to **Cpl Mark Appleby**, **LCpl** 'Iron lung' **Boothby and LCpl Sims** on their respective promotions. **Sig Kelly Johnson** can get a big crate of beer due to her recent prize for contributing the most to Regimental life, she was presented 'The Lord Trophy' by the CO in front of the whole Regiment. This is presented to the person who the CO feels has contributed most to Regimental life and therefore she should be very proud! We now hope that she will soon return from playing sport so we can all see who she is.

SAN TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt J. Lucan (Lyons)**
Tp SSgt **Sgt I Green**

Following Ex Arrcade Fusion in Italy, SAN Tp have busied themselves with the rigours of CO's week and RSIT – intermingled with the usual smatterings of Christmas parties and leave. The Troop Commander has found himself working hard on his tan and technique on the cosmopolitan slopes of various European resorts. His hard work (on and off the slopes!) has earned him recent promotion and a place in the Army Championships. In his absence, though, the Troop has been run with the iron fist of **Sgt Iain Green**, who reckons he will be due some leave on the OC's return....so he thinks! The first exercise of the year saw the Troop split amongst the various guises of TN095, Ech and the SANs. The week saw a variety of luxurious locations, some haute cuisine and a hefty amount of humour. It was an interesting start to the exercise year for all concerned! The Troop undergoes rigorous PT sessions – according to **LCpl Buckingham** who required extensive medical tests following a collapse after **LCpl Lister's** 'Feel the Burn' circuits.

ALPINE SKIING 15 NOVEMBER 2000 - 3 FEBRUARY 2001

by Capt John Lyons

Before we even got anywhere near snow this season, the Alpine team already had a clearly defined set of objectives that needed to be achieved. Firstly to retain the Royal Signals Championship before Christmas and then to go on and qualify for the Army Championships in January for the second year in a row. To this end the 'help' of **WO2 (QMSI) Bob Price**

was enlisted to whip us into shape, although at the time it felt a lot more like a thrash. There were definitely a few members of the team who felt that after a session in the gym with the QMSI their arms had grown at least six inches - in length! Nevertheless the extra training stood the whole team in good stead for the up coming competition. It would be unfair at this stage not to extend a sincere thank you to **Maj Tony Burgin** and **Maj Bob Taylor** for releasing their men for the three sessions a day.

However, on a serious note, everyone was shocked to hear of the tragic accident that took place on the railway up to the Kaprun Glacier, in Austria, just ten days before we left. Coincidentally it was the same train that we used for the duration of the four-week training camp and championships. This had the knock on effect that we were unable to train on the glacier for the first three weeks of the camp. During the first week we had to travel to the other end of the valley, to the resort of Hintertux - a mere six-hour round trip each day. However, as this was the only resort in the area with any snow at the time it was very crowded and the weather was awful, as such the training value of the week was severely reduced. The following week we moved to the small resort of St Jacob where eventually the gods smiled on us and both the weather and piste were excellent for the next two weeks and all participants took full advantage of this. That said there was time to get out and see places at the weekend, teams went all over the countryside; Vienna, Salzburg and Garmish to name but a few. But just to put people back in the right frame of mind there was a bit of PT. On arrival in Zell Am See, **QMSI Price** decided to go and explore the town, this included a little drive around the lake. Yeah right, we knew a recce when we saw it. Believe me, a 14km run around a lake on a freezing day is enough to clear anyone's head.

The week of the competition was hard fought, particularly between ourselves and 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, although relations were always good natured, they were probably not helped by **Cpl Bruce** 'Bi-lingual' **Findlay** kindly explained to a member of 7 Armd Bde how to ask for sausage and chips. The same individual was later heard to ask confidently for 'Bahnhof mit pommes bitte'. The big advantage 16 Sig Regt had was strength in depth within the squad, thanks to a lot of hard work and training from **Cpl Richie** 'Don't know what your talking about' **Turnbull**, **Cpl Bruce** 'Oh to be a Hibie' **Findlay** and **WO2 (QMSI) Bob** 'Whose your daddy!' **Price**. In the end it was this team strength that would carry us through as we won the Team Slalom by more than enough to overturn our earlier defeat and claim the Team Championship. By the end of the presentation evening the team had been up to collect a mass of trophies, medals and other prizes from the sponsors Nortel, treading on the snowboarders sat on the floor all the way. This year we left as the Corps Team Champions, Team Slalom Champions, Runners-Up Team Giant Slalom and **Capt John** 'What do you mean I've got to pack my own boots?' **Lyons** left as both the individual Slalom and Giant Slalom Champion. All that was left to do was to return quietly to JHQ with all our things for a good Christmas. Oohhh no that would be too easy, someone had put a full page spread in the Sixth Sense under the headline 'Sweet Sixteen'. Just what we needed in the silly season, crated from all corners of Germany, cheers for that - Bah Humbug!

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON

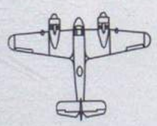
SINGAPORE TROOP – A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK

Singapore Tp has gone through many changes in manning over the past nine months, which has brought a new mix of personalities to the Troop. At the top, the Boss (**Capt Graham Blondel**) has left us to languish in the sunny heights of Gibraltar and the man who has to fill his big shoes is **Capt** 'Scotty' **Steven**. Both Troop Foremen, **SSgt Bob Vowles** (now with 8 Sig Bde) and **WO2 Paul Lewis MBE** (now Foreman of Cyprus) have been replaced by **SSgt Rob Campbell** and **WO2 Ian** 'Toothless' **Outterson**. **Sgt Neil Walsh** and **Sgt H. Glean** have both moved squadrons within the Regiment, whilst in the lower ranks **Cpl Kev Brooker** left for 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Jamie Topping** went to serve with the TA in Newcastle for three years, **LCpl Christian Wood** moved to 280 Sqn and **Sig** 'Windy' **Miller** went to 30 Sig Regt. **Sig** 'Grif' **Griffiths** joined 259 Sig Sqn in Cyprus, **Cpl Charlie Sunderland** was re-united with **Cpl Brooker** in 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Tanya Lawrence** (newly married) joined her husband in 15 Sig Regt, **Cpl Paul Meardon** moved across to TM Tp whilst **Cpl Dave Hudson** left his quiz partners behind and went to RSS Blandford. Lastly, but by no means least, a gifted soldier **Sig Ayscough** sadly left us to try and gain his five stars at McDonalds. The competent people who have arrived to replace the lost experience are **Sgt Tony Ramsay**, **Cpl** 'JP' **Philips**, **LCpl Jim Elkin**, **LCpl** 'Flash' **Faithfull**, **LCpl Dave Needham**, **LCpl Gaz Smith**, **Sig Bobby Glennie** and civvy storeman **Dan Owen**. With all this change in manpower and levels of experience the Troop has had to adjust and adapt to new working practices and a varied sense of humour which appears to have been a great success.

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON (BORNEO TROOP)

Borneo (CIS) Tp were once again engaged in a hectic ex period that culminated in Ex Arrcade Fusion 2000. The build up phase was as frenetic as ever with the new OC, **Capt** 'Herbie' **Herbert** joining the Troop and immediately searching through his MFO for his coveralls. Also new to the Troop was **SSgt Mick Johnson** who after achieving such magnificent grades during his IS conversion was rewarded with the task of moving 500 ATacCS boxes around the exercise area. The exercise itself provided great opportunities and **YofS** 'Stew' **Hartshorne** needed no encouragement to jump on the roof with a fibre optic cable just as the BFBS camera team started taping. The NETMAN Team (**SSgt Martin Abraham** and **Sgt Dave Cox**) made a concerted effort to change their name to the Sleepman Team and they displayed their bedsores proudly. The ISM Helpdesk team also took the opportunity to finish the ex early along with the Staff but at least they were good enough to wave out the coach as they left. **SSgt Martin Bain** made an angry announcement that he was retiring for good, but as usual everyone ignored this. Life was not made any easier when **YofS** 'Stew' **Hartshorne**, whilst demonstrating the correct use of the rifle sling, inadvertently knocked the bung of a water pipe in the accommodation area, what followed made the water scenes in Deep Impact look tame. The YofS would like to take this opportunity to apologise to the hundreds of soldiers who had to be rescued from the Block. Finally, well done **Cpl Jim Butt** on the birth of a baby boy (see you on deployments now!) and **LCpl Kev Choules** who, upon being told he was getting promoted replied, ' Yeah I knew I would anyway.'

21 SIGNAL REGIMENT (AIR SUPPORT)



REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

CO	**Lt Col Peter Gillespie**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Al Jenkins**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Tom Dean**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Nick Organ**

QUARTERMASTER'S (TECHNICAL) DEPARTMENT

This has been a very busy time for the QM's Dept, as well as the preparation for the forthcoming LSI and PRE the following new arrivals are welcomed into the Department: **SSgt** 'Scouse what accounts?' **Deegan, Mr John Hutchinson** (ex RLC) and **Sig Sara Parker.** We also welcome **Cpl John Walsh** and **Sig Helen Best** back to the Department after the close down of Split Tp. Post Christmas leave saw the **RQMS Keith Merrie** take up the **RSM** and **FofS** invitation to go Fan dancing, I think someone should have told him the difference between the aforementioned and Line Dancing: Brecon and Pen Y Fan are not really the place for a bird watcher and Blister hopping person to be. **Sigs Judge** and **Fayers** are off to Norway on a four-week skiing break. There are some that call it Ex Hard Fall, but I am sure that is just an excuse to qualify for rations and free flights. There must be some military value in the Exercise, however, as the QM, **Maj Ken Clark** has booked his flight for a week's visit. The writer of these notes, who wishes to remain unnamed, handed his desk over to **SSgt** 'Scouse' **Deegan**. After familiarising himself with the camp layout and finding out where each SQMS works came the time to check over the Accounts. The words rats, desertion and sinking ships were all that could be heard as he went off to RHQ to put in a preference posting proforma.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Troop OC	**WO1 FofS** 'Ady' **Knight**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt** 'Spence' **Ord**

2001, a New Year, with some members of the Troop looking more like turkeys after the Christmas and New Year festivities. The Troop had a hectic December, what with organizing the HQ Sqn Christmas function, ably led by **SSgt** 'Darth Vader' **Ord**. Also, some members helped to organize the Corporals' Mess function and our own 'booze cruise', well, actually, a dinner on a narrow boat in between Bath and Bradford on Avon! Everyone enjoyed the afternoon which led on well into the evening, some more than others, notably **Cpl Craig** 'Lord Puff-Puff' **Marshall** and **LCpl Andy Barnard** with their alternative drinking games. We welcome the following new arrivals to the Troop: **LCpl** 'Chalky' **Whyte**, **LCpl** 'Taff' **Jones**, **LCpl Emma Jones** and **LCpl Col Cross**, all of whom come to us as baby techs, fresh from the factory. We also welcome back to the Troop **LCpl Si Lee** from 244 Sig Sqn. A sad farewell goes to **Sgt** 'Billy' **Belshaw**, who's leaving the Troop for 'Civ Div'. We wish 'Billy' and his wife all the best in the future. We are also saying goodbye to **Cpl Rob** 'Biker-Boy' **Murray** who leaves to commence his Class One in Blandford, when he gets better! A special mention must go to **LCpl Paul** 'Somebody get this horse off my foot' **Angelidi**, who is currently recovering from a nasty equestrian accident.

REGIMENTAL MT AND GENE BAY

MTO	**Capt Pete Griffiths**
MTWO	**WO2 Dave White**

After a long and busy year for the troop everyone was happy to see December come along. The morale of everyone was a little higher at the thought of going on Christmas leave. The generator bay would like to say hello to the new face of **Sig** 'DS' **Porter** who arrived last month for all the Christmas parties. First there was the Squadron Function which not many could remember anyway, then the troop had a night out in exciting Chippenham where **Cpl Stevie Jay** made life hell for a comedian on stage in a club. The next function (day/night) was the LAD function which saw some of the Gene bay lads attending. Then came the rugby match between the Officers and SNCOs v ORs which the ORs won with **Cpl Stevie Jay** 'getting stuck in'. On the last day everyone had great fun in the CO's challenge with big hangovers. 'Drill' **Sgt Andy Hayes**, **Sgt** 'Mac' **MacDonald** and **Cpl Stevie Jay** set up the driving stand from the MT. Meanwhile the rest of the lads had some work to do. MTWO **WO2** 'Chalkie' **White** completed the forced march, **LCpl** 'Russ' **Russell** and **Sig** 'Shaz' **Loftus** had to do a BPFA then form part of the team to do the assault course three times. **Sigs Greg Ward** and 'Big & Daft' **Chilvers** had a headache after completing some command tasks. Surprisingly enough we saw **Cpl Carlton Keyes** for a couple of days before he was away on leave again (most leave in NATO).

220 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Jim Forrest**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Giles**

The Squadron, having survived a hectic 2000, was released from the mad house for the Christmas/New Year standdown following a fun filled CO's Challenge. The Squadron has had an extremely busy year which had most tempers reach boiling point at some point. However, we enter 2001 with considerable daylight at the end of the tunnel. We have the Corps MAPPS trial to look forward to and yet another hectic year of external exercises. We now have a working hanger, some working structures and hopefully the arrival of some equipment which will lift some heads.

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt MacDonald**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Ezard**

Charlie Tp started the year as they meant to carry on with various exercises and 'normal' work to complete until it finally arrived, the month that everyone looks forward to…December! With all the seasonal preparations taking place around us we were looking forward to bringing toys and wearing 'civvies' to work but alas we were to be disappointed as the new Squadron vehicles, changes in crew commanders and CES's were deemed more important. Although disappointed we carried on with the work given to us until finally the 'last week of term' arrived. After the last few months of hectic work a spell of time off was just what we all needed with only the junior ranks Christmas meal and the CO's Day to go spirits were high. The day of the Christmas meal arrived and passed without the slightest sign of any food throwing and made a pleasant change to be waited on hand and foot by the seniors. The CO's Day came and was jam packed with all manner of military and physical activities all of which the guys agreed was good fun. All that was left now was to pack our kit, say our farewells and 'do one'. Once back we had the Squadron Christmas party to look forward to and near the end of January we were 'treated' to a fancy dress party like no other with a few members of the Troop coming dressed as women. Special mention goes to **Sig** 'Ugly bird' **Pankhurst** with his rather convincing Lady Boy costume a mention also to **Cpl** 'Austin' **Brown** and last but not least **Cpl Paul Howe** and **LCpl Sheena Underwood** who helped with the organisation of the party. Although we have had quite a busy period the Troop has not lost or gained many members apart from the sad loss of **Sgt** 'Si' **Oldman**, who has moved to Squadron Ops. With Christmas and New Year finished we have another busy year to occupy us with various Squadron and Regimental commitments but in the usual Charlie Tp style we shall take it in our stride.

DELTA TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Wadia**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Gilbert**

Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Steff' **Gibbs** on his award for 'Best Tradesman' in the Regiment. Well done! Also Congratulations go to **Cpl Dave Heath** for winning the Junior Bobsleigh Championships! Nice to see all that time off was worth it! Good-bye's to **LCpl Wayne Turner** who was posted to 280 Sig Sqn, you'll be missed! **LCpl** 'DJ' **Seymour** who has gone to Blandford to do his Class 1, good luck, and finally goodbye to **Sig Susie James** who is leaving the army in two weeks time! Welcome to **Sgt Bev McAuley**, **LCpl Steve Phillips**, **LCpl Nick Smith**, **Sig Al Cowen**, **Sig Kelly Freebury**, **Sig Danny Muhl**, **Sig Lee Pearce** and **Sig Paul Heywood**, plus the others that will have arrived by the time this goes to press!

DELTA TROOP

MAPPS PRELIMINARY ACCEPTANCE TRIALS

At the start of December members of 'D' Tp, 220 Sig Sqn began training for the forthcoming trials of MAPPS (Mobile Access to the Ptarmigan Packet System). 21 Sig Regt (AS) has been given the 'honour' of trialing the new kit for a year, to basically ensure that it is up to scratch before going out to the more lowly units in the Corps! The Troop had to spend some time down at Christchurch, at BAe Systems, testing the kit prior to its arrival with the Regiment. Due to its nature this was very tedious work but the team worked well, kept amused by the Det Comds who constantly insult each other - the nickname 'Pigdog!' is one I recall. **Sig** 'Marie' **Warner** got a little concerned when someone from the Defence Procurement Agency tried to chat her up, but she soon gave him the cold shoulder! I must point out that the numbers out at the nightclub on the final night in Bournemouth were exceptionally disappointing, and thus my main aims with the troops training have now changed. At last on Thursday 18 January, not surprisingly a little later than expected, the vehicles proudly rolled through the main gate at Azimghur Barracks to begin the main preliminary trials. Heading up the 3 MAPPS nodes are **Cpls Lee Francis** and **Jim Thisby**, and **LCpl Steff Gibbs** with **Cpl Si Hopkins** filling in when required. Despite a 'few' initial problems the comms side of life seems to be going well. Unfortunately the support vehicle is a bit of a bizarre design, and hopefully the Health & Safety gurus will sort it out! One of the first main tests for the kit was at RAF Odiham on Tuesday 22 January, where it was lifted by Chinook. This went well, at least for the first node, because after that lift it started to rain so the RAF called off the other lifts. So, it was back to the tarmac for a road move to Barton Stacey Trg Area (BSTA). Fortunately, **Lt Murray MacDonald**, OC C Tp, had managed to ensure that the ground was already churned up by his LRs, obviously just to give the MAPPS Pinzgauers a bit of cross-country practice. There, (having got his LRs freed from being bogged in!) the Troop set about establishing comms. This took ages due to slight comms installation problems, but the links came in easily enough eventually. Well done to those from the Troop involved for a good first exercise and hopefully the rest of the trials might go smoothly?!

BOBSLEIGHING - *by Cpl Heath*

It all started in the summer of 2000 when I started to train down at Bath University with the GB bobsleigh team. I was released from work each morning to train, which involved doing exercises ranging from heavy squat sessions to sprint and pushing sessions. Yes, that is pushing a bobsleigh, as we have one on wheels down at Bath! After the selection race in October last year I was invited to represent Great Britain in an FIBT International Bobschool. It was a brilliant experience especially when you think how worldwide the sport is. There were 19 different nations taking part from all around the globe including Samoa and New Zealand. From there it was onto the Army Junior Championships to be held in Winterberg Germany, a track that I hadn't visited before. I got on alright with the track in general and all week kept on managing to reduce my times down, ready for race day. With my 'brakeman', **LCpl Adam Grant** from the Royal Engineers, we sprinted off the top and within one minute we had won the Championships! After Christmas it was back to Winterberg again for the British Championships. This time, however, my 'brakeman' was a civilian sprinter from the European Cup Team, hence a faster start giving a fighting chance against my junior rival **Tpr Dai Palmer.** In the race they got us on the first lauf but I pulled it back for the second, not too bad considering my team had only pushed together twice before compared to the two years **Tpr Palmer's** team have been together. I have now been selected to race at the Junior World Championships representing Great Britain so my hard work has started to pay off!

Cpl Heath and brakeman set off on another run

Cpl Heath is at present representing the Army, Joint Services and GB in Bobsleigh Competitions. He is hoping to start up a Corps Team, so any hopefuls should contact him at 21 Sig Regt (Air Support).

HEADQUARTERS TROOP (V)
BRITISH OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS
OVER 40's FINAL

Sgt Tom Pollard again reached the final of the British Open over 40s Squash Championships held at the National Indoor Centre at Birmingham. **Tom**, the holder of the title which he won last year, was this year up against a formidable opponent, the ex-World Open Squash Champion, **Ross Norman**, from New Zealand. **Ross** entered this event for the first time on reaching the age bracket. **Tom** was defeated in straight sets 6-1, 6-0, 6-1, however the match lasted for forty minutes and **Tom** made **Ross** work for every point. There were many 20-30 shot rallies and when **Tom** seemingly had **Ross** in trouble during the rally, the sheer skill of recovery from the ex-world champion could only be admired. There was some excellent squash played to interest a knowledgeable audience and it was agreed by several who were watching that if **Tom Pollard** could play a player of **Ross Norman's** calibre on a regular basis, **Pollard** had the ability and fitness to reach a far higher level. **Tom** who is a member of the Territorial Army in Bath, is an ex-Army Squash Champion, Wiltshire Champion and has played for Wales on many occasions. In his civilian occupation he coaches squash and tennis at schools in the Salisbury and Blandford area. At the end of the match, still full of adrenaline and typical of **Tom's** attitude he stated, 'I know what I need: more shuttle runs, more shuttle runs!

Sgt Tom Pollard (left) with Ross Norman
Ex-World Open Squash Champion

SQUADRON BELATED CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BASH
by Sig Lemon

The night started in true 220 Sig Sqn style with the transport failing to turn up and the coach money being spent on Taxi fares. Everyone was still in high spirits due to the large amount of people in fancy dress – a little worrying seeing that half the Squadron was in drag! Respect to **LCpl Tim** 'Talula' **Lockwood** for arriving fashionably late at the Guardroom looking more feminine than some of the women attending the function. The bash was held at Bath Rugby Club, and it turned out to be an excellent venue. The costs were kept to a minimum, and each individual was given a strip of raffle tickets with some fantastic prizes! Right at the start of the night the raffle was drawn with **Sgt** 'Are U happy with that?' **MacDonald** winning a camera. As the night went on people started to become less inhibited and ridiculous things started to occur. Examples include **LCpl Tim** 'Talula' **Lockwood** dancing a slow number with the Commanding Officer (enough said!), **Maj** 'Disco Diva' **Forrest**, the Sqn OC, giving us his rendition of 'You Sexy Thing' as well as giving **Sig** 'Lenny' **Leonard** his first stripe. Congratulations 'Lenny'! All in all the night was a complete success and everyone enjoyed themselves (some more than others, eh Sir!). I would just like to say on behalf of the Squadron well done and a big thank you to **Cpl Paul Howe** and **LCpl Louise Underwood** for arranging such a great evening.

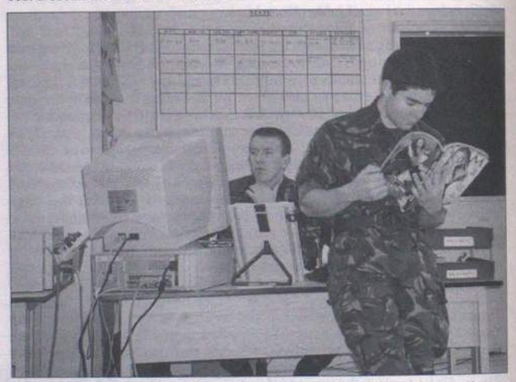
Cpl Cooley takes the OC under his wing

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj David Bizley**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Williams**
INTER SQUADRON COMPETITION CHAMPIONS
by WO2 (SSM) Paul Williams

Winning the Inter-Squadron Competition was the culmination of a years work for 244 Sqn. It started with the Five-a-Side football competition with each Squadron entering two teams: first and second places for 244 Sig Sqn. Next came the Regimental Athletics, and with almost half the Squadron (A Tp) on Exercise, it was never going to be easy, but we won it! The latter half of the year arrived and the orienteering competition took the Regiment to Sherewater, in Dorset. It was here that 244 Sig Sqn only managed a Second place to HQ Sqn. Despite the OC, **Maj** 'What's that in Mills?' **Bizley** and **SSgt (FofS)** 'Trailblazer' **Todd's** massive efforts and fantastic scores they were to be cancelled out by the weak links **WO2 (SSM)** 'Mind the steep bank' **Williams** and **WO2 (YofS)** 'Have I run out of time?' **McCorry**. Well done HQ Sqn. Next came the Regimental cross-country, and 244 Sig Sqn were back on winning form! A close competition over hard terrain around camp, that went right down to a re-count (where were the OC and FofS this time?) That was it, 244 Sig Sqn were now the Champion Squadron, mathematically we could not be caught. There was still one event to go, The CO's Challenge, and 244 Sig Sqn were playing for pride! Once again a close second for 244 Sig Sqn, just losing out to our main competitors, HQ Sqn. For them it was a hollow victory, however, as the war was already over. P.S. Was there a third squadron competing?

OPERATION AGRICOLA - KOSOVO
Det Comd **SSgt Andy Gill**

The Support Helicopter Force Sig Det is still going strong in Pristina. The CO, RSM, OC and FofS all arrived in December, but on three separate visits – just like the proverbial bus: no visits for months, then three come along at once. **2Lt Neal Clements** came out with the OC and forgot to go back for a month. At least he's got a medal now. When he finally got back and was asked how it went he said 'The parties were good!' At least it gave **SSgt Andy Gill** a chance for some R&R and the rest a break from his PT sessions.



Stand in Det Comd 2Lt Neal Clements and Sig Tour Guide Young hard at work in the Sigs det

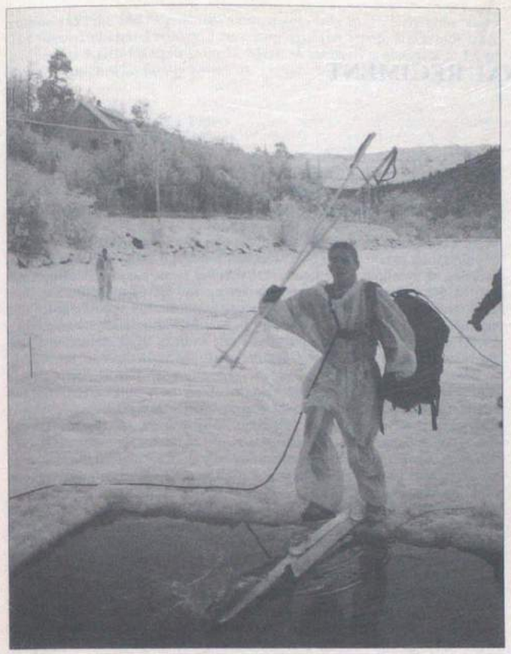
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS TROOP

SHQ Tp would like to say a sad farewell to **Sgt** 'Charlie' **Farley** our long standing and well loved MT Sergeant. His 60 a day (expletives that is) will be sorely missed. All the best to him and his family for their future in civvy street. Also, farewell to **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Gough** who leaves for Bassingbourne on promotion. We'll miss your bowling skills! Welcome to **Sgt** 'I've got a Beamer' **Moore** who has taken over as MT Sergeant.

A TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Bill Holbrook**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Phil Render**

This year started with deployment on Ex Hardfall based in southern Norway. The Troop ran three consecutive Novice Survival Courses for the Light Dragoons while new members of the Troop were experiencing the delights of the Cold Weather Environment previously known as the 'Arctic' care of the Royal Marines and 249 Sig Sqn. The course covered topics such as 'Skiing', 'Survival in the cold weather (-30)', 'Teddy Throwing', jumping in frozen lakes and low level infantry tactics. As well as offering quality training, the deployment also gave us the opportunity to welcome new members of the Troop and say farewells to **LCpl Jez** 'My rover's in 3-wheel drive' **Skelhorn** on his way to 101 Log Bde. With Norway out of the way for another year the Troop is looking forward to Ex Ardent Ground in Poland in April.

PLEASE SEND ORIGINAL PHOTOS ONLY



Sig Melanie Hall
didn't see the hole in the frozen lake during his NSSC

Members of A Tp Ski-Orjing behind a BV206 — Snowcat

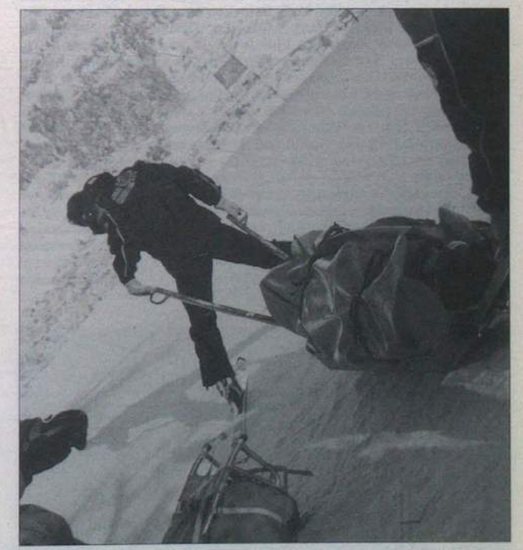
Alpha Troop hierarchy
Voss SSgt Jack Hawkins, Capt Bill Holbrook, SSgt Phil 'offender' Render— Capt Holbrook is the one in the middle

BRAVO TROOP
Sqn Comd **2Lt Neal Clements**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Carl Budding**
EXERCISE EAGLES FLIGHT (29JANUARY - 9 FEBRUARY)
by Sig Sutherland.

In the early hours of Monday morning, the deploying members of Bravo Tp met for a quick meal before beginning the slow, laborious drive to the wonderful 'Rollestone camp'. Once there, **Sig Colin Sutherland** could do nothing but complain about how cold and bored he was. He was soon sorted out because he had to deploy straight onto 'Stoke Hill', where one of the two deployed rebros was situated. Also with him was his Det Cmdr, **LCpl Colin** 'slingshot' **Kingshot**. We thought we were in for a good exercise: nothing to worry about but the random civvies that kept driving past and trying to see what we were up to. During the first week we had all sorts of visitors from dogs to horse riders. The most interesting visit that we had was from a Platoon of infanteers that happened to tab past our location as we were cooking bacon and egg banjos (they were not impressed). Everything was going fine until I went outside and found out that our fuel had been stolen and we were running out of power. If that wasn't enough the cam net collapsed, a mast broke and six Cam poles now look like horse shoes. As if it couldn't get any worse, it was also raining. We weren't the only ones to have fun. **Cpl** 'Speedy' **Speed** has developed a new sandwich, which has become known as the 'Foreman Special'. The events leading up to this strange invention are quite extraordinary. When **Sig Tammy Yates** asked **FofS Todd** What he would like in his Sandwich, (the choice being bacon, egg or sausage), the Foreman said 'what ever...'. So **Sig Yates** gave him the lot. He didn't have a problem with it, (so I was told). Just as the Exercise was drawing to a close, all our dets were back in with the exception of **Cpl Speed's**. The rover and trailer had become bogged in on top of one of the coldest hills on Salisbury Plain, due to the static nature of the exercise and the constant rain. Luckily, **Sgt Gaz Chapman** came to the rescue and skilfully managed to remove the Rover from the mud, refusing to get out the tow rope or to use his freshly cleaned Rebro Recce. All in all, not a bad exercise.

REGIMENTAL SKIING TEAM

The Regiment fielded a team of novice Alpine racers this year for the Corps and Divisional Championships in Austria and France respectively. Considering our relative lack of experience, a creditable performance was put in by all skiers in both competitions. In particular, well done to **Cpl** 'Rhino' **Richardson**. Bad luck to **Capt** 'Who put that tree there?' **Hale** who had a nasty accident in training in France, puncturing his lung. He had to endure hell in hospital being looked after by French nurses. We now look forward to competing in the HQ LAND and AWSA Championships in Aviemore at the end of February.



Capt (You should have seen that tree jump out on me) Hale takes the easy way down after puncturing his lung in an accident

IF DIGITAL PHOTOS ARE SENT THEY MUST BE SAVED AT A MINIMUM OF 400dpi COLOUR PHOTOS. IF THEY ARE ANYTHING LESS THAN THIS THEY WILL NOT BE USED. SENDING A PRINT OF A DIGITAL PHOTO IS NO GOOD!

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col Mike Lithgow MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Al Higgins**

SUPPORT SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj R. H. Gladwin**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Young**

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt (TOT) Tommy Steele**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Deano Cartledge**

It's the start of 2001 and we kick off another busy year with personnel from the Troop deployed in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Falkland Islands, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Norway. As usual, there are a lot of new faces to be seen in the troop and we welcome **Capt (TOT)** 'I hate Geordies' **Steele** as the new TOT who has made the long journey from 7 Sig Regt. We also say hello to **Sgt Dave Hansen**, and straight from the factory **LCpl Andy Clarke**, **LCpl Craig** 'Stan' **Standley**, **LCpl Kev** 'Big Roy' **Ward**, **LCpl Stuart** 'Pasty' **Cornish**, **LCpl Andy** 'Johno' **Johnson**, **LCpl Paul** 'Ally' **Mc Neal**, and **LCpl** 'Bernard' **Manning**. However, where there are hellos there are always good-byes and we say cheerio to **Cpl Alistair Barnaby Gray**, **Cpl Matt** 'Where's the nearest off-license' **Adams**, **Cpl Gina** 'Ohh ahh just a little bit' **Atkinson**, and **LCpl Jaman** who have all decided to take a trade refresher course in Blandford. We also lose **Sgt Collin Bentley** and **Cpl Dean Buckley** to the training wing, even though they still spend most of their time here 'doing lesson plans'. Last but not least we say good-bye and good luck to **Capt (TOT) Pete Gower** who has moved on to a cushy job at DCSA, but will probably still ring up requesting **SSgt Dean Cartledge** to fabricate his ITD results! So all the best to everyone who have moved on to bigger and brighter things.....in some cases anyway.

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. W. Cooper**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Keen**

EXERCISE COASTAL RAM DRAGON - *by Sig Griffiss*

256 Sig Sqn was to undertake a sailing expedition were all comers could get their sea legs, but avoid the golden rivet. Borrowing a Victoria 34 from the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Center (JSASTC) we were to see set sail from Falmouth bound for Gosport. Enroute we visited Fowey, Plymouth, Salcombe, Poole, and Port Solent. The qualified crew consisted of **YofS Pete Van Den Broek** (Skipper), **Sig** 'Wyatt' **Earp** (Mate), and **Tony** 'Meat Head' **Malia**. Those putting their lives in their hands were **SSgt Phil Joyce**, **LCpl Paul Lyndsay**, **LCpl Gav Vanden** and myself - **Sig Dave Griffiss**. The weather for the start of the week was excellent, especially for the novices as there was no wind, so we just took in the sun and enjoyed the South Coast scenery. This was improved by stopping off each night to sample some of the South Coast's finest public houses. Although we were sometimes faced with the challenge of getting into harbor and mooring because of the skipper's reluctance to turn the engine on. Yet at the end of the week with a table booked in the skipper's favourite restaurant and time ticking on he was noted for loosing his engine shy tendencies. Anyway as the week went on the wind picked up and everyone started earning his or her money. By the end of the week everyone had reached their targets of becoming competent in their duties as crew. Despite living in cramped conditions for a week, no one had fallen out with anyone and we made the restaurant in time back in Port Solent. Everyone enjoyed the week and we all made our way back to Bramcote with the intention of sailing into the deep blue again.

Sig Griffiss sailing in the Solent - Exercise Coastal Ram Dragon

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **Flt Lt Paul Pearce**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul Storey**

Following Ex Purple Iliad (see last issue for details), the Troop was involved in the handover of the JTFHQ role to 258 Sig Sqn. With this went a change in pace as the Troop stepped down from R1 to R3 and, for the first time in two years, everyone bomb-bursted away on leave with no worries of a callout. The handover/takeover went very well. What was left of the tented headquarters was set up for the post Ex Purple Iliad turn-round, giving 258 Sig Sqn the perfect opportunity to account for and operate the equipment. The Squadron Christmas function took place in a local 'top class' golf club and turned out to be a triple celebration; the Squadron had just won the CO's Challenge, we had come off R1 and, of course, it was Christmas. Not everyone made it to the clubhouse however, **Sig Kate** 'Munchkin' **Marsh** had an early night after failing to remember that it's a marathon not a sprint! Returning after New Year was a shock to the system, things happen much slower on R3. Looking ahead, the Troop is deploying to Sierra Leone in May for four months in support of Op Silkman and training has already begun. This will be the first time we have had a troop level deployment since Kosovo, and everyone is looking forward to it. On return from Sierra Leone, the plan is then to take on the responsibility for TWACN introduction trials within the Regiment before taking on the JTFHQ role again in December. We have had a large turn over of personnel in the Troop over the last few months. We have had to say good bye and good luck to **Cpl Brett** 'Mr Burns' **Grist**, **LCpl Carl** 'Jelly Belly' **Ashton** and **Sig Lea** 'Jack' **Nicholson** who are all continuing the exchange programme we seem to have with N.I. We would like to welcome into the fold **Cpl** 'Big Mac and fries for six and I'd better have a diet coke' **MacDonald** who has arrived from 15 Sig Regt. **Cpl** 'Bacci' **Baxter** from Krefeld, **LCpl Carl** 'Stickman' **Greenhill**. Finally a big welcome back to 'the training wing daddy himself' **Cpl Bri** 'The Daddy' **Rawlings** who returns back to the Troop after 14 months in 'The Wing'.

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt John Dagless**
Tp SSgt **SSgt McNair**

Just as the Troop was about to indulge in the festive treats and take a well-deserved break we had one more hurdle to pass, Exercise Apocalypse Ram. Apocalypse Ram was a Troop level leadership exercise designed by the JNCO's to put the Signallers into a number of challenging and demanding situations. The exercise program was to cover a wide range of disciplines including military, trade, driving, and command task stands. The weather was wet, the ground muddy, and the instructors merciless.

On arrival at Swynnerton the Signallers were thrown over the assault course twice, then put straight onto an orienteering course in order to warm them up for the rotation of stands that was set before them. With **Sgt** 'Pretty' **Pritti** from the Training Wing assisting with the military stands it was not long before the first night stand approached, a close target recce. Having been given orders and prepared for the task in hand the recces began. On arrival at the FRV each team had to make their way up a heavily guarded patrol lane crossing various obstacles along the way. On top of this each member of the various patrols was tasked to take note for their reports that were to be completed upon their return. Notable performances came from **Sig** 'I'll crawl all the way' **McMillan** who scored highly through rugged determination, and no one could forget **Sig** 'I need more bullets' **Yoxall's** lead in the 'run away' as he outran a pursuing Land Rover. With the first day done, and a warm drink and soup laid on by **Pte** 'Taff' **Edwards** whose support and cooking throughout the exercise could not go without mentioning it was off to bed to try and recover for the next day that started with an early morning run. Having gone through a number of stands over the following day it was left to members of C Troop to get the vehicles bogged in on the driving stand, but only after the instructor **LCpl** 'Pole Position' **Stainsforth**. Whilst this was going on **Sig** 'Deadeye' **Niven** was still trying to hit a barn door having consistently scored the lowest on a variety of SAT shoots. **Sig** 'Field Marshall' **Beerling** blew the whistle and his section stood up and slowly walked towards the enemy in a straight line, and **Sig Lee Banks** decided to give a lecture about his hero the Boss, **Capt Dagless**. In all the week was very busy with a wide variety of stands and situations. A special merit award will remain with **Sig** 'Doh' **Simpson**, who despite being unable to breath after a little bit of derogation PT, could still find breath to profess his view on about anything. With the job done it was onto Christmas leave.

No sooner has the New Year started and already members of the Troop are on their global travels again to Kenya. Following in **Sgt** (?) 'Scouse' **Parry's** footsteps **Sgt** (?) **Bri Wilson** is on his way to Kenya in support of Ex Grand Prix. His crew in addition to their communication tasks will be trying to beat **Sig** 'Bronzed' **Bowyer** in the tanning stakes, as he has been left at home this time. Finally having seen the Troops number dwindle over the past few months a warm welcome is given to **Sig** 'Salt of the earth' **Pepper**, and **Sig** 'Hockey' **Brown** from 16 Sig Regt. In addition to this, and as postings loom, a get ready to get busy goes out to **2Lt Steve Pritchard** who will be taking over the Troop, and a look after him to **Sgt Keith Langan** from 12 Mech. A farewell is also sent to **LCpl** 'Gav' **Vanden** who finally leaves us.

CHARLIE TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Lucy Pim**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Phil Joyce**

HELLOS

A warm Charlie Tp welcome goes out to **LCpl Aaron Garside** who has come to us from 7 Sig Regt (via Blandford); and also to **Sig Roger Livesey** who is fresh from the factory! Hope you both enjoy your time here – get your suitcases packed for a spot of globetrotting!

MY FIRST YEAR AT 30 SIGNAL REGIMENT
by Sig Richie Harrison

For a new Siggy my first year out of training has been unbelievably busy – including three Ops! I arrived at the Regiment in January 1999 from trade training, and was put straight into Charlie Tp. Before my feet had even touched the ground, the Troop assumed the JTFHQ role for the first time. Like most of the others in the Troop I didn't realise how hectic it would turn out to be! At the beginning of February the Troop deployed on our first JTFHQ exercise, back at Blandford and for the first outing everything went smoothly. It wasn't long before another exercise was planned - in the tropical climate of Ghana. The exercise was meant to be five weeks long but just as we had settled into a routine the Troop was tasked to deploy to Sierra Leone, which had just kicked off. We flew into Dhakar, Senegal , and set up a light HQ from which the Staff were able to work whilst we went forward to set up the main HQ in Lungi airport near Freetown. It was an amazing experience; we were based with the Paras, and at times you could hear the firefights nearby. The Troop returned in June and after a couple of weeks leave I took part in the Njimegan Marches. This proved to be very rewarding as the evenings in Holland more than made up for the pain of the days spent marching!

In September the Troop was placed on Spearhead – ready to move 'at a moment's notice'! I was put onto the VSC501 satellite det, but this didn't last long as Sierra Leone was far from over, and we were off again within a week! As the Troop had gained a lot of experience with the JTFHQ build first time round, it was decided that we were the ones to set up the new Headquarters at the Defence Headquarters in Freetown. The tent build was successful and after just one week I returned home, though others followed a few at a time as a routine became established. A year after my arrival and I'm now set to go to Kosovo for a couple of months to work in the COMMCEN. Hopefully I'll get the chance to travel this year as much as I did in the last, and with an exercise in the Virgin Islands later in the year things are looking good! All in all it's been a great first year at the Regiment!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF 30 SIGNAL REGIMENT
by 2Lt Pritchard

The Royal Corps of Signals is unique in that it sends its Young Officers straight to the unit where they will be posted, right after commissioning. Having escaped from RMA Sandhurst before last Christmas, **2Lt Laura Smith** and I arrived at our new unit on 2 January. In doing so we were the first of our Sandhurst batch to 'meet the troops'. As I had arrived a week earlier than most of the Troop, **Capt John Dagless** (whom I am to take over from) had more time to spend with me, answering many of my initial questions. **Capt Dagless** has arranged a schedule to ease me into my new role and visit all the Regimental departments. My first port of call was Squadron HQ, followed by Regimental HQ on the second day. It was then that the CO welcomed **2Lt Smith** and I to the Regiment and told us his expectations of YOs within the Regiment. We then met the Adjutant, **Capt Andy Coulston**, and he gave advice on how to avoid getting noticed for the wrong reasons!

2Lt Smith and I were introduced to the Regimental Yeoman, **Andy Campbell** who gave us a briefing about the Regiment's operational activities and its equipment. It was then that the penny really dropped just how different Regimental duty is to training. Having been trained at Sandhurst through the infantry Platoon and Company set-up, and concentrated on infantry tactics, it dawned on me that their were now additional trade and technical considerations. So instead of Sword Drill, there is now vehicle maintenance. Not every young soldier aspires to be RSM, some want to be Yeoman and others Foreman or ISMs. As well as left flanking section attacks on exercise, there is also VSC501, plugging up, beaconing up, multiplexing, Ptarmigan trunk bridging... Needless to say I can already see some of the steep learning curve ahead of us in the next few months! Although the troops were mainly absent during the first week, I got to meet a few. I was introduced to some of the equipment by **Cpl McCone**, and sampled some flavoured nuts and banana bread courtesy of **LCpl Gontier**. It appears that the current Troop OC has instilled an interest in wooden carvings in the Troop, as he seems to dispatch his soldiers across the world to shop for such items. The Officers' Mess was quiet as so many were deployed, with the main event being the 'garlic bread' debate... why the other members found this funny is beyond me, but apparently **Capt Chris Preston** did provide some with an outstanding lasagne. I hope to start playing sports, but was put off by seeing the results of a 'warm up' game of football ending in the QM (T), **Capt Dougy Wright**, breaking his nose and an NCO breaking his leg! At the end of the week, I attended my first Squadron O-Group and left looking forward to an eventful tour in one of the Army's busiest units. The pieces are coming together, but the jigsaw is pretty big....

258 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj P. Deans**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Forrester**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS NEWS

Firstly, the whole of SHQ Tp would like to congratulate **WO2 (YofS) Pete Goodliff** on his well deserved promotion and wishes him luck when he finally decides on a job that is worthy of his godlike stature and gets posted. We would also like to say farewell to **Cpl** 'Richie' **Homer** and welcome **Pte Nicky Mitchell** into his well-worn seat. Additionally, there is **SSgt David Oliver** the new ISM 'Guru' to greet; he has travelled far to be with us - well at least two corridors and up some stairs. The Squadron Headquarters has started the year as it will probably continue with piles of paperwork and planning disappearing quickly and then reappearing just as quick. The main reason for this was Ex First Run which was the first full deployment of the Squadron since their re-rolling back to JTFHQ Sig Sqn (Oh! how we missed it last year!). We have also been busy preparing for Ex Boron Mercury, where we will be deployed to the arduous, inhospitable climate of Oman (Oh fate, how you mock us!). And then there is Ex Cobb Ring to Florida .... (Well, if it doesn't rain, it pours!)

DELTA TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Chris Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jim Lyons**

After a particularly busy last quarter in 2000 Delta Tp are now settling down to the routine of Regimental life. The last couple of months have seen the arrival of **Sgt Jerry Baxter** and **Sig** 'DB' **Williams** from 7 Sig Regt and **LCpl John Peach** from PJHQ. Congratulations go to **Cpl** ' MJ ducking and diving' **Holt** and **LCpl** 'Ian the grey man' **Andrews** who have both been promoted after selection on the recent boards.

The Troop recently deployed to Stanford training area on Ex First Run where the Troop was treated to an evening entertainment package laid on by E Tp. It wasn't the same without Dumbo but it was a good imitation. The Troop managed to fit in some NBC defense training on the NBC battle run. **LCpl Courtney** 'Big and Daft' **Watts** gave the first syndicate a rare insight into a chemical casualty whilst **Cpl M. J. Holt** gave a practical demonstration on a choking agent which the sheep later enjoyed. The Troop is looking forward to handing over their Spearhead commitment in the next few months before sampling the joys of the JTFHQ.

ECHO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Jeeves**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Al Combe**

Echo Tp has been pretty busy over the last few months: we've said farewell to **Cpl** 'Fred' **Hazard** who has departed finally (to 21 Sig Regt) and also to **Cpl** 'Jeffers' **Ford**, who went off over the water to 15 Sig Regt. We've also said hello to **LCpl Sarah** 'How do I do that?' **James**, **LCpl Chris** 'Dunn and dusted' who has arrived from Tidworth and last but not least **Sig** 'Pointyhead' **Dyde** straight from the factory back to his home of Nuneaton – nice! Also we say congratulations to **LCpl Michelle** 'Cilla' **Black** who gave birth to bouncing baby **Shannon** in the pre-Christmas period and is now back at work with her Troop.

Exercise Tartan Warrior - The Troop deployed to the Cairngorm region of Scotland, near Inverness, in order to provide an enemy platoon for the lads from 216 Sig Sqn. Needless to say the weather was Baltic and the lads spent most of the time either freezing and wet, or sleeping. **LCpl** 'Blinkin mick' **Allan** won the most captured trophy being caught a total of two (or was it three?) times; **Sig Matt** 'Gink' **King** got the E & E trophy and was last seen tearing across the hills looking over his shoulder. The week culminated in a final attack being put in by a depleted 216 Sig Sqn but not before **Capt** 'Mountain Goat' **Jeeves** led the platoon QRF on a quick four hour clearance patrol - successful, I might add. All in all it was a very successful exercise with the Troop lads kicking some airborne all over Inverness under the elite supervision of the Boss and stalwart **Sgt** 'Big Gay Al' **Barker**.

Exercise First Look 2001 – The Troop deployed to STANTA and Lichfield in order to blow out its cobwebs having freshly returned from Christmas leave. **LCpl Aaron** 'kushytime' **Donnelly** having by far the hardest time spending his lunchtimes and free time down the local pub whilst the rest of the boys in STANTA had to put up with rations. Comms were established with *HMS Endurance* and all the Troop dets ... eventually. The Troop also paid a surprise visit to the Delta Tp dets unbeknownst to anyone but Echo Tp; it was worth it just to see the faces of the other Troop Seniors but not for **LCpl** 'Blinkin mick' **Allan** who almost got used as a latrine. The Troop spent the second part of the exercise on Wretham Camp for a week of ITD's which went off as expected and full use was made of the watering facilities so that the troop could re-establish its clique.

Echo Troop has a busy period coming up. With a week's adventure training in, you guessed it, Inverness in what's believed to be the coldest week since 1982 (hurrah)! We also have Ex Cobb Ring, a three week exercise in Florida coming up in March, which I am sure will be very taxing, before finally taking over the R1 role in April for a good three months, so hold off the ops till then.

FOXTROT TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Mogs Southern**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Stu Fidler**

Recent times have seen a plethora of new arrivals from a variety of places. A warm welcome goes to **Sig Claire Louden** and **Sig Steve**

York, both fresh from the Royal School of Excellence, and also **LCpl** 'Del' **Jackson** from 1 (UK) Div Sig Regt and **Cpl Paul Roberts** from the sleepy hollow of 280 Sig Sqn.

Exercise First Run - After a well earned and much looked forward to Christmas break, the Troop returned to work ready to deploy the mighty JTFHQ to Wretham Camp in STANTA. In preparation for the rigors of the exercise, as much humping and dumping as humanely possible was organized, and by Monday 8 January we felt ready to deploy. Although the backbone of the exercise was the build of the HQ complex, and engineering and commissioning of the CIS, elements of the Troop were lucky to enjoy a variety of other activities. As the other two Troops from the Squadron were deployed on military training exercises from Wretham Camp, we managed to squeeze onto some excellent live firing ranges and also join in on the Assault course and Confidence course. A few APWT shoots were enjoyed, particularly by **Cpl** 'Dead-Eye' **Harrison** and along with the odd BCFT and some inventive PT sessions everyone enjoyed a variety of activities. In addition a very successful short PACEX was run, affording the newer members of the Troop some tactical CNR training, enjoyed by all, especially the Ex DS who got to 'bug out' the Dets at unearthly hours of the night. Eventually the day dawned when the exercise had reached an end, and the practice all had put into humping and dumping was put to good use in the recovery back to sunny Bramcote.

The Troop is currently preparing to deploy to Oman on Ex Boron Mercury – another JTFHQ deployment. All are optimistic that it will prove to be an enjoyable trip! On return we will be punishing ourselves with some adventure training in the hills of Wales on Ex Foxtrot Dragon.

250 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. J. Cole**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Chandrabahadur Gurung**

QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS

RECRUIT INTAKE 99/00 ATTESTATION PARADE

by LCpl Pratap Ghale

A career of service and honour began for the QG Signals recruit intake 99/00 when they took an oath of allegiance at the attestation parade held on 11 January 2001. A total of 50 newly enlisted members of QG Signals were on parade for the traditional ceremony at Gamecock Barracks, the home of QG Signals. For them it was the culmination of more than ten months intensive training since the day they arrived in England from Nepal. The inspecting officer was **Brig S. M. A. Lee OBE**, Colonel of the Regt. In groups of five, the Signallers donning their ceremonial uniforms topped off with the distinctive and stiff Gurkha hat marched smartly to the saluting dais where a table had been set up draped with the Union flag. With **Brig S. M. A. Lee OBE**, CO 30 Sig Regt and GM QG Signals looking on and a Pandit in attendance, they reached forward together placing their hands on the flag and in loud and clear voice swore the oath of allegiance, vowing to remain loyal to the Regiment. A smart salute and a quick march back to the squad was repeated in rapid succession until everyone had taken the oath. It was an equally special day for **Lt (QGO)s Nirmalkumar Bhattachan, Yamkumar Gurung** and **Buddhi Bahadur Gurung** who were officially commissioned as Lt (QGO)s. **Brig S. M. A. Lee OBE** congratulated the newly commissioned Lt (QGO)s before addressing the parade. A group photograph was taken at the end followed by a curry lunch in the main kitchen.

Jai QG Signals.

The QG Signals Recruits pictured taking the oath with the Col of the Regt witnessing the attestation ceremony

32nd (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col J K McKee MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Hilborn**

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Roddy Sutherland**
PSAO **Capt John Lynch**

REGIMENTAL TRAINING WEEKEND (RTW)

The New Year got off to a cracking start with the RTW at Redford Cavalry Barracks. The highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Burns Supper. A night of poetry, whisky and song was kicked off in fine style by the PSAO, **Capt John** 'Crusty' **Lynch** whose rendition of 'Address to a Haggis' was faultless, in addition the violent manner with which he split the haggis asunder produced uncomfortable noises from the English minority present. The 'Lassies' reply was enunciated by **SSgt Marilyn** 'Gagoul' **Niblock** in a style and manner that left all men quivering with shame in their seats. Only the recent demise of libel lawyer George Carmen prevented any libellous law suits being presented to the wily medic. Meanwhile a search party is still said to be trying to locate **Sgt John** 'Flooky' **Flook** who mysteriously disappeared just before he was due to present the REME's contribution to the poetry. The occasion was complemented superbly by the magnificent food provided under the supervision of **WO2 John** 'Egon Ronay' **Wren**. We look forward to next year's haggis neeps 'n tatties.

THE PIPES AND DRUMS

The Pipes and Drums continue to flourish under the expert tutelage of **WO2 Douglas** 'Drummie' **Smith** who was recently awarded both a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate and a bar to his Efficiency Medal. Well done Drummie. **Cpl Ronald Mills** social piping has been heavily utilised by 33 Sig Sqn to the extent that we believe he is soon to be issued his bushy moustache and 'Terry' Wig. Congratulations go out to **Cpl Robert Brannigan** on his recent promotion from Lance Corporal.

RECRUITS

Reports that the RRTT have been using a 'super potion' on recruits were given further credibility when a first, fourth and eleventh place were achieved on the most recent Recruits Course at Blandford. Well done to **Sig Carolyn Dorian, Sig Sam** 'Psycho' **Towers** and **Sig Kelly Ann O'Donnell**. After the news was released **SSgt** 'Dougie' **MacDonald** scoffed at the idea of a super potion and preferred to put at least some of the credit down to the size of his impressive moustache.

SKIING

Squadron personnel acquitted themselves admirably in the Royal Signals Winter Sports Championships held in Kaprun, Austria, with **Maj Cammy Payn, WO2 (AQMS) Tam Davidson** and **Sig Towers** all doing well with planks (or was it skis?) on their feet. The Squadron now hosts the individual REME Champion in the shape of **Capt Dave** 'Downhill' **McBride**.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations go out to **SSgt** 'Dougie' **MacDonald, Cpl Burns, Cpl McInally, Cpl McBride** and **LCpl Donna** 'Kebab' **Buntine** on their recent promotions.

HONOURS

It was medals all round recently as HQ personnel received yet more honours. The lucky recipients of the Lord Lieutenants Certificate were **Cpl Wilson, Sgt Murphy** and **Maj Sutherland** – many congrats!

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51 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Morna Strachan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Davey Crocket**

CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELLS

Congratulations go to Squadron Commander, **Maj Morna Strachan** and Troop Commander, **Capt Linda Duncan** on the award of their TD and also to **Sgt Kenny Lawson** on the award of his Territorial Army Efficiency Medal. **SSgt Denny McLaren** is also congratulated on his well deserved promotion. We all wish to welcome **Erinne Bird** who weighed in at 8lb 6oz at 12:06 am 16 January 2001. Congratulations to **Rebecca** our 2 IC. In 2018 she can sign on!

Proudly displaying their medals
(L-R): Capt Linda Duncan TD, Sgt Kenny Lawson and Maj Morna Strachan TD

The Squadron bade **Cpl Ian Grant** a sad farewell as he hung up his boots after serving over 30 years in the Territorial Army, which was preceded by seven years regular service. **Cpl Grant** can be seen with the OC during the farewell party in his honour.

Maj Morna Strachan with Cpl Ian Grant
Recounting past misadventures

The Squadron presented **Cpl Grant** with a 'Jimmy' and his wife Irene was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the newest recruit **Sig Kirsten Cowan-Smith**. The Squadron thanks him, his wife Irene and the family for all their support over the years and our best wishes go to them for the future.

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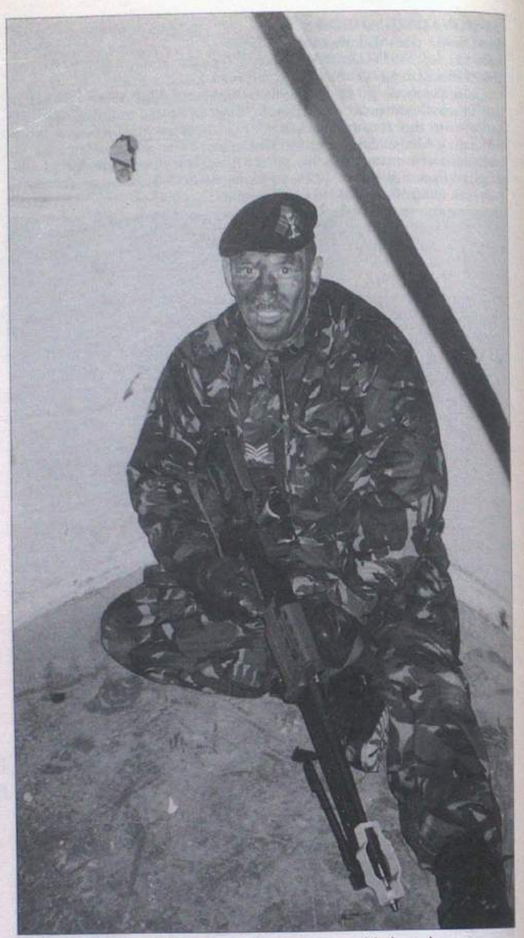
Presenting the flowers
Sig Kirsten Cowan-Smith and Mrs Irene Grant

OBUA WEEKEND EXERCISE : FIGHTING 51st

by LCpl Justin Gray

The Squadron deployed on an OBUA weekend by bussicopter, arriving in the dead of night to an eager enemy. It was a cold misty December morning as the training began. Our first task was to gain entry via a first floor window. Special mention goes out to **Capt Linda** 'Somersault' **Duncan** who almost perfected the backflip! In addition, **SSgt Dave** 'Houdini' **Shand** and **Sgt Trevor** 'Bump' **King** deserve a mention for their special efforts during the weekend.

SSgt Houdini Shand - found at last



SSgt Denny McLaren - Resting on his laurels

The next item on the agenda was to get used to patrolling in an urban environment. We just thought we had the hang of it until the shooting started. The decision was made that we were going to assault the house and orders were given. After some gentle persuasion, the Section started to move and was soon throwing themselves through open windows. When the smoke had cleared we headed back to the canteen for dinner and to recharge magazines and ready ourselves for a Night Patrol. In the course of patrolling the area we came under mortar attack and decided to use the sewer as a means of gaining entry to the occupied building. Many thanks to **OCdt Colin** 'Rapido' **Bruce** for that decision. Finally when the battle was over it was a quick trip to the showers before a few cooling ales to soothe the aches away. On Day Two the pace didn't slacken as we ended the weekend with a final assault against three fire positions. All in all a great weekend that is much lamented by all that took part.

Enjoying a cooling ale to soothe the aches away
(L-R): Sig Melia, SSM, Sgt King, OCdt Bruce, LCpl Davidson, Sig Lafferty, Sig Wiggin, SSgt Shand LCpl Gray, Sgt Lawson, Sig Bakewell

52 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Donny Gordon**
SSM **WO2 Karen Swan**

The weekend 4-5 December 2000 saw the last RTW of the year 2000 with the Regiment converging on that St Tropez of the north, Cultybraggan or Stalag 14 as it is known to those who have ever been there. The weekend had two aims; to ensure that the Regiment had fulfilled its ITDs for the year and to celebrate Christmas (or TA Christmas anyway) in a sober and spiritually enlightening way. There are no prizes guessing which one of these missions was successfully achieved. **Maj Morna Strachan**, who conducted the Equal Opportunities training, was taught some ancient East Kilbride vernacular by the more down to earth members of the cream of the Regiment, 52 Sig Sqn (V). The meaning of the word, or indeed the word itself cannot be printed in these notes but for those of you who wish to see the good Major's reaction on discovering the meaning of the word can log on to our Regimental website at: www.tasignals.com and you will see the most toe curling photo ever published on the net. (She is the one distributing rolls). The weekend saw the soldiers' Christmas Dinner, or the Chimps Tea Party to give it its official title, where the Sqn Comds, SSMs and PSIs served the food to the hungry masses. The dinner went swimmingly with the carol singing being initiated and led by the Broken Voice Choir of the 52 Sqn junior ranks. They may not be the St Martin in the Fields choir but you have not heard 'Hark the Herald Angel Sings' until you have heard it from the mouths of those trained to sing on the terraces of Ibrox or Celtic park.

Later that evening an all ranks social was held in the Cultybraggen JRC, or the Barlinnie Outhouse as it is known to one and all in the Regt. Another tradition had to be carried out before the party could really get going. The Officers' and SNCOs' Messes take it in turn each year to host the other Mess for drinks. This time it was the SNCOs' Mess to host the Officers who were out for revenge after the previous year's wallet emptying escapade. The Officers met up in their own Mess, rubbing their hands in gleeful anticipation, before forming up to march purposefully down to the SNCOs' Mess. Their grins grew wider every time their left feet pounded the ground, their determination to reek financial ruin on the SNCOs making them impervious to the freezing cold puddles that they were stepping in. On arrival at the Sergeants' Mess the Officers' momentum was such that a mere door was not enough to stop them as they piled into the main room bellowing their war cry of 'Drink' like a vast army of Father Jacks. The seniors had not spent hundreds of years service without learning a thing or two and had formulated a plan to deal with the officers attritional assault. Using the manoeverist approach and the same plan Wellington used to defeat the French Cavalry at Waterloo, they strategically placed tables around the mess in order to break up the seemingly unstoppable mass of heaving commissioned-dom. This worked a treat with the officers broken down into manageable packets. **Maj Donald** 'Your're a bunch of two can Dans' **Gordon** stood his ground and was only defeated when the last, and lowest of the low, cards was played. 'Bar closed,' was the cry, 'Everyone into the JRC.'

Everyone had a great time in the JRC and when the DJ played the Squadron theme tune, Simply the Best, the whole Squadron formed their now customary circle to help Ms Turner along with the singing. The whole Regiment were treated to an impromptu show from the Squadron's own male dance troupe, the 'Pie and Chippendales' **Cpl Phil Brown** and **Cpl Henry** 'Dodger' **Rodgers**. The OC was heard to comment about **Cpl Brown's** choice of nether garments, 'What is a Rangers fan doing with green skiddies?'

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

A number of personnel have left, or are about to leave the Squadron. We say a sad farewell to our Sqn PSI, **WO2 (SSM) Sammy Shaw** who is leaving the army after 24 years service and to **Sgt Chris Kelly** who is also joining Civ Div. We wish them both all the best for the future and hope that a five-day working week will not be too taxing for them.

Congratulations go to **Sig Sharon Ferguson** on the birth of her baby daughter, **Olivia**. The OC has promised that her training will start as soon as possible and that the first words out of her mouth will be 'Grid to Mag Add.'

Congratulations go to **Sig James Minto** on successfully passing a recruits course at RSS Blandford. We also welcome back to the fold **LCpl Anthea Purvis** and **Cpl Gary Ballantyne** RAMC back to the Squadron after very successful tours in the Balkans. Finally we would like to say a hello to' **LCpl Johanne** 'Pearl Diver' **Mundie** as she has extended her tour in Banja Luka until March. Hurry back we can't find the keys to the filing cabinets.

33 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col Elton Davis**
RSM **WO1 Rod Cowan**

42 (CITY OF MANCHESTER) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj M. O. Cummings**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) G. Ward/WO2 Maurice Aarons**

EXERCISE REGULAR ROSE

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING (4-6 OCTOBER 2000)

Ex Regular Rose was the first activity of note during the current reporting period. This is when the Regular, NRPS and civilian staff go to do their own thing in some remote and hopefully picturesque part of the country. The task of organising the October Regular Rose fell to **SSgt Sam Faulds**, the Sqn SPSI. Probably because he had a pal in the training wing of 14 Sig Regt (EW), all and sundry found themselves at Brawdy in the wilds of Pembrokeshire which seems a strange place to hide a Signal Regiment! Hill walking, mountain biking, canoeing and horse riding (the choice of this latter activity had nothing to do with the fact that the new CO, **Lt Col Elton Davis**, is a rider of note and owns a string of horses) were the pursuits on offer. The two days proved to be great fun and a welcome break from the daily routine of work. Thanks are due to 14 Sig Regt (EW) for allowing the use of their excellent facilities and helping out with instructors.

CO'S COMPETITION - 14-15 OCTOBER 2000

The annual Commanding Officer's Competition was held this year in and around the Swynnerton Training Area during the weekend 14-15 October 2000. A variety of military training stands had to be negotiated by two Section strength teams from each Squadron. These included NBC, Comd Task, Comms Skills, Driver Skills, MT and BFA stands, together with a March and Shoot phase and rounded off with a quiz in the evening at an all ranks function. Unfortunately, 42 Sqn, as the current holders of the trophy and the champions for the last three years, had to relinquish their title to a very good team from 59 (City of Liverpool) Sqn. The day was not a total disappointment, however, as one of the Squadron teams managed to lift the 'Cowan Trophy' donated by the current RSM, **WO1 Rod Cowan**, for the best team in the March and Shoot.

POLICE POWER

42 Sqn currently numbers ten policemen amongst its members thanks to the pro TA attitude of both the Greater Manchester and the Liverpool Police Authorities. **Sgt Tim Mounfield** and **Cpl Mike Regan**, Constables with the Greater Manchester Police Force, are two of the fittest men in the Squadron and they have recently taken part in the annual 'Tour of Tameside', a 52 mile race across varying terrain in the Tameside area of Greater Manchester. The event billed as 'the toughest athletic challenge in the UK' saw competitors travelling from all over the world to compete. Beginning with an eleven-mile road race in the morning and a seven-mile road race in the afternoon on Day One, Day Two continued with a seven-mile (5 up, 2 down) hill race before a rest day on Day Three. Day Four was a half marathon, with the final day, unbelievably, including a five-mile cross-country race rounded off with a nine mile run along a canal. To their great credit both **Tim** and **Mike** finished the week with highly respectable times. **Tim** went round in a total time of 5 hours 3 minutes to finish 166th out of a field of 550, while **Mike** managed a time of 6 hours 22 minutes to finish 234th.

The Tour of Tameside Greater Manchester Police Team
Cpl Mike Regan (centre left) and Sgt Tim Mounfield (centre right) pictured with two of their colleagues from the Manchester Police

MACKAY TO MANCHESTER

42 Sqn can now claim that they are the first Manchester TA unit to have an Australian Reservist serving with them. Imagine the PSAO's surprise when into his office one day walked a potential female recruit who announced that she was from Australia and a member of the Australian Reserves, who was spending some time in the UK and would like to train with the Squadron! Authority was obtained to create a Squadron first and enable the famous slouch hat, complete with 'Jimmy' to the fore, to be seen in the squad on our muster parade. The owner of the slouch hat is Sig Karyn Forzatti who is a member of 141 Sig Sqn based at Jezzaine Barracks, Townsville in North Queensland. Karyn is a qualified Solicitor who arrived in England in March 2000. Karyn joined the Australian Reserve Army in July 1997 and became a member of 141 Sig Sqn where she trained as a radio and information operator. Although she has only been with the Squadron a matter of three weeks, she marched with the Squadron detachment through Manchester on Remembrance Sunday. She is on attachment with the Squadron until at least April 2001 but may apply for an extension if she finds that life in Manchester beats the sun and blue skies of her homeland!

No prizes for guessing who is the odd one out Sig Karyn Forzatti with (L-R): Sig Georgina Evans, Sig Anne Donnelly and LCpl Samantha Hickson

WINTER EAGLE 2000 (24-26 NOVEMBER)

The Squadron has returned from Ex Winter Eagle that was conducted in the Merseyside and Greater Manchester area. It was a full regimental deployment with the object being to exercise communications at Squadron level. The Squadron task was to deploy TN 031 and four RR vehicles together with a SAN and a SCRA.

The CO, Lt Col Elton Davis, being briefed by OCdt Danny Fenwick on how he proposes to defend the Sqn Trunk Node from attack

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to **LCpl Dave Curtis** who has joined the ranks of that rare beast, a class one TA tradesman. Dave is a technician with British Telecomm and has just returned from Blandford where he was successful in qualifying as a first class electrician driver.

OC Sqn, Maj Mica Cummings, presenting LCpl Dave Curtis with his B1 Tele Op (Elec certificate)

SOCIAL EVENTS

December is of course when a large number of social events have to be negotiated in between the day-to-day work and when stamina comes well and truly to the fore. Kicking off the social whirl, the Manchester Branch of the Royal Signals Association held their annual dinner at the Trafford Park Hotel, adjacent to the famous cricket ground, on 2 December 2000. They were fortunate to have as their guest of honour **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle CB**, who most will remember as a very popular SOinC of recent years. As well as **Maj Gen Tony Boyle** and his wife **Ann,** other guests included the Commanding Officer 33 Sig Regt (V), **Lt Col Elton Davis** and his wife **Sue,** the OC 42 Sig Sqn (V) - **Maj Mica Cummings** and his wife **Jennifer**, and the PSAO - **Capt Gerry Whelan**. The Chairman of the Manchester Branch, **Ron Taylor**, gave an excellent speech and everyone felt most welcome. The occasion was marked by a presentation to **Maj Gen Boyle**. **Maj Gen Boyle** has taken over from **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman** as the next chairman of the Royal Signals Association.

Maj Gen and Mrs Tony Boyle flanked by lancemen from 42 Sig Sqn (V), Sig Alex Thomas and Cpl Stuart Green. Chairman of the Association - Mr Ron Wood, looks on

Gen Boyle accepting a gift from the Association welfare and entertainments member, Ian Ashworth Davies, watched by the CO 33 Sig Regt, Lt Col Elton Davis and the Chairman s wife Marrion

STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY (13 DECEMBER 2000)

The permanent staff of the Squadron traditionally hold their Christmas lunch in Manchester's China Town where the fare tends to be not the slightest bit seasonal. This year the usual excellent food was enjoyed and the restaurant staff even managed to stump up a decent steak and chips for our civilian vehicle mechanic, **Eric Lewis**, who is a 'scouser' not keen on this 'foreign muck'.

The backbone of the Squadron: our AO Lilian Hall, Senior Storekeeper, Sharon Blythe, PSI Dave Kirk, Civvy fitter, Eric Lewis , SQMS (R), Bernie Meehan, Tech Sgt Taff Powell and FofS, Andy Owen (picture taken by the PSAO)

SQUADRON ALL RANKS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Squadron Christmas party was held on Saturday 16 December 2000, and proved to be a success beyond the wildest dreams of the organising committee. The drill hall was transformed into a magical Christmas scene by the flair and expertise of **LCpl Sam Hickson,** who proved to be the hostess with the mostest and decorator extraordinaire. A draw was arranged by **SSgt Bob Duffield** and **Sgt Mick Hanna,** with some very desirable prizes, while a superb meal was laid on by our very own Delia, **Sgt Lesley Ward**. A live band had the drill hall jumping and **Sig Shezad Abdul Qadir Mukadam** provided his own special touch as DJ for the evening. RHQ were well represented by the CO, Adjt and the RSM with the CO making the evening complete by giving the SQMS, **Maurice Aarons**, an early Christmas present by promoting him to Squadron Sergeant Major.

The Christmas party committee (L-R): LCpl Sam Hickson, SSgt Bob Duffield, Sgt Mick Hanna, Sig George Evans and LCpl Granville Smith Kneeling: Sig Shezad Mukadam and Sig Sharon Montgomerie

COAST – TO - COAST WALK

In the last issue of *The WIRE* we reported on the coast-to-coast charity walk undertaken by members of the Squadron from St Bees in Cumberland to Robin Hoods Bay in North Yorkshire, a distance of 200 miles, which they covered in only ten days. As with any sponsored event, it is almost as difficult to collect the sponsor money in as it is to carry out the activity. However, the money has now been safely gathered in and a cheque presented to the charity concerned. The picture shows the PSAO, **Capt Gerry Whelan**, and **SSgt** 'Rooster' **Coburn,** who both took part in the walk, presenting the cheque to **Sister Aloysius** the Principal of Francis House Children's Hospice. Francis House in Didsbury, Manchester is part of the Rainbow Family Trust and cares for children with a short life expectancy. It was opened by Princess Diana ten years ago and takes children from all over the North West of England. The Squadron has had an affiliation with Francis House through a former SQMS, **SSgt Tommy Smith**, whose niece was a patient there.

Sister Aloysius flanked by Captain Gerry Whelan and SSgt Rooster Coburn

PROMOTIONS

The Squadron did very well on the promotion boards held just before Christmas and would like to congratulate the following Squadron members on their success:

Dave Titheridge promoted to Major and appointed OC 80 Squadron.
Maurice Aarons promoted WO2 and appointed SSM 42 Squadron.
Bob Duffield promoted Staff Sergeant.
Duncan Anderson promoted Sergeant.
Harold Griffiths promoted Corporal.
Andy Connell promoted Corporal.
Paul Bennison promoted Corporal.
Dave Curtis promoted Corporal.

AU REVOIR

Finally we say a sad goodbye to **WO2 (SSM) Graham Ward**, our Sqn Sgt Maj, who retired from the TA at Christmas after many years of good service. **Graham** will be remembered as a Squadron stalwart and as a person of great good will whose tour as our SSM raised moral considerably. Although, he could be a tough disciplinarian when necessary, he was a Father figure to many young TA soldiers and was always approachable and patient. **Graham** is a senior manager with British Telecommunications and he will retain close links with the Squadron through his wife, our senior chef, **Sgt Lesley Ward**. Although this is au revoir, it is not farewell, as we will see **Graham** at his official dining out from the Squadron in February.

59 (CITY OF LIVERPOOL) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Chris Heaton**
SSM **WO2 Bob Paterson**

LT PAUL KNIGHT RETURNS FROM KOSOVO

Lt Paul Knight returned recently from a 6-month tour of duty in Kosovo on FTRS. Now back commanding Radio Tp and also as OC Regimental Recruit Training Team. **Lt Knight** found his time in Kosovo enjoyable and a real eye opener.

Lt Paul Knight waiting for take-off (Well that's what he said)

DO NOT ASK FOR THE RETURN OF PHOTOS AS THIS IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE

COMMANDING OFFICER'S COMPETITION

One of the Squadron teams ably led by **2Lt Jo Down** were victorious in the CO's Competition this year. This is the first time the Squadron has won this annual competition. The competition consists of various military stands covering all basic training and some surprises.

The assault course holds no fear for this intrepid team

RECRUITS ON PARADE

Our new recruits are welcomed with open arms
(L-R): Jeanette Hazel, Craig Bennet, Angela-Louise McQueen, Mark Lowe, Karen Shaw and Janette McManus

34 (NORTHERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col I. D. Westerman**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. J. P. Anderson**

The news can finally be heralded, the **WO1 (RSM)** 'Norman' **Yarwood** has finally been dragged 'kicking and screaming' across to 'Civ Div' taking the small art gallery that was his office with him. The Regiment would like to take this opportunity to wish him and his wife all the best for the future. The Adujtant, **Capt** 'Dave' **Wilson** suddenly became efficient and ..... actually here. It was only when he peeked from behind an 'in' tray as high as an elephant's eye that we noticed that we actually had a new Adjutant. Also welcome to the new **RSM, WO1 (RSM)** 'Mark' **Anderson** and, the originally nicknamed, **Capt** 'Scottie' **Scott.** It is hoped that you and your families or partners have a rewarding tour in Brambles Farm.

The recruiting drive in preparation for the TA Open Day has begun in earnest with the CO, RSM and other key Regimental personalities heavily involved. Within the build up process, and as team leader for the Tees Valley County Employers Liaison Team, the CO found himself standing in front of a 50ft advertising truck in Stockton on Tees. The purple truck is being used as part of a national campaign to draw the attention of business people to the need for their support to the Reserve Forces personnel who work for civilian firms and businesses. On its journey around Teeside, the truck called in at NTL's headquarters in Stockton. **LCpl Emma Higgins**, who is employed by NTL as a customer services representative, was in attendance with her boss **Bill Bates**, Area Managing Director of NTL.

Lt Col Westerman - CO 34 Sig Regt with LCpl Emma Higgins and her civilian boss, Bill Bates, Area Managing Director of NTL

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Alan Watts**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Turrington**

SQUADRON ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

Adventurous training in the TA is not always as simple as it sounds – and the year 2000 was no exception for HQ Sqn. A new Sqn Comd, a new SSM and new SQMS – all discovered at around the same time that no one had booked a training area for the annual adventurous training event. After the initial panic, heads were replaced and a serious effort made to ensure that our soldiers did not miss out because of management drift. Eventually, with time getting short, a lifeline was thrown by a Keswick adventure company which, for a reasonable price, would provide a series of arduous and team building events over a weekend. **Sgt** 'Kev' **Black**, one of our PSIs, took the Sqn Comd, **Maj** 'Taff' **Watts**, to Keswick to discuss terms – after which the task of organising the event and accommodation was given to **Sgt Black**. In typically wet Lake District weather, 24 members of the Squadron set off to the campsite. Admin support was provided by a willing and able team led by **SSgt Ian Cairnes** and **Sgt Bob Silk** who cooked, drove and in every sense supported the more junior soldiers so that they could concentrate on their arduous activities. The next day brought a fine and sunny day. Up early for breakfast and then off into Keswick to meet the hosts. The training company provided four extremely well organised activities over the weekend – canoeing, climbing wall, mountain biking and ghyll scrambling. The participants could take part in as many activities as they wished, the only requirement being that they participate in at least three. The social gathering on Saturday night in a nearby pub (well done **Sgt Black**) was enjoyed by all, but with **WO2 (SSM) Turrington** ensuring that everyone got back to bed on time and in one piece. Sunday morning arrived and heads were a little clearer, after a hearty breakfast and a long walk in the countryside and lunch. Tents were cleared and all were returned to the delights of Middlesbrough.

49 (WEST RIDING) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Dave Sixsmith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Holdstock**

SQUADRON CHRISTMAS FUNCTION 15 DECEMBER 2000

The Squadron personnel proceeded to Hull TAC for a well earned Christmas Bash on the Saturday evening, but not before the **WO2 (SSM) Holdstock** had them running around Beverly Westwood with all sorts of funny little objects in order to justify the evenings festivities. **Cpl Andy Oxley** even had to delay the purchase of some bunting so that he could take part in the 'fun'. The Squadron took a step back in time to join medieval jousting knights, court jesters and serving wenches at their annual Christmas bash organised by 745 Tp in Hull. The OC, **Maj David** 'I've got a large one' **Sixsmith** cut a dash as Blackadder, complete with a rather large codpiece. There was even a guest appearance by the Brigade Foreman, **WO2 (FofS) Pete Stowell,** in tights and buckled shoes, leaving him open to Corps bribery. Jesters abounded in all colour, shapes and sizes, with **Sig Ben** 'lightweight' **Evans** and **Sig Ross** 'heavy weight' **Pemble** being at opposite ends of the spectrum. Entertainment for the evening was started with Troop OC, **Capt Ruth Middleton–Powell** giving everyone a rendition of Michael Flatley's River Dance (which was dramatically improved due to alcohol intake). This was quickly followed by **Sgt Alexander**'s rendition of 'Superman' (admittedly not very medieval) and **Sigs Pemble** and **Stead**'s 'Music Man', which was anything but. On the whole the evening was a roaring success, with less complaints from the neighbours than usual!!! – We were obviously slacking in our old age!

Cpl Bam Bam Blakey
A Thorn between two Roses being LCpl Bertuzzi and Cpl Bedford

50 (NORTHUMBRIAN) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Graham Jennings**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Middleton**

A warm welcome goes out to the following new members of the Squadron: **SSgt Gaz Steel**, who joins us as the new SPSI, hopefully here to stay a little longer than the last few! Also a large welcome to **Capt Dave Edwards**, who joins us from 49 Sqn (V), taking over the Second in Command position. We have to say farewell to a number of personalities as well: **SSgt Greg Sharp**, temporarily with us as the SPSI, before moving to Leeds. **SSgt John Howe**, missing the winter months of the Balkans, has left for another FTRS tour, this time to Kosovo – safe tour and see you in July. **SSgt Pat Bell** has at last been prized away from Debdon Gardens and leaves us on promotion to WO2 (RQMS) (V) alongside the Regular **WO2 (RQMS) Richie Bell** and a nice cushy billet in RHQ – suppose 'Ding and Dong' is too obvious! Finally, last but not least, **Cpl Paul Robinson** has left the Squadron, posted to sunny Catterick. Of all the PSIs we have had the pleasure of hosting over the last few years, **Paul** was one of the most popular and will be sorely missed. Congratulations go to, in addition to **WO2 (RQMS) (V) Bell, Sgt Gary Fletcher** on promotion and he now makes that long walk up stairs to the Sergeants' Mess. As mentioned briefly in the last offerings of this publication a more formal congratulation and big slap on the back should go to **Sgt** 'Cliffy' **Readshaw** who was promoted at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall during the Regimental Christmas weekend.

OC 50 Sqn congratulates Sgt Readshaw, who on his promotion was heard to say, They told me it was only mess kit I would need!

In memoriam – readers will be saddened to learn of the death of Ex-**WO2 (YofS) Alan Tibbett** on 19 January 2001. He was a strong supporter of the local Royal Signals Association. **Alan** was a regular attender at mess functions and will be sadly missed by members of both messes.

On a sporting note, **Lt Jez Bailey** continues to represent the Regiment in the 2 Div Orienteering league, ably supported by the 49 Sqn (V) duo of **SSgt (A/FofS) Ian Middlemiss** and **Sgt** 'Ginge' **Davey**. The season is now in full swing, six events having already taken place and the Regimental Team is on course to reclaim the 2 Div TA League Championship. Fellow runners watch this space.

90 (NR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Richard Lenton**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ward**

EXERCISE 'COMPETITIVE CHRISTMAS'
by WO2 (SSM) Ian Ward

Christmas comes but once a year and with it is always the annual Regimental Christmas Weekend. This year the administration and organisation was the responsibility of 90 Sqn. Historically the event is normally centred around a team competition with a mix of military and non military activities. It was decided that this year's competition would be held at Queen Elizabeth's Barracks, Strensall and would be centred around a number of sports events and only one activity of a military nature - the dreaded assault course competition. The Competition began in earnest on Saturday with the preliminary rounds of the football and the final to be played in the afternoon. Each game was highly competitive and there were some memorable performances additionally there were some less memorable ones namely the SSM of 90 Sqn, **WO2 (SSM) Ian Ward** missing two penalties at crucial times in the competition. The football was interspersed with the Rugby 7's and apart from some dodgy refereeing decisions from **SSgt** 'Shaun' **Fleming** (it's a brave man that disallows the RSM's only try) all the games were played in good spirits surprisingly. Many competitors had never played their selected games before and the results remained astonishingly even.

'Hell hath no fury like a Goal Attack scorned'

Running concurrently in the warm gym throughout the day, were basketball, netball, and 'shinty'. These all proved to be fiercely contested and far more contact in the supposedly non-contact sports than was visible on the Rugby or Football pitches. The ladies became quite brutal at times and many male competitors limped off to lunch ruing their earlier 'all girls are softies' attitudes after the mornings battles. The sporting part of the day was concluded by a 5km cross-country run in the afternoon (or Bog Snorkeling as we would like to put it). After **SSgt** 'Gary' **Jowers** had attempted to drown the Regiment on his specially selected cross-country course the teams finished with just one point separating 49 and 90 Sqns at the top of the Leader board and 50 and HQ Sqn following just behind.

After the cross-country, it was a quick shower and into uniform for the Regimental Christmas Carol service held in the gym. **Maj (QM)** 'Les' **Wood,** the Training Major, **Maj** 'George' **Whyman** and The RSM conspired to drown the rest of the regiment out with their close harmony descants and accapello humming but were foiled by some loud flatness emanating from the direction from **WO2 (RQMS)** 'Richie' **Bell**. The remainder of the evening's festivities included the Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner (the normal tradition for this event is for everyone to be in fancy dress). This was served by the Officers and SNCOs and lead into the All Ranks Christmas Social where everyone could reminisce about the day's activities, the tackles, the goals and the near misses over a glass of beer or two (or maybe a few more in some cases).

Sunday morning came round all too quickly judging by the number of people who were looking the worse for wear. It had been decided to allow sufficient time for the competitors to recover from the efforts of the day before but there was inter mess football and netball events for those with a stronger constitution. This was followed by an extremely popular tug of war competition with both male and female teams taking part. It was evident from the start that the whole competition could be won or lost on this one event. After much shouting and screaming from participants and the crowd alike the event was won by 90 Sqn leading into the final competition with 49 and 90 Sqn on equal points. The culmination of the whole weekend was the assault course competition with a difference! Eight team members from each Squadron from the OC through to Signaller (typically one from each respective rank). 'All or nothing' was the key phrase for this event and tactics were going to prove decisive not to mention fitness and stamina. This event once again went to 90 Sqn thus leaving them the overall competition winners. Congratulations all round, especially 90 Sqn (what would we have done without the girls!) and commiseration to the others – better luck next year.

KEEP IN TOUCH – PUBLISH IT IN *THE WIRE*

35 (SOUTH MIDLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

XXXV

CO **Lt Col S. J. Potter, TD**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. T. Cauldwell**

BACK ON TRACK

Following what can only be described as an enjoyable, relaxing and rejuvenating block leave it felt good to return to the hustle and bustle of daily life in a busy TA Regiment. Life felt good as I was also enjoying the benefits of a generous tax rebate and my recent travel claim was higher than expected so I bought myself a late but expensive Christmas present. I personally felt invigorated because there was a lot to do and it was almost gratifying to find that many areas of administration and operation within the TA Centre required my personal attention. Feeling surprisingly energetic, I set about the somewhat daunting task of reviewing and refining critical management procedures and was determined to seek improvements at any cost – this was my new year resolution.

Fortunately the remainder of the permanent staff could understand my concerns, after all our good reputation was at stake as sound administration provides us with the foundation for operational efficiency and subsequently encourages retention, which not surprisingly is one of the CO's key objectives for the new training year. With that thought firmly implanted in the grey matter I turned to the paperwork that had accumulated during our long break and started a methodical examination of the 'First Sight File'. This was essential but not riveting viewing and I resigned myself to the fact the my major review had to be placed on temporary hold until I surveyed the remains of what seemed like a tropical rain forest. I then stumbled across something that haunts me on a regular basis; the dreaded acidic missive from the Adjt remonstrating that once again some vital deadlines had failed to be met - he was clearly on the warpath! I slumped in my chair feeling my initial enthusiasm drain as I wrestled with my memory banks trying to remember what I had forgotten to do because (like the Government) I often confuse deadlines with guidelines. The pre-Christmas close down was something of a blur and the only deadlines that sprung to mind were those experienced by Railtrack and the silence I usually experience at the end of a telephone!

To cap it all while I was confronting this problem I received a call from the FSA telling me he overpaid me and wanted some cash back – now I'm just waiting for a call from the Inland Revenue to really make my day. By now I was consumed with guilt and remorse and was beginning to feel a little insecure. Even though my thought process had been derailed I made a mental note that part of my review was to ensure that in future we met all deadlines, guidelines and to toe the party line and to reassure RHQ that their concerns were being taken seriously. Comforted by this thought I continued toiling patiently through the mail folder and came across a very interesting directive from HQ LAND explaining how to recognise the symptoms of dyslexia. As I read on I was astounded by the revelation that one of the clearest indications of dyslexia was a failure to meet deadlines – the burden of guilt was lifted, we are all simply suffering from corporate deadline blindness! Now that I am back on track I've just got to convince the Adjt!!

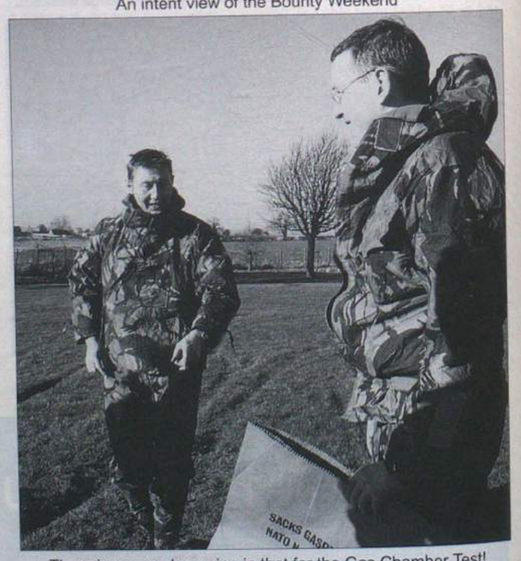
REGIMENTAL ROUND-UP

Post Christmas is traditionally a quiet time throughout the Regiment which is my explanation for the lack of submissions to *The WIRE* by other Squadrons, but as I surveyed the training calendar I noted that a number of interesting activities have taken place that cannot go unreported.

January and February did see a welcome return to basics as far as maintenance (yes it's back with a vengeance) with all Squadrons determined to put right the second line inspection observations. Running in parallel with this a combined team from the MT and LAD was equally determined to improve both vehicle maintenance and documentation throughout the Regiment under the guise of Ex Silver Spanner. This exercise was the brainchild of the MTWO, **WO1 Mick Doherty** and the LAD SPSI, **SSgt Geordie Ord,** and by all accounts has proved to be hugely successful not least for **Cfn Paul Kane** who, after making a welcome return to the TA after a two year absence, has finally got paid and will soon have his former rank and trade restored. Many observations have been raised that have resulted in major improvements of both the operational availability of vehicles and the back up documentation procedures consequently we can now all look forward with some confidence to a series of successful PRE's . A simple case of we are all right now and so are the Jacks. Elsewhere many Squadrons were addressing outstanding ITD issues to meet the first Bounty run in April.

An intent view of the Bounty Weekend

The Butt Party



There is no way I m going in that for the Gas Chamber Test!

No doubt motivated by the reported significant increase in bounty payments a surge of Bounty training has taken place resulting in Certificates of Efficiency appearing in RHQ before the end of January for early publication, which is something of a record. It is also encouraging to note the record passes in recognition training. Ex Last Chance but one was the first of these organised training sessions that took place during the weekend 13/14 January at Bramcote courtesy of 30 Sig Regt. This was a joint HQ Sqn/LAD/89 Sqn training exercise expertly organised by **Sgt (DB) de Burgh** who took the opportunity to remove himself from the tidiest office competition with his nearest competitor **SSgt Dave Arnot** to return to his natural home on the range. He even managed to coerce the catering staff at Bramcote to provide all meals over the weekend including two early breakfasts. This clearly contributed to the success of the weekend because all attendees were well fed, armed and motivated but not I hasten to add extremely dangerous. Those who attended, who were visibly relieved at completing their remaining ITD's, took great satisfaction and comfort in the fact that their training bounty was now secure except for one or two re-runs on the CFT. **Cpl Sue Joyce** in particular was disappointed by her performance but her stoic acceptance of this and determination to complete the run and to re-attempt the CFT was admirable and without doubt will ensure she receives her bounty on time. By contrast **Cpl Angus Hamilton** from the LAD was delighted as this weekend marked his last training weekend with the TA before he joins the commissioned ranks of the RAF. He was particularly pleased that he now qualifies for his final bounty although unknown to him he had already qualified through his attendance on Ex Western Approaches (sorry **Angus**). Next we saw a repeat of the hugely successful CO's management weekend, Ex Silver Outlook at Leek Training Camp during the weekend 26-28 January. Once again the CO reinforced and reasserted his key objectives that embraced Recruiting, Retention, Communication, Training and Opportunity and left no one in doubt as to their significance in ensuring the efficient and quality management of both manpower and resources and how that was to be achieved. The weekend as in the previous year involved interesting syndicate work that produced imaginative, stimulating and thought provoking presentations. Some of which will no doubt bear some influence on the imminent Training Directives. Saturday night saw the usual social get together of the Regimental Officers and SNCO's where a frank exchange of views of who could drink the most and sing the most insulting song also took place throughout what was a very pleasant evening.

The highlight had to be the RSM's humorous but thoughtful farewell speech in which he tried to enlist the CO into the Regular Army. Happily he soberly declined the offer. Sunday morning saw the final syndicate presentations that were remarkably succinct despite the early hours sing a long. This was followed by a combined Regimental Officer's and Senior NCO's photograph, copies of which I am assured are in the post. Following this we packed up and dispersed to our home TAC's armed with several ideas and challenges that could now be put to good practice and confronted with confidence. I almost forgot to mention that two budding PR officers in the shapes of **Capt David Brough** and **Dave Tarrant** by a happy coincidence managed to secure themselves an invitation to Central TV on Saturday 26 January. They were treated to a grand tour of the TV studios, including everything that happened behind the scenes that proved most enlightening. This visit was organised by the West Midland RF&CA and has managed to provide the Regiment with some useful contacts (including the Editor of Central News – the Holy Grail) that could help our recruiting efforts in the future. **Dave Tarrant's** claim to fame is that he also managed to sit behind the illustrious News Desk but thankfully was removed before the live broadcast – anyway it would have taken them days to put the makeup on!

Capt Dave Tarrant and his claim to fame!

ON THE MOVE

Once again the Regiment has seen one or two personality changes recently and we have just said farewell to **WO1 (RSM)** 'Geordie' **Marshall** who leaves the Regiment on posting to Sierra Leone. We have also extended a very special welcome to his replacement **WO1 (RSM) Yogi Cauldwell** and family and wish them a happy, fruitful and rewarding tour with the Regiment. For his last six months service we have also welcomed **Sgt Gary Smith** to Mike Tp. Meanwhile in Rugby, 89 Sqn have extended a traditional TA welcome to **Capt Tom Jeffries** who joins the TA fresh from the Regular Army and will fill a long vacated Troop Comd appointment. Elsewhere we bade a particularly sad farewell to two PSAO stalwarts. **Capt Dennis Hawksford** leaves 95 Sqn on normal retirement to his Farm near Shrewsbury and we have welcomed his replacement **Capt Alex Rodgers. Capt George Cairns** leaves 48 Sqn on early retirement. Their contribution over the years to the life and soul of the Regiment and their respective squadrons was significant and we wish them both a pleasant, peaceful but active retirement. Shortly we also say farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Pete Stowell** who leaves the Regiment on posting and promotion to 15 Sig Regt in March. We would like to take this opportunity of extending the congratulations of all members of the Regiment on his recent selection for his well deserved promotion to WO1.

Handover/Takeover of RSM

CONGRATULATIONS

A very special congratulation is also extended to **Mr John Barker** a former member 48 Sig Sqn who has also served jointly as their caretaker for 27 years. In recognition of this remarkable, dedicated and devoted service he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal. The CO, **Lt Col Stephen Potter**, presented the award to **John** at a special ceremony held at Sparkbrook TA Centre on Tuesday 16 January.

VISIT OF COMMAND 143 BRIGADE

On Tuesday 13 February, 89 Sig Sqn welcomed the Commander 143 Bde **Brig Andrew Meek** on a formal visit to the Squadron. The Commander was met by the OC, **Maj Steve Pell,** and was then given a full Squadron Brief. Following the formal briefings the Commander was given a guided tour of the Squadron and viewed a variety of training that was taking place. Here he met many members of the Squadron and shared one or two humorous exchanges particularly with our resident comedian **SSgt Charlie Walker** who, keen to show the Brigadier how successful he was at boiling rice, put his foot in it instead! This successful visit ended with the Comd being entertained by all ranks in the Squadron Club

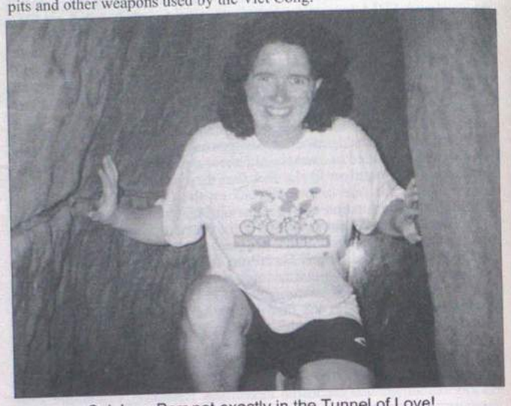
Sgt Mick Bell tryin to divert the Comd from enjoying his food!

The Commander with the OC 89 Squadron

NSPCC CYCLE RIDE

The Regiment continues its fund raising efforts in a variety of guises and it was pleasing to receive the following report from 58 Sqn, which highlights **Cpl Jean Parr's** magnificent efforts in raising £800 for the NSPCC. **Cpl Jean Parr** set off for Thailand in November last year to join in a cycle ride from Bangkok to Saigon. The trip was over 450 miles and the route took all fundraisers through Cambodia to Vietnam with road conditions that varied from good tarmac roads to dusty, bumpy dirt tracks. The local people were all very friendly, from the children who would stand at the side of the road to wave and say hello, to those who would ride alongside the group on mopeds to talk to you and practise their English.

Along the way the scenery was wonderful and we managed a number of excursions to local places of interest including the Twelfth Century Temples at Angkar. Here we were treated to monks playing music and elephant rides around the temple. The arrival at Phnom Penh was a little scary, as there were thousands of people in the city for the water festival. While we were here we took the opportunity of visiting the Toul Sleng museum which was a former school turned into a Prison and torture camp by the notorious Khmer Rouge. In Vietnam there was a trip down into the Cu Chi tunnel complex to crawl under ground to view the bamboo stake pits and other weapons used by the Viet Cong.



Cpl Jean Parr not exactly in the Tunnel of Love!

After this gruelling experience seeing the sites of Saigon and the Vietnamese coast was a fun and relaxing interlude. The highlight of the trip however, was the visit to the two children's charity projects that our cycle group was also supporting. The first was Krousar Thmey (New Family) a charity that helps to educate and support orphan and street children and here we were treated to the enjoyable spectacle of children performing in a dance and music show in national costume.

The second charity was at the actual finish of the cycle ride at a School for the Deaf built by the Saigon Children's Charity. Here the children turned out in force to cheer the cycle group across the finish line.

Special thanks must go to my many friends at 58 Sqn for their generous sponsorship and to the companies who have also given generously including Blue Circle, Cottage Delights, Wilkinson Stores, Hughes Concrete, Kerrygold and Dimensions Hair Salon.

36th (EASTERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col W. D. L. Brown TD**
RSM **WO1 D. T. Eaglesham**

LONG SERVICE & GOOD CONDUCT PRESENTATION

The British Army is one of the few institutions that reward undetected crime, and three soldiers from the Regiment were duly awarded their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals on Friday 27 October. At a gathering held in Headquarters Squadron Sergeants' Mess attended by the majority of the Permanent Staff within the Regiment, **WO2 (FofS) Phil Holland, SSgt Gaz Sullivan** and **Sgt Ian Chappell** proudly received their medals from **Brig D. R. Wilson**, Commander 49 (E) Bde.

The proud recipients - The ones that got away with it!'
Standing (L-R): Sgt Ian Chappell, WO2 (FofS) Phil Holland, SSgt Gaz Sullivan
Sitting (L-R): Brig D. R. Wilson, Mrs Nicola Holland, Lt Col W Brown TD

With the memories of a very successful Annual Camp still lingering at the back of the mind, the Regiment knuckled down to the start of the normal training cycle leading into Christmas. Ex Pluto's Progress in October gave a much-needed opportunity for the Squadrons to deploy into the field and use the trade skills of their soldiers in a practical environment. The weekend also marked the end of an era, as **Brig J. R. B. Cook** visited the Regiment for the last time in his capacity as Commander 11 Sig Bde. He indulged himself in his favourite activity of talking to and meeting with the soldiers. In a short ceremony at the end of his visit the CO presented him with a Regimental plaque. The Regimental trade and management training weekends have now moved from Colchester TA Centre to a more centralised location at West Tofts Camp in STANTA. The success of this venture will be confirmed, or otherwise, at the end of the training cycle in April but suffice it to say that Regimental integration has improved tenfold over the last two months, particularly with regard to social interaction!

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj P. J. Minshall**
SSM **WO2 A. Wells**

REMEMBRANCE PARADE - *by Sgt Tim Gamble*

It was Sunday 12 November 2000 and 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V) formed up at the TAC in Ilford to be inspected prior to the annual remembrance parade at the Redbridge memorial. The inspection was carried out by SSM 'I did not know about it' Wells, and the troops all proved to be a credit to their relevant Corps.

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

Some of the Squadrons youngest soldiers (and Mr Butler!) who were on the Remembrance Day parade
(L-R): Sig Mann, OCdt Powell, LCpl McIntosh, Sig Painter, 2Lt Manickavasagan, WO2 Butler, Sig Meredew, LCpl Rodwell, Sig Collumbine, Sig Sangar

After the Regiment had formed up in Redbridge they were joined by various other services, clubs and many members of the public. The Regiment provided the memorial guard of honour, which consisted of four of HQ Sqn's newest recruits who were faultless through out.

The CO, Lt Col W. O. L. Brown TD, salutes after laying the Regimental wreath at Redbridge War Memorial

The afternoon's activities were rounded off nicely when the Honorary Colonel, Col Alan Hall TD DL, presented the CO with a bronze statue as a token of thanks for time spent with the Regiment.

The Honourary Colonel, Col Alan Hall TD DL, presents the Airborne Signaller to the Commanding Officer

Headquarters Squadron faces the challenges of the new year in good heart, and with confidence. The winter training season has been extremely busy for the Regiment and the Squadron with exercises, centralised training weekends and the inevitable Squadron training. Firstly, arrivals and departures: TA first - we would like to welcome into the R SIGNALS fold **OCdt Emma Powell** from MUOTC. **Emma** is currently on a gap year working for the Metropolitan Police as a Communications Officer, and she has got firm plans for the future involving RCB and a Regular R SIGNALS Commission. Another new arrival is **Sig Orlando Baird**. **Orlando** (another student) hails from Tobago, and has adapted wonderfully well to Recruit training and the cold winter in Ilford. **Pte Katy Crockford** transferred in from R SIGNALS and 54 Sig Sqn (V) - welcome to the Catering Department. **Cfn Ian Heseltine** also reneged on his R SIGNALS badge and transferred into the LAD as a Veh Mech. Departures among the TA include **LCpl Gilly Baynes** (AGC) from the LAD, who has decided to retire after 16 years continuous service initially with R SIGNALS, then RAMC and latterly AGC with a variety of units. We wish her well. **Cpl Richard Fisher** REME took the same tablet and retired to spend more time with his wife and young family after both Regular and TA service over some nine years - his contribution will be missed. **Sig Denise Owen** got a job, unfortunately this reduced the time available for TA and she left after two years service.

In terms of the Permanent Staff, **Cpl Dana Grills** was dined out from his 12 month FTRS tour, to be welcomed back to the TA as **Cpl Grills** (V) from the Tech Workshop. **SSgt Tony** 'Tiffy' **Dale** REME has been PSI of the LAD for the last 20 months - during his tenure, the LAD has gone from strength to strength, ably assisted by **Tony's** sense of humour, high standards and ability to motivate people. He is moving on to the Airborne workshop at Colchester on promotion to WO2 - this next appointment is airborne, and **Tony** is still very much a penguin – however, he is working hard on his personal motivation and thickness - oops!! – fitness, to prepare for the likely challenge of P Coy.

New arrivals include **LCpl Zoe Evans** (for a few weeks before discharge from the Regular Army), **SSgt Brett Richardson** REME as PSI LAD, **Sgt Andy Crabtree** filling a long vacant Technicians post in the Tech Wksp and **Sgt** 'Karen' **Ellams** to Regt Trg Wing. Welcome to the 'funny farm', and enjoy! Someone who should not be forgotton is the Squadron's erstwhile PSI, **Sgt Tim** 'What am I doing here?' **Gamble**. **Tim** has decided that the grass is greener on the outside and has signed the ticket to freedom - he moves to RHQ to while his time away until discharge. He is replaced by **Sgt John** 'Have you got a light boy?' **Kelly**, who has already adopted the trappings of a PSI. He drinks copious amounts of coffee, goes for a run at the drop of a hat, and is always off doing recce's and such like when the stores truck arrives full of boxes - he will fit in well. We look forward to the next Squadron training weekend - driver training at Longmoor, and the first Regimental Exercise of the year, Ex Milky Way in February - the wheel turns around and around

Achievements in this period include the award of the Volunteer Reserve Forces Medal to **Cpl Alan Roberts** AGC for ten years meritorious and efficient service - this is the first award of this new medal to a member of HQ Squadron. The medal was presented by **Col Alan Hall TD DL**, The Deputy Lord Lieutenant for the Borough of Redbridge (and the late Regimental Honorary Colonel) on Thursday 16 November 2000 at Ilford. The picture shows **Cpl Roberts** accepting the congratulations of **Col Hall** post presentation.

Sig Imran Choudhry, after a long hard slog, finally passed all of the Pre-Sandhurst hurdles and was appointed as an Officer Cadet on 15 November - he is due to attend RMAS in late January/February 2001 for which the Squadron wishes him the best of luck.

The Squadron held its Annual Christmas Training Event at Wretham Camp on the weekend of 9-10 December. We deployed by coach to a secret location between Cambridge and Norwich to take advantage of a unique training opportunity to race quad bikes, and this proved to be an excellent event, bringing out the meanness and competitiveness spirit of some normally placid individuals in the Squadron and the LAD. There was a definite edge between **AQMS Tony Johnson** and his spanner boys, and OC 817 Tp - **2Lt Ramesh** 'Speedy' **Manickavasagan** (known as RAM for reasons unknown to the Squadron). Unfortunately for RAM the LAD team proved that bit better at driving (or cheating) and emerged as winners of the Competition. That evening, the Squadron had the traditional Soldiers Christmas Dinner with the OC leading the team of overpaid waiters (Squadron heirarchy) to serve - as usual they met with the normal abuse, before sitting to enjoy their own meal. Presentations were made to **Cfn Steve Nichols** of the LAD as the best Recruit of the year and to **Sig** 'Reggie' **Collumbine** as the Best Soldier, both selected from a cast of thousands (or at least 35) for this prestigious award. The

dinner was followed by the Christmas disco, (**Pte Caroline Evan's** stereo and handbag) and everybody partied until the early hours, with **Pte Evans** impressing everyone with her tribute to the Moulin Rouge. On Sunday morning, after breakfast and a move back to Ilford, a surprise was sprung on the war weary Sqn - Ex FALLBACK was called! This was slightly hampered by the Christening of the OC's Grandaughter – yes, **Maj Pete Minshall** is that old. **2Lt RAM Manickavasagan**, ably assisted by **WO2 (SSM) Tony Wells**, successfully raised the awareness of the Squadron on security matters in general. It must have been riveting as, despite tiredness and the morning after blues, not one individual fell asleep!

STOP PRESS:

The Squadron conducted its inaugural training weekend for 2001 at Longmoor Driver Training Area in Hampshire over the weekend 13-14 January 2001. The training was shared with 45 Sig Sqn (V) from Colchester and involved the deployment of various vehicle types and personnel in a controlled move from TA Centres to Longmoor. This was followed by 36 hours of driver training and familiarisation on all vehicle types for those individuals who normally lead a more sheltered life. Participation was good, with some 80 all ranks attending. The programme was orchestrated by **WO2 (MTWO) Steve** 'Master Driver' **Kentish**, ably directed (or hindered) by his R Sigs Supremo, **Maj Peter Minshall**. A steadying hand to the tiller was applied by the shiny new (well, not so new!) **PSI Sgt John** 'I'm a liney - what am I doing here?' **Kelly** - a very enjoyable and challenging programme was devised that included advanced cross country driving (down 40' inclines in the dark - **LCpl McIntosh**), and which utilised all the necessary drills for on road and tactical movement.

EXERCISE SOLENT TIGER - *by W/OCDT Powell*

What luck, I had only been in 36 Sig Regt, for a week and I was given the opportunity to go sailing on the Solent for a weekend; how could I refuse! Then I remembered that I had never really had sea legs and my doubts began to set in. Too late, next thing I knew twelve of us set off from Ilford TAC, destination Gosport. After settling into our homes for the weekend, three 30 foot yachts, it was straight down to the pub for a few drinks. For the complete novices among us (most of us), Saturday morning was the time to learn the ropes! After a few lessons on safety issues and the basics of sailing, it was off into the open sea. Well, not quite it was only the Solent. The remainder of Saturday was spent perfecting our newly learnt skills in preparation for the race we were going to have on Sunday. My downfall was knots - figure of eight, half shank, slip, reef; how many can there be? I found sailing quite enjoyable, in one day we had learnt how to sail and with the help of our trusty captains all three boats made it to Cowes before nightfall. Today was the day that we had to prove ourselves in the race from Cowes back to Gosport, with no help except the wind and of course our skills! The race turned out to be a lot of fun, not to mention the underhand tactics to steal wind from other boats. I was extremely proud to be a member of the winning crew! After a wash down of the boats and final pictures for memories of a great weekend, it was home to a bed that didn't move!

Sig Mannion looks on with great interest as W/OCDT Powell engages her spoon in converstation

The crew of the Zidona, looking good!
(L-R): Sig Mannion, W/OCDT Powell, Lt Manickavasagan, Skipper, WO2 (FofS) Holland

The Village People Tribute Band, on board the Dosinia, about to treat the good people of Gosport with their version of In the Navy
(L-R): Sig Hill, WO2 (AQMS) Johnson, Skipper, WO2 Kentish, Sgt McDonald

44 (CINQUE PORTS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)
Sqn Comd **Maj M. Baker**
SSM **WO2 N. Fawsitt**

THE SQUADRON – A POTTED HISTORY

The title Cinque Ports involves images of the South Coast of England. However, due to a number of historical factors, mainly Options for Change, the Cinque Ports have moved to Essex! Therefore, the title has been bestowed on 44 Sig Sqn (V) based in Southend-on-Sea, and Grays. The direct ancestor of the Squadron was North's Cinque Ports Regiment raised by the then Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Lord North, in 1776. Expanded in 1792, the Regiment consisted of both Infantry and Cavalry and was based in the historic Cinque Ports of Sussex and Kent. Ever since then, the established location and role of the Cinque Ports have changed according to the differing threats to the nation's security. Over the years the Regiment became Volunteer Artillery and served in the Great War and then re-rolled as Anti Aircraft and was mobilised in World War II. It was in 1947 that the Regiment became Royal Signals with drill halls in Southeast England and was called 44 (Home Counties) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports). The role of the Regiment was to support local authorities and the civil defence. In 1967 there was a further restructuring and 44 (Cinque Ports) Signal Squadron was formed from the old Regiment. The only drill hall was in Gillingham and the unit, together with Squadrons from Colchester and Cambridge made up 36 Signal Regiment with it's Headquarters in Wanstead, East London. The Regiment provided reserve communications for the BAOR and frequently went to Germany for Annual Camp. The break up of the Soviet Union resulted in the latest re-organisation of the TA, and though the Regiment escaped lightly, 44 Squadron had to move into Essex from Kent. This move started in 1992 and was completed in 1994 when the last troop left Gillingham. The new Headquarters is in Grays and we have an out troop in Southend. The move entailed absorbing members of the former units in Grays, Leigh-on-Sea and Prittlewell, which were 215 Squadron RCT, a troop of 70 Squadron, 71 Signal Regiment. The role of the unit also changed. We now support the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps based in Germany. This means that we will continue to train in mainland Europe and retain our Euromux and Triffid trunk communications equipment.

CURRENT NEWS

December saw the end of a rather busy year for the Squadron. There was only one weekend exercise in December, which was the OC's disposal weekend. This has traditionally been an inter -Troop competition

with a Christmas dinner organised by one of the Troops. This year the OC had a brainwave and decided to make it an inter-trade competition with teams drawn from both Troops. This was designed to break down rivalry and encourage teamwork at all levels. It wasn't until the team lists were drawn up on Saturday morning that **Capt Rowson** pointed out that by having trade teams it would lead to same gender teams! All the females were in one team and the males made up the other teams. The OC stuck to his guns, muttering 'brains beat brawn anyday', more on the results later. The competition was based on junior leadership involving command tasks, weapon handling relay races, HF using PRC 320 and a communication exercise that required the teams to replicate objects from one room into another. A clay pigeon shoot on Foulness Island provided the fun element, with the Regimental Ops Officer supplying the ammunition. The day ended with everyone happy and all to play for on the next stage of the competition, the sports day on Sunday. First the teams had to survive the Christmas dinner. Southend Troop provided the catering support, ably led by **Cpl Williams with Cpl Monk** and **Sig Robinson** assisting. Our RLC chef, **Cpl Ridgewell**, oversaw the whole operation. Traditional Christmas fare was on offer - turkey with all the trimmings ie: alcohol. After the dinner, the conversation between the OC and the Chefs went something like this:

OC: 'The tomato soup was a bit, erm, tasty'.
Chefs: 'That was the bottle of sherry to add flavour'.
OC: 'The gravy was a bit rich'.
Chefs: 'That was the bottle of sherry to add flavour'.
OC: 'The custard had a strong taste'.
Chefs: 'That was the bottle of port'.
OC: 'The Christmas Pud was extremely rich'.
Chefs: 'That was the bottle of brandy'.

Just as well no one was driving! The Squadron was then unleashed on the unsuspecting Southend night-spots. All were present and correct on parade the next morning, one or two nursing hangovers and wishing they hadn't visited the Kebab shop. Sunday consisted of basketball and handball, with the results going towards the competition. The Line team, all men, won the whole weekend and the gallant losers were the Area Sys Ops, yes, you guessed it, the females! The OC had to admit that perhaps he might need to rethink the teams for next year! Whilst some were enjoying themselves, **LCpl's Allen** and **Price** were at Blandford on the TA Corporals course. They thoroughly enjoyed it and regaled everyone with their tales of derring do in the bar on their return. Congratulations go to **LCpl Price** on gaining Top Student.

45 (ESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)
COLCHESTER AND WARLEY TA CENTRES
Sqn Comd **Maj Bill Shirley**
SSM **WO2 SSM Lou Walker**

The end of last year was an extremely busy period for the Squadron. Ex Santa's Revenge was without doubt a great success with nearly 50 members of the Squadron turning in for what turned out to be a superb weekend. About the only person who didn't attend the weekend was the Sqn SPSI, **SSgt Gerry McGachy,** who used the excuse that his wife was about to have their second child and he didn't want to chance being that far away from home. As it turned out he made a wise decision as **Sharon** gave birth to a little girl, **Tara Catherine** who weighed in at 8lbs 2ozs. in the early hours of Saturday morning. Rumours that she had the baby at home because **Gerry** was too tight to pay for a taxi to the hospital are unsubstantiated. The beginning of 2001 has shown no let up in the number of commitments for the Squadron with the TTMs now well and truly jogging along and a number of exercises looming on the horizon. However, with attendance at weekends improving this is nothing we can't take in our stride.

EXERCISE SANTA'S REVENGE
45 SQUADRON CHRISTMAS WEEKEND 8 – 10 DECEMBER 2000
by 2Lt SA James

'Where are all your troops'? Inquired the SAT Custodian at Hythe Ranges.

'Over there in the Troop shelter' replied the PSI.

'That's not a bloody troop shelter, it's a condemned building, get them out before it comes down on their heads'! So began Exercise Santa's Revenge. With a strong head wind and bitterly cold weather 45 (E) Sig Sqn took on the Hythe Ranges. The main priority was to ensure that all those soldiers attending attempted to group and zero their weapon so they could fire the APWT. Interestingly enough, the only soldier with a SUSAT that day, managed to get the lowest score, something to do with the excitement of firing live rounds I expect! Whilst one team was attempting the APWT, the other was in the Small Arms Trainer trying out the Heckler Koch MP5's and Browning Pistols. At about 11 o'clock the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Brown** and his driver **WO1 (RSM) Eaglesham** turned up to observe the proceedings. After having a go on the SAT where the RSM was soundly thrashed by **Cpl Kev Elliott,** the CO and RSM shot off to visit one of the other Squadrons and we got down to the serious business of eating! Credit where it's due, the chefs had even remembered the vegetarians this time. For the afternoon's activities we were once again broken down into two groups and after a centralised briefing by a Regular Para WO2 who was running the range we disappeared to our relevant activities. The first range involved a Northern Ireland security briefing before we converted our weapons to .22 and moved to the top floor of a house supervised by the T.A Range Team consisting of **WO2s Mark McKenzie Bell**, and **Kev Groves**, and **SSgt Stu Bancroft**. After loading and making ready in the attic we made our way out onto a rooftop balcony and were confronted with a three-street mock up of a town in Ireland. Targets were hanging on rails and moved around in and out of the houses. Occasionally a terrorist would pop their head out of a window or dash across the street and it was down to the fire team concerned to communicate with each other in order to acquire and destroy the target. I know that everyone had a good time and the training definitely improved communication skills, target indications and application of the marksmanship principles, although I am certain in my own mind that a ratio of 9:5 civilians to terrorists would be unpopular in the eyes of the Irish. Meanwhile the other groups were taking part in a fire control order and discipline range just up the road. After an initial briefing and loading up with 5.56 tracer, teams of four moved into a 'sanger' and, under direction of the fire team commander, engaged moving enemy targets up to 400m away from the location.

The range package as a whole provided some excellent shooting and made a great start to the weekend. Many thanks to the PSI **Sgt Tosh Hodgskins** and all the range teams down at Hythe. After heading back to camp and cleaning weapons we moved onto Phase 2 of the exercise - the 45 Sqn Christmas Function. This time it was the NCO's turn to be waited on hand and foot. The Seniors and Officers became waiters and waitresses and served a fantastic meal (cooked by **LCpl Ian Molineaux**) to all the peasants. The top table headed by **Cpl Terry Stalley**, then toasted the Seniors and Officers and continued drinking. Once the Christmas Draw had taken place the Junior Ranks disappeared to the brand new XL complex on camp where there was a disco laid on while the Seniors and Officers cleaned away the remains of what looked like a chimps tea party!

On the Sunday morning, despite freezing conditions and driving rain we kicked off the Officers and Seniors Vs OR's football match. Conditions were horrific underfoot and a desperate lack of football boots (and complete lack of talent) meant that the OR's quickly took the lead. After a rousing team talk by **WO2 SSM Lou Walker** the Officers and Seniors equalised before a lucky goal from one of the JNCO's took the match. Special mention must go to the completely impartial referee **SSgt Ron Russell** and **LCpl Martin Woollard** who couldn't kick a football if it was tied to his foot! Final Score Officers and Seniors 1 OR's 2. Till next year!

EXERCISE DRIVING SNOW
CROSS COUNTRY DRIVING EXERCISE 13 – 14 JANUARY 2001
by L/Cpl Adam Witcomb

On Saturday 13 January, 25 members of 45 (E) Sig Sqn (V) deployed from their respective T.A.C's to RV with elements of HQ Sqn at Longmoor Driver Training Area for a Cross Country Driving Exercise. Phase 1 practiced the Squadron's convoy drills, After an initial briefing and reminder about convoy drills, distances, speeds etc we were broken down into packets and began the move down to Longmoor Driver Training Area. During the move down, less experienced drivers were given the opportunity to be assessed by their more experienced co-drivers. On arrival at Longmoor we began Phase 2 of the exercise. The use of the vehicles in a way few of us had previously experienced! On the 'nursery slopes' the serious business began with quite a few vehicles getting bogged down in the mud pools. First person to get stuck was **SSgt Mick Hampton** in a Landrover (he achieved the same feat a little later in a Bedford this time!). **SSgt Hampton** had set the example that was quickly followed by **LCpls Ian Strain** and **John Hazleton**. **Cpl Lee Farrow** managed to get a Landrover full of recruits bogged in in exactly the same place and had to be recovered by **Sgt Andy Gladman** and **LCpl Adam Witcomb** in the winch wagon. In the evening we took part in a night navigation exercise. Using only convoy lights we set off in a giant 'conga' following the MTWO **WO2 Steve Kentish** who suddenly went 'off road' and was only stopped from falling down an embankment by a small sapling!

Sgt John Mitchell and Cpl Kev Elliot dispensing invaluable advice concerning cross country parking

Sunday consisted of the REME FRT giving us a lesson on self-recovery and the best bit of the weekend, the 'knife edges' in the Landrovers and 4 tonners - for attempting the baby 'knife edge', and then bottling out, the REME were the weakest link. Goodbye!

54 SIGNAL SQUADRON
THE SOMME BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2000

by Sig M. Brocklebank (757 Troop)

Members of 54 Sqn had a fascinating time on a visit to the First World War battlefields of Northern France. The weekend acted as an insight into the terror of this war and we saw evidence of the thousands of soldiers who lost their lives defending this area. We visited many cemeteries and monuments on our two-day trip. We saw some very large cemeteries whilst driving around the outskirts of towns and around the battlefields, and the experience left me feeling cold and solemn. The headstones showed the number of soldiers who lost their lives during this conflict, and some of the soldiers buried in these graves are only identified by an emblem of the Regiment in which they served. I thought how gruesome were the battles of this war that soldiers should be buried with their identities unknown. Some of the graves gave the ages of the fallen soldiers; most of them were only between eighteen and twenty-two, and I realised that they were not as old as the majority of our party. I am only twenty-one, and I wondered if I could have gone out to fight in a war like this. Eighty or so years after the end of the war, the landscape is still scarred with the evidence of the war, and the recently ploughed fields are covered with areas of whiter earth where the prolonged shelling has brought the chalk to the surface.

38 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNALS REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
CO **Lt Col Nigel Harrison MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Colin Milne**

87 (CITY OF NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj David Tomlinson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Vicky Hardy**

The Regiment held the annual Regimental SAAM at Strensall during October, much to the surprise of the 'SAS' Squadrons the crowd in green tights swept the board! The Team's hard work in preparing for the Regimental SAAM paid dividends, when they won the Whitehead Trophy, the Coronation Cup, the Best Pistol Shot and Champion Squadron. The Team, consisting of **WO2 (SSM) Vickie Hardy, Sgt Stu Nesbitt, Cpl** 'I love the CO' **Heather Blair, Cpl Paton, Cpl Keay** and **Sig Burton** were assisted by the expertise of our **ex-Borg'** members, **SSgt Jim McGuinness, SSgt 'Darth Vader' Dye and Sgt** 'Happy' **Hallam.** These three are all excellent shots who joined the Squadron from 3 WFR. Well done everyone! We believe the OC is buying the drinks!

87 Sig Sqn Winning Team Regt SAAM

The Regimental SAAM Support Act always important on a range weekend are those anonymous heroes – the Butts Party! Thank you for all your efforts and keeping your sense of humour! Thanks go to **SSgt** 'Widebottom' **Worrall, Cpl** 'Alex' **Derbyshire, Sgt** 'Cowboy' **Wilson, Sgt** 'Wazzie' **Wasden, Cpl Jackie Spong, Sig Aylward** or **Sig Towey?**

LORD LIEUTENANT'S VISIT

Tuesday 31 October was a very special evening in Nottingham. **The Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt** visited the TA Centre in order to present a number of medals to members of the Squadron. The proud recipients who received their medals in the presence of all the members of the Squadron, their families and friends were:

Territorial Efficiency Medal (TEM) - SSgt J. Dye, SSgt B. Jackson (Husband of our SSM), **Sgt C. Toft, Cpl A. McGuinness, Cpl Hammett** and **LCpl Welsh.**

Bar and Rosette to the Territorial Efficiency Medal - Ex- WO2 (SSM) N. J. Caldicott, WO2 P. Cooper and his wife **SSgt C. Bull** and **Cpl C. V. Doda.**

Volunteer Reserve Service Medal (VRSM) - Cpl L. Snow, who along with husband **Sgt D. Snow** (46 Signal Squadron) was also celebrating their second wedding anniversary. Following the presentation the Lord Lieutenant joined everyone for a curry supper.

SWIFT GETTING FASTER

Winning his civilian 'driving licence' will help Nottingham Signaller **Lee Swift** speed up military messages by 70 per cent. He is one of 40 part-time soldiers taking part in a unique £40,000 computer education programme. The Territorial Army (TA) troops have been taking classes alongside civilian students to earn their European Computer Driving Licences (ECDL). The seven-module course teaches people to use the latest business software packages. A pass is equivalent to an NVQ level 2, or five GCSEs. But while **Lee's** classmates apply the knowledge in the office, he will be using it on the battlefield with Triumph Road-based 87 Signal Squadron. **Sgt Swift** (29), a Land Rover Service Advisor, from Beeston, said, 'New computers are being developed to drive our global military radio system. Standard business software can now be used to compile and transmit huge amounts of data in an instant to command centres anywhere in the world. It will do away with complex inputting and signalling procedures, speeding communications up by more than 70 per cent, and it will make training soldiers to operate the system much cheaper and quicker. Part-time soldiers gaining ECDLs will also have a valuable benchmark qualification recognised throughout industry and commerce.'

The soldiers' computer course is the result of a unique collaboration between 38 Signal Regiment and Sheffield-based training firm, NTP Ltd. Military training budgets are providing half the cost of the £400-per-student fees. The rest of the money is coming via the government's 'Individual Learning Account' grant system, set up to help people improve their skills. As part of the deal, NTP is providing the training and test adjudication team, computing facilities and classroom accommodation.

Driving Licence for computers?
Sgt Lee Swift from Beeston Nottingham

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON
FIRMS INVEST IN FIGHTING FITNESS

Derby's territorials will be rowing their way to fitness for operations overseas, thanks to two city businesses. The part-time soldiers will be snapping to attention when their VIP guests arrive next week bearing gifts for their unit's new gymnasium. Kingsway-based 46 Sig Sqn has just invested £9,000 in creating the health and fitness suite. 28 February saw representatives from Henry Boot Homes (HBH) Ltd and the LCD Driver Training School who will be bringing along two £800 rowing machines to add the finishing touch. **Sgt Sara Alsop**, an accounts clerk from Chaddesden, said that it is vital that they're in top physical condition before going on operations. This year members from 46 Sig Sqn will be on service abroad in the Balkans, Canada and Germany. The rowing machines will be a godsend. They are among the best all-round fitness machines that money can buy. **Sgt Alsop** and her comrades made friends with HBH when the company began developing the Windmill Hill site, opposite their military base. The soldiers lost no time in inviting the builders to use their water and washing facilities. HBH representative **Lee Midleton** said, 'We're delighted to make an investment in the city's TA Squadron. Its part-time soldiers' commitment to our community and to the country is outstanding. Many of them have already been on voluntary tours of duty helping to keep the peace and restore shattered lives in places like Kosovo.' LCD Regional Sales Manager, **Carol Bosley**, said that the quality of the TA's skills and management training was second to none. She added that businesses throughout the region benefited from the skills and management training that the army gave them. The Signallers' gymnasium is now the finest military fitness centre in the county. Its equipment includes upright and reclining cycling machines, multigyms and moving running tracks, crucial for the build up of heart and lung capacity. Soldiers can concentrate on building their strength using a range of weights. Specialist TA physical training instructors will ensure that the troops hit peak form without strain or injury.

39th (SKINNERS) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col P. R. Towers**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) F. E. Roberts**

HOPE & HOMES FOR CHILDREN
EXERCISE ENDURANCE LYNX

Over the last year 39 (Skinners) Sig Regt (V) have been helping to raise money for Hope & Homes for Children. Hope & Homes for Children was founded by **Col Mark Cook**, who was the Commander of the British UN Contingent in Croatia, and his wife **Caroline**, in September 1994, after they had both witnessed the suffering of the children made homeless by the War in the Balkans. Initially they raised money to rebuild two orphanages, in Croatia and Sarajevo, which had been destroyed in the fighting. Following appeals for help Hope & Homes for Children are now also relieving the suffering of children in Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Albania, Romania and Ukraine.

While rowing during a lunchtime training session the Adjutant, **Capt Nick Peet** decided to get involved and organise a 24hr 'Sponsored Row'. His plan was for six rowers to each row for half an hour in a three hour cycle for the total of 24hrs ie: four hours total rowing time or approx 56km each from 0800hrs in the morning on 23 January this year. Providing the team of six, including the Commanding Officer of the Regiment **Lt Col Paul Towers**, could stick to the speed set they would complete in excess of 330km (ie: from Bristol to Dunkirk). The team had been training since November last year and was confident that they could complete the row and hoped to raise in excess of £700.00 for Hope & Homes for Children therefore making a Regimental total of over £4500.00 for the year.

So the big day came and all six rowers were in quietly confident mood. The support team provided high energy food and drink, radio or video entertainment, wake up calls and the all important moral support throughout the row. After a very long night and many bananas the team completed the row at 0800hrs on 24 January, obviously, it being a 24hr row! The team had surpassed their expectations and completed in excess of 341.5km, a good job well done. Next time perhaps a 48hr row! So well done to **Lt Col Paul Towers, Capt Nick Peet, WO2 (RQMS) Mick Ginty, WO2 (MTWO) Dennis Griffiths, SSgt Tony Ward** and **Sgt** 'Scotty' **Doyle** and many thanks to the Support Team, **Capt Tom Pengelley, Sgt** 'Cookie' **Cook** and **Cpl** 'Badders' **Badman**.

The Adjt using his double orifice breathing apparatus

CO and MTWO Handover Takeover

The Team as the end of the Row

HEADQUARTERS (NORTH SOMERSET YEOMANRY)
SQUADRON - BRISTOL
Sqn Comd **Maj R Belbin**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Smith**

REGIMENTAL TRAINING WEEKEND 1 – 13/15 OCTOBER 2000

For the first of this Winter's Training Weekends the LAD were once again chosen to host the Op New World volunteers at Longmoor Camp. It began with some Compass Work on the Parade Square with **Cfn Airey** demonstrating how to take a compass bearing and how to follow the 'needle' to ensure that you can arrive at your intended destination. This period of instruction was followed by Basic First Aid courtesy of **Cpl** 'Badders' **Badman**. Note: Proof that the REME can fix themselves as well as the Regimental Fleet. As the afternoon progressed **Sgt Isaacs** and his team made preparations for the last phase, the Night Navigation Exercise. The volunteers soon learnt that you cannot easily walk in a straight line through woods at night (unless you wish to put your recently acquired First Aid Training to the test).

SQUADRON TRAINING WEEKEND – 2/4 FEBRUARY 2001

To prepare the troops of HQ (NSY) Sqn for the Regimental Exercise Ex Bronze Lynx in March the OC, **Maj Richie Belbin**, used this

weekend to blow the dust off the transport and take us to Hullavington Camp for a spot of field training. After a hearty breakfast at Horfield the Squadron was soon on its way along the M4 in convoy fashion to the Training Area on Hullavington's Airfield. Pulling up in a Holding Area the troops took up defensive positions while the Sergeant Major completed his Recce (or while **WO2** 'Dicky' **Lee** went to get the keys for the Training Hanger). In the mean time **Sgt George Williams** taught about moving into a location, from the Release Point to parking up and camouflaging the vehicles.

The first Lesson of the day was given by **SSgt Rick Norman** on the ULS. This simple switchboard is not complicated if you have used it before, but HQ when they are on the ground usually make do with a couple of field phones & everybodies personal mobile. Anyway having made eight connections to the ULS we were all soon talking to each other down the line. People took it in turns to man the buttons & between switching up or down, red switch or green, black switch or yellow the information was sinking in and a five way conference call was not beyond us.

More interesting lessons soon followed, Field Craft with **Sgt Winfield**, Rolling Replen with **WO2 Bloomer** and what must have been all his Christmas tree lights. **Sgt Williams** and 'Sighting a Tactical Workshop' and a Lights & Sound at night Demo were **SSgt Norman's** contribution included cracking a can of lager. **Sgt Williams** who made Lighting a Tilley lamp & using a No. 5 Burner sound very interesting gave the last lessons of the evening. Sunday's activity was to put up and taking down four 12 x 12 's and a 9 x 9 while the Q checked them out, followed by the final lesson, on 'Leaving a Location' which also included a sweep of the area. Back at Bristol everyone agreed that the training had been useful & helpful. Bring on Ex Bronze Lynx.

5 (QUEEN'S OWN OXFORDSHIRE HUSSARS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS) - BANBURY & OXFORD
Sqn Comd **Maj R. Stone TD**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Philips**
SQUADRON ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2000

The Churchill Club Committee ably led by **Cpl Steve Brady** and assisted by **Cpl Kevin Durno** and **LCpl Claire Goodwin** laid on an excellent Party at the TA Centre. The bar opened at 7.30p.m. for pre Christmas Drinks. This was followed by a splendid display of Fireworks organised and let off by **Steve Brady** who is now an officially trained 'Fire Work Letter Offer' The party went with full swing until the very early hours of Sunday. The draw, an elimination event got down to the final tickets when the 2IC, **Capt** 'Chuck' **Robertson** realised that both his and **Andrea's** Tickets were in the last five. Having won the major cash prize last year he very sportingly withdrew the tickets. A gesture that was very well appreciated by everyone, especially the Winners, **LCpl Danny Palmer** and **Sgt Taylor's** wife, **Debbie.**

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Steve Brady** and **Kevin Durno** on their selection for promotion to Sergeant.

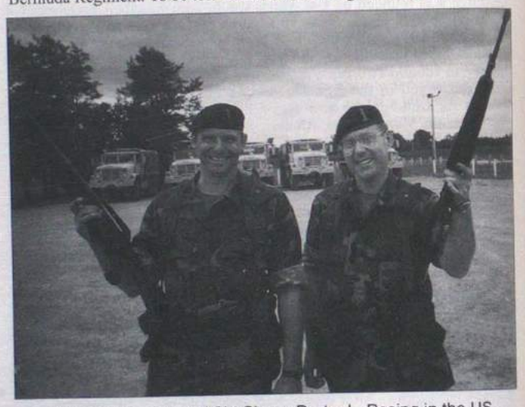
UK/US OFFICER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

On 7 July 2000, 19 Reserve Officers from all parts of the British forces (Army, Navy and Air Force) set off from London Heathrow, bound for Washington DC. This was part of the UK/US Officer exchange programme which takes place every year, the aim of which is to place reserve officers from the three services with their respective counterparts and specialisation in order to develop understanding and good working relations. After a long flight, we arrived (snacked and filmed out) in DC to be met by a US Marine Major. However, due to the fact that nobody within the British contingent had met before, unless they had been sitting next to each other on the flight, it was a little difficult to determine who was who at the airport. After playing 'Guess who's in the British forces game' and the usual losing and finding people, we were whisked to the Capital, and housed in the Embassy Suites, a top-notch hotel. Our accommodation was spectacular with ensuite bathrooms and living rooms for each person. However, unfortunately we got to spent only five minutes in our room as we were yet again whisked off to what would turn out to be a familiar 'burgers and beer' night; and a very very late one at that.

The next day (very early, yawn!) we departed Washington to travel to our respective units located throughout the USA. We had been assigned to the 377 Coy who were on their trade training camp at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin. After a further series of flights in aircraft of ever decreasing size we arrived in Wisconsin to be met by an advance party of the 377th. After the initial surprise of 'Gee.... You guys do what????..... Communication?!....Hell...we're a truck maintenance Company!' we all got along famously! It would appear that somewhere in the dusty corridors of either the MoD or the Pentagon, there had been somewhat of a clerical error... However, on rationalising the situation, and recognising that we in the Royal Signal use 'trucks' and in the 377th did have some VHF radios, all was not lost! We also discovered early on, that we all did indeed share another common interest, 'Budweiser' which was discussed and exercised many a night.

Fort McCoy, our home for the following two weeks is a Total War Training Facility, a training camp a little smaller than Wales that hosts the National Guard and Reserve Force training. Each unit's training is closely monitored and assessed by a team of regular officers who watch, advise and mark the units in their operational and combat effectiveness whilst carrying out their roles. During our first few days at the fort we were shown the 377th's maintenance role. This consisted of stripping down old army trucks classed as unserviceable, and building the good parts back onto a basic glider assembly. The gliders consisted of a new basic cab and chassis and were delivered by the truck manufacturer on pallets. By completing a truck in this way, as opposed to purchasing an entirely new truck, the 377th Maintenance Company created a cost saving of around $60,000 per vehicle. The 377th target was to complete 14 trucks by the end of their camp. An average of one a day and a great saving to the US Government!

Lt Fensom and I were invited to the daily orders held by the camp commandant and his monitoring teams, and we were lucky enough to accompany them around the fort's training facilities. This proved a marvellous opportunity as we managed to get to see a great many of the National Guard and Reserve units in training. These units included Signals, Engineers, Rangers, Infantry, Marines and Air Assault. On some occasions we were able to participate in their training or exercises, which worked out quite well on the Marines APWT, as we won a bottle of bourbon and ten bottles of beer, (they never realised they had been hustled until the scores came in), which we shared with them in the bar a few nights later, along with a few chasers! Other jollies included, an 'Apocalypse Now' Style Air Assault with the Air Cavalry, Off-Road Humvee driving and the Ranger Air Assault Course, where **Lt Fensom** demonstrated an unusual abseiling technique not known to the Americans of launching into space head first and waiting till the second bounce before braking. The two week exchange flew by and we were sad to leave our new found friends. On meeting up with the other 17 Officers in Washington we swapped stories and had a 'stop, look and gasp' tour of the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery and a handful of other notable monuments where we could take in the 'Kodak spots'. Tired and exhausted 18 Officers were bundled on a plane back to Blighty, leaving **2Lt Durtnal** to detour to Bermuda for an extra fun filled week with the Bermuda Regiment. To be told in the next thrilling instalment!



Lt Jason Fensom and 2Lt Simon Durtnal - Posing in the US

57 (CITY & COUNTY OF BRISTOL) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj M. A. P. Webb**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) J. Tuck**
REGIMENTAL TRAINING WEEKEND 2 - OFFICER TRAINING
by Lt Jason Fensome

39 Sig Regt held their second Regimental Training Weekend (RTW) of the 2000/01 cycle between 24-26 November 2000. However, whilst the Regiment's soldiers departed their TA Centres for a weekend of trade training at Browndown Camp, the Regiment's officers were instead ordered to travel to Colerne, the home of 21 Sig Regt (AS). The purpose of the weekend for 39's officers was twofold: (i) to participate in the new improved officer training programme, and (ii) to dine in our new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Paul Towers**. The new officer training programme stems from the desire of our new Regimental 2IC, **Maj Rosemary Tuhey TD** (formerly OC 57 Sig Sqn) and of our not so new Adjutant, **Capt Nick Peet** to provide worthwhile training for 39's junior officers on what are ostensibly trade training weekends. The detaching of the Regiment's officers from the Regiment itself allowed for an uninterrupted focus on officer training, without the distractions of drinking coffee and reading newspapers in the Officers' Mess.

The theme of the weekend's programme was change, and it must he said, change for the better. The CO's intent was that the programme should he shaped 'like a venturi', with the initial focus being on the perspective from HQ LAND, ably presented by **Maj Mark Cornell**, the SO3 G6 Ops. Later the focus was reduced in breadth to the picture from Headquarters 2 (NC) Sig Bde, delivered by **Maj Ian Brownlee**, the SO2 O&D. The purpose of the morning's programme became very clear- the new buzzword at HQ 2(NC) Sig Bde is 'deployability' and the provision of the wherewithal to actually deploy.

After lunch, the focus narrowed yet again, this time to the CO's vision for 39 Sig Regt itself. Interestingly, the address was delivered by **Maj** 'Butch' **Maycock** our Training Major. The TM had already talked about 'range safety issues' all the way through lunch, and now we had to listen to him for another hour. The topic was 'The Deployable Regiment' and this certainly held our interest. Essentially, 39 Sig Regt will conduct over the course of 2001 an intensive programme of Regimental training, as well as providing comms support to the ARRC by deploying six NCRS Detachments to Germany for Ex Arrcade Fusion in October 2001 and by providing personnel to deploy with the TA SFOR Signal Squadron in November 2001. Oh and by the way, it's now official- NCRS can actually fly (albeit as an underslung load on a Chinook). The final part of the day's proceedings was a group exercise set by OC HQ Squadron, **Maj Richard Belbin**, who relatively fresh from his TA Squadron Commander's course, tasked the junior officers with a planning exercise based on the no longer hypothetical deployment of a TA Signal Squadron to the Balkans. The author's syndicate received divine guidance from our Padre, the **Revd David Sutch,** and was able to put together a workable solution. The day's work done, it was time to head for the Mess (or rather Bristol University Air Squadron's luxury portacabins in the case of the male junior officers) and prepare for the dining in night.

The dining in of the CO was a memorable occasion. The PMC, **Maj Rosemary Tuhey**, allowed herself to be persuaded into granting a 'comfort stop' by the QM, **Capt Phil Abbot**, and OC HQ. **2Lt Simon Durtnall** left the table before said stop on the pretext of a nosebleed; and the newly promoted **Capt Jo Howard** demoted herself for the purposes of wearing incorrectly ranked Mess Kit. Anyway, proceedings moved to the bar, where the CO demonstrated his excellent singing voice. This was not a feat that could be matched by his subalterns. Getting up on Sunday morning proved to be a major challenge- **Lt Rod Hook** wanted to know exactly when he became old, because he could no longer cope with late finishes and early(ish) starts. It's a good job that his better half, **Caroline**, has agreed to marry him next year before he finally fades away.

Sunday morning saw the CO's lecture on British Military Doctrine and Mission Analysis. It was also the CO's opportunity to demonstrate his music video collection on CD-ROM. This was a piece of timely decision-making which heralded a much needed coffee break, prior to the final group task. The purpose of this was to apply the four mission analysis questions to 39's new mission statement. This was achieved in short order, and after the customary wash-up it was time to return home. In summary, the future at 39 can be approached with confidence; the Regiment will still practise its old MGW and ICP roles, but has gained a new deployable role with NCRS. 2001 will see 39 Sig Regt (V) send personnel into Europe for both training and operations, and closer to home the Regiment will practise it's new air-deployable role on exercise. TA units always thrive on a challenge, and 2001 will see no shortage of challenges both at home and overseas.

Thanks for the weekend must go the Regt 2IC, to the TM and the Adjt for constructing such a well-designed programme. Thanks must also go to all members of the Mess who made the dinner night such a success. Finally, a couple of new officers need to be welcomed to the Regiment: **2Lt Peter Lynch**, who has joined 5 (QOOH) Sqn in Banbury, and **2Lt David Carter**, fresh from BUOTC, who has joined 57 Sqn's Gloucester Troop.

47 (MX YEO) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) - UXBRIDGE
Sqn Comd **Maj C. M. Lankester**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) M. Gilfrin**

There have been many changes in squadron personnel since annual camp. **SSgt** 'Tock' **Tocker,** the PSI Ops, has been replaced by **SSgt Jay Saunders** fresh from 7 Regt RHA. We all wish 'Tock' well during his tour in Sierra Leone. He regards his tour with the squadron as a milestone in his career, it's the only posting he has had where he has not been in big trouble! The new OC arrived in January, **Maj Carla Lankaster**, and it is a welcome return to her she having previously been the Squadron 2IC until 1999. The worrying aspect of these changes however, is that now, both the OC and the SSM are ex Tech's, it does not bode well for the Squadron's previously good standard of technical maintenance! All is not lost on this front. **Sgt** 'Baz' **Kightley**, alias 'Brains', has joined us from over the water. He is different, but starting to make inroads in the techery, which has been gapped of regulars for three years.

The Squadron itself remains reasonably well recruited and thankfully there are some high calibre, enthusiastic and well-motivated people coming into the squadron. The aim this year is to get the squadron back to full strength or just over, a position it was last in three years ago. The new changes in the Squadron recruiting team have brought with them some excellent ideas, which we will be implemented at the earliest opportunity. Special mention must be made here of the outstanding effort made by **Sgt Ian Lane** as IC of RRTT. He tackled a difficult and, at times very frustrating job, with determination and enthusiasm and overall his contribution to the Squadron and Regimental recruiting team was second to none. He has now handed over responsibility for recruiting to **Cpl Tina Gross**. It couldn't be in better hands.

The Squadron has recently completed Ex Eastern Venture, of which more later, and is now faced with Ex Bronze Lynx, a Regimental exercise that involves Brigade Headquarters. It hopefully will give the Squadron the opportunity to work closely with 2 Bde HQ to develop ideas for the new freedom given by getting out in the field and going tactical! After five years in the portacabin at Corsham most Squadron members are looking forward to the change. The training of the Squadron continues apace and several members are taking the opportunity given by 37 Sig Regt (V) to attend a trade week, hopefully all will upgrade in trade in one fell swoop. **Sig Griffin** recently joined us from HQ Sqn. He achieved an excellent and well-deserved course report on his recruit's course, coming second overall and Top Field Soldier. Well done **Sig Griffin**.

There has been a crop of well deserved promotions, notably **Cpl Mark Joiner**, at present on his Class 1 ED course at Blandford, **LCpl Dudley** another ED who joined us during annual camp 1999 from 191 Cadet Detachment here in Uxbridge. Since then he has completed his recruit course and is already a Class 2 ED. A remarkable achievement. **Cpl Tina Gross** who has just completed a year FTRS with 7 Signal Regiment in Germany and Kosovo has also received well-deserved promotion. Congratulations to them and others who have been promoted. Congratulations also to **Sgt Paula McNeil**, from all Squadron members, on the birth of her son on 4 February. We wish **Paula**, her husband and the child every happiness for the future.

EXERCISE EASTERN VENTURE 47 SQUADRON FTX

The squadron took part in Ex Eastern Venture, which was held at Thetford Training Area from 24 February this year. The concept was an out of area operation with the Squadron, organised as two Troops, communicating on behalf of the UN in the former state of Stanfordshire. Stanfordshire, having been ravaged by civil war and fought over by Breckland and Thetfordia, requested the deployment of British Troops in support of the UN. 47 Sig Sqn deployed at short notice to provide both HF and VHF communications in support of the UN humanitarian effort. Enemy was provided by RAF Northolt under the command of **Flt Lt Marcus Senescall**, a former Troop officer in the Squadron. 191 Cadet Detachment also produced cadets to act both as British forces or local militia as the scenario dictated. UN liaison officers 'UNLO', produced traffic for transmission throughout the exercise. It varied in content and urgency and required much thought from the communicating troops to work out priority and encryption. This soon reached an excellent standard as the exercise progressed. At the same time as communicating each Troop had to defend its site in a potentially hostile environment, and also respond to taskings on behalf of the UN. Confrontations with local militia, rescuing a downed NATO pilot, ambush and recce patrols and finally an attack on the enemy base location all added to the fun aspect of the exercise. Whilst tactics were not looked at too closely, there were one or two radical ideas forthcoming. A new ambush light was designed by one of the Troops. Painted black and green, it was also easily portable and could be directed in almost any direction to illuminate the enemy. It was self-powered and although a touch on the heavy side at 1800 kilos was quite effective. The 110 in its designation did not, apparently, relate to the voltage! Another Troop laid on a spectacular ambush, which caught the enemy perfectly in the killing area. The cut off, however, required about a kilometre of communication cord in order to signal the enemy approach.

SSgt Saunders is to be congratulated in producing an excellent intelligence picture for the exercise and a realistic scenario. The exercise also made novel use of the NCRS box by using the HF capability only supplemented by VHF in what was virtually a highly capable and mobile Command post. Much thanks should also be directed towards **SSgt Cummings** the NRPS SQMS for all his efforts in the catering department. He really does look after the Squadron well and takes a lot of the administration burden on his own shoulders. It is very much appreciated by all.

MOVING OR POSTED
DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW
WHENEVER YOU HAVE A CHANGE
OF ADDRESS

71 (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT
BEXLEYHEATH

CO **Lt Col C. H. Turner**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. D. Tait**
70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
CHELMSFORD AND HARLOW
Sqn Comd **Maj Craig Tallents**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Humphreys**

The Squadron has been through a busy period over the last few months with the Christmas Bash, Vehicle Servicing, and Trade Training.

CHRISTMAS BASH

The Squadron went to Crowbourgh Camp for its 'Bounty Catch Up' weekend and its Annual Christmas dinner over the period 8-10 December 2000. The Sqn Comd, **Maj Craig Tallents** was seen during the weekend trying to communicate using a Land Rover Tyre while looking for keys and to this day a red face appears when the subject is mentioned. **Sgt Dave Catlett** is now known as 'Matelot' with his love for water. The Christmas Dinner was superbly organised by **SQMS** 'Squirrel' **Fensom** and his staff with the Officers and SNCO's serving the soldiers their meal, and a great time was had by all.

Bounty Catch Up Weekend
(L-R): Sgt Natalie Gilby, Cpl Joanna Smith and
LCpl Nugget Nugent marching between stands

TRADE TRAINING

The Trade training cycle is with us again and the majority of the Squadron are involved either Teaching or as students. The Trade courses are over four weekends during January and February 2001 and we are hoping for good results.

FINALLY

We welcome back **SSgt Kirk Humphries** from a seven month tour in Banja Luka and we would like to wish **LCpl Kelly Cloughton** all the best during her year long attachment to 202 Sig Sqn in Bulford.

SUMMARY OF DEPLOYMENT ON OPERATION PALATINE MAY 2000 – DECEMBER 2000 - *by SSgt (YofS) (V) Kirk Humphries*

As a member of 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron I volunteered for an OP Palatine tour to work as part of the Commercialisation Implementation Team Bosnia (CITB) in the Balkans. Normally I work as an Integration Professional on Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) Transmission Equipment for BT at Adstral Park. This work involves the integration of new and existing equipment into BT's core transmission network. My deployment was fully supported by BT and they agreed to keep my position open until my return. I completed my mobilisation and theatre training at RTMC Chillwell and on Salisbury Plain, prior to deploying to the Balkans. During my tour I was based in the Banja Luka metal factory, working as the CIT YofS, with a multinational team of about ten, mainly R Signals personnel. The commercialisation project involved the replacement of military communications systems with four commercial off the shelf (COTS) supplied by BAe Systems. The project involved the installation of four sub-systems, which were:

MYRA – The bearer system
LATTICE – Rapid reporting network
LOGAN – Liaison Officers network
CURCH – Aviation network

My main effort throughout the tour was working on the mobile projects (LATTICE, LOGAN and CURCH). This involved liasing with not only UK military staff, military staff from other nations and the contractors both English and local, with regard to the installation, commissioning and the subsequent use of the COTS System, this on its own was no mean feat! Due to the many varied locations where the equipment was to be installed, I was required to travel great distances by both road and helicopter around Bosnia and Croatia. For the fixed project (MYRA), I was responsible for the writing and verification of all procedures. This was to ensure that the equipment was being operated at its optimum and all faults were being reported, by the user to the Network Control Centre in Banja Luka and that they were being dealt with correctly and in a timely fashion.

Throughout my deployment I was able to use skills acquired from my TA training and experience from my employment with BT. I was able to develop new skills and build on existing ones. Overall my experience was a good one and the personnel I met and worked with were very helpful.

SSgt Kirk Humphries and Capt Rob Francis
enjoying an ice cream at a Canadian base

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not ask for photographs sent for publication in **The WIRE** to be returned, unless they are really irreplaceable.

Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing photographs which cannot be replaced.

Contributors should also be aware that unless digital photos are saved to disk at a minimum of 300 dpi mono and 400dpi coloured, they will not be used.

265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY)
SIGNAL SQUADRON - BEXLEYHEATH
Sqn Comd **Maj Kieth Duffy-Penny**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Stuart McHenery**

EXERCISE SANTA'S SLEIGH

The weekend of 8-11 December saw the Squadron deploy on Ex Santa's Sleigh. The ME of the weekend was to train and test all Squadron personnel on ITDs and to celebrate Christmas with a Squadron Christmas dinner. Friday night it was off to Longmoor to set up base in the Officers' Mess. The majority of the evening was spent in true Yeomanry style propping up the bar, warming up for the following evening's dinner, and we even had time to squeeze in a briefing covering the weekend's events. Saturday started bright and early, albeit slightly bleary eyed, and it was straight into the training programme. The round robin kept everyone on their toes ensuring they were in the right place at the right time. ITDs being ITDs there was a fair amount of death by Power Point, although all instructors did their level best to keep their productions interesting. The most interesting scam was **Lt Richie** 'Chrome Dome' **Woodhams** slipping subliminal messages into his presentation so that by the end everyone wanted to have a pint and a fag. There were two practical training stands that were being run during the ex, trailer reversing and cross country driving. Both were extremely entertaining as Squadron personnel showed off their unmatchable skills. There were trailers snaking all over the square and the Squadron prided itself in its own version of a TEWT, the DEWT (Driving Exercise Without Transport) brought on as a result of recent cutbacks. **LCpl Liz** 'Buffy' **Blaber, Sig Mick** 'Why's that then?' **Hockley** and **Sig Cassie** 'Minty' **Murray** became experts of the DEWT art as shown in the attached photo.

The DEWT as demonstrated by Sig 'Why's that then?' Hockey,
LCpl Liz 'Buffy' Blaber and Sig Cassie 'Minty' Murray

Whilst completing the cross-country driving it was alleged that the Regimental MT Sergeant, who shall remain nameless, was spied grounding a Land rover, then trying to run and hide as we passed. Then it was off to lunch and time to dine out the previous **Maj Hugh** 'Who?' **Robertson.** This was a slightly unusual event, brought by very busy schedules for all parties concerned. It was a very sombre emotional affair with hardly a dry eye in the house, made even worse when he admitted that he missed all of us now he was OC of the Berkshire Yeomanry. The afternoon continued with the remaining ITDs, finished off with Recognition instructed by SPSI, **SSgt John** 'Bet' **Lynch.** Then it was time to prepare for the Christmas Dinner.

This year the Dinner had been given a theme of 'Sports through the ages'. All and sundry got into the spirit of the occasion. There was a fine display of sporting wannabees, including golfers, mountaineers, tri-athletes, footballers and cricketers. Although one of the most memorable sights was **Cpl Pete** 'Big Daddy' **Alsop** in his wrestling outfit, the attached photo really doesn't do it justice. The evening was a runaway success highlighted by the flaming sambuca contest.

Cpl Pete Big Daddy Allsop flanked by LCpl Sean Apples Cox
and LCpl John Tell me another Harvey

Sunday morning arrived even blearier eyed and it was off to PT, which was well received by all and sundry (not). **Sgt Dave** 'Psycho' **Pryke** and **Cpl Kenny** 'Get down and give me five' **Foxwell** co-ordinated gym activities although it was obvious that the majority of participants had peaked the night before. All personnel managed to survive albeit touch and go with **Sgt Emmet** 'Jean' **Vincent**. Then it was lunch and back home for a well earned rest.

LONDON DISTRICT X-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

As tradition dictates, the Squadron once again entered a team into the London District X-Country Championships, which were held at Windsor Great Park on the freezing cold morning of Sunday 21 January. The five man team consisted of **Cpl Tris** 'Not another baby' **Swain, LCpl Adrian** 'Weeble' **Keeble, Sig Danny** 'Have you seen my bird?' **Baird, Sig Darren** 'Hay' **Bailes** and **Sig Mick** 'Why's that then?' **Hockley**. The team finished a creditable fifth, in tough conditions, and will now be going onwards into the National Championship. **Sig Cassie** 'Minty' **Murray** entered the female competition and came an awe inspiring eighth.

LOOK FORWARD

The Squadron is now preparing itself for deployment to Gibraltar for Annual Camp in July, so it's time once again to brush up on those infantry skills and boost our fitness.

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

20 ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (200)

Sqn Comd **Maj I. G. Standen**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. Lawes**

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

We would like to wish our current 2IC, **Capt Ben Fitch**, all the luck as he moves from the fighting 20 Brigade on to JCSC. We would also like to say farewell to **SSgt Phil Whyte** as he moves to Civilian Street and thank him for all his hard work.

ALPHA TROOP - *by LCpl Donaghy & Sig Hepworth*
Tp Comd **Lt S. Hughes**
Tp SSgt **SSgt R. D. Burrows**

After a very successful move from Antwerp Barracks to Talbot Barracks Alpha Tp were looking forward to relaxing at the Squadron Christmas function. This function involved three committee members from Alpha Tp, **LCpl Mal Donaghy, Sig** 'Krusty' **Weller** and **Sig Rachel Reeve** who spent the majority of the week before decorating the function room in Athelone Barracks. If I say so myself the room looked tree-mendous (there were Christmas trees everywhere). The SNCO in charge of the function **SSgt Rookes** kept the committee happy by buying them all drinks. The night was a success even when **Sig Hepworth** decided to grace us all with his dancing skills (please don't give up your day job). After a well-deserved leave Alpha Tp have been preparing for the PRE, Second line inspections and the forthcoming exercises. We are enjoying our time in our new barracks, as come November we will be deploying to Kosovo for six months. Congratulations must go to **LCpl Davies, LCpl Jones, LCpl Barritt, LCpl Dodge** who are newly promoted and to **Sig Ashdown** and **Sig Heathcote** who have also come off the Lance Corporal board. Finally it is time to say farewell to **LCpl**

Elvis Jones who on his promotion has moved over to the dark side AKA Bravo Tp. **Sig** 'Jay' **Martin** and **Sig** 'Krusty' **Weller** who are both posted to Northern Ireland good luck to you both in your new troops. Alpha Tp would like to welcome **LCpl Chris Parker** from 1 (UK) Armd Div and **Sig Virtue** who has joined us straight from Blandford.

ALPINE SKI RACING AKA TWO MONTHS SKIING

by Lt S. Hughes

When I arrived at the Unit almost a year ago I was given the job of Unit Ski Officer, a job that I looked forward to doing. Being in a Brigade Signal Squadron I never believed that the opportunity to ski for two months would arise, it did and I took a team away to train and then to compete in competitions...

It all started in November at the Royal Signals Corps camp when **Cpl Si Harris, Sig Chris Anderton, Sig Alex Light** and myself began our training (in my case learning to ski properly).

(L-R): Sig Alex Light, Sig Chris Anderton, Cpl Si Harris and Lt Sofia Hughes - 200 Signal Squadron downhill racers!

The month of hard training paid off, as we all competed in the Corps championships and **Cpl Si Harris** came second. For the majority of the team this was the first opportunity to race, we were instantly nicknamed the cone heads and this stuck with us throughout the season. **Sig Chris Anderton** is shown here making his way to the start of a GS event.

Sig Chris Anderton - What do you mean I look like a cone head?

After the month of hard training and racing we were given Christmas leave to recover. In order to get our skiing legs back after Christmas the team went to Chamonix and took **Sgt Andy Dawson** along from 7 Sig Regt to train them. Our thanks go to him for helping us prepare for the Divisional Championships. During the week of pre-Divisional training the team worked hard and played hard, some of the team members decided to get in touch with their feminine side.

Cpl Si Harris and friend - Do I look camp?

The team then moved to Les Contamines to compete in the Divisional Championships. Overall they came third in the Minor Units Competition out of the possible five minor units. We thoroughly enjoyed our time skiing and would like to thank our boss **Maj Standen** for allowing us to ski and take part in the competitions.

BRAVO TROOP - *by Lt J. Acton*

Tp Comd **Lt J. Acton**
Tp SSgt **SSgt T. Gibbins**

Life has been relatively busy in Bravo Tp since the return from Christmas leave, despite the lack of major exercises. This probably had something to do with half the Troop being absent for three weeks to take part in an 'arduous, challenging, physical exercise' – at least, that was how **Lt Acton** described almost a month's Alpine and Nordic skiing at the 1 Div Championships in France. At least they brought back some silver. In the meantime, **LCpl Dickenson** has left the unit for the sunnier (?) climes of Northern Ireland, whilst badly needed fresh bodies have been provided in the shape of **LCpl Gobie** and **Sig Beavis**, farewell and welcome respectively. The other new(ish) face in the Troop is that of **LCpl Jones**, who picked up his tape and an internal transfer to the premier Comms Troop within the squadron in the same month! Welcome to you as well. Congratulations are also due to be given to **LCpls Cooper**, **Lewis** and **Walker**, who were all promoted after Christmas, who now can't use the excuse, '...but I'm just a siggy...' All three discovered their hard-earned extra pennies soon disappeared with the added responsibilities of rank as they all 'volunteered' to buy the rest of the Troop a few diet Pepsis in the Squadron bar to celebrate. Hectic times are ahead with several squadron training exercises leading into Ex Rhino Charge in April. PRE and second line inspections have somehow slipped into the middle and the Troop Comd still needs to be reminded not to arrive at work in a ski suit and goggles. **Sgt Corcoran** keeps on muttering 'It'll all turn out fine in the end', and who knows – he may even be right!

ULTIMATE GAP YEAR - *by 2Lt Nilene Hennessey*

I'd been with 20 Armoured Brigade for barely four days and already had my first windup – **Cpl Thubron** told me the RSM wanted me to fetch the keys to the indoor grenade range – I suppose seeing **LCpl Doyle** doubled up with laughter should have alerted me... I am a Gap Year Commission Officer. After a month at Sandhurst I went out to 20 Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (200) in Sennelager for four days before Christmas, just to get to meet the people here and enjoy the Christmas parties. I was given three weeks off for Christmas and I went home to South Africa, it was a treat seeing the sun again! On returning I went to join **Lt Sofia Hughes** and **Lt James Acton** and their skiing teams in Les Contamines, where they were competing in

1 UK Armd Division Skiing Championships. It was fantastic, first time skiing, almost first time in snow actually! The rest of this year is going to be just as good. It's filled with different courses – in two weeks I'm doing a parachuting course here in Bad Lippspringe. As I'm shadowing **James Acton** I will be getting to see what its like to be a Troop Commander, in a sense. At the end of this year I will be going to St. Andrews University, and then after that possibly do a Regular Commission.

NORDIC SKIING AKA HARD WORK

by Sig Nathan Fearn

On the 16 of November 200 Sig Sqn sent its Nordic Team to the Royal Signals Winter Sports Training Camp in Zell am See in Austria. Out of the six of us only a few had any experience. The worst thing for us was the fact that the snow was very sparing and that we were made to do lots of 10km road and mountain runs. Our training also included roller-blading (much to **Capt Ben Fitch's** disgust). Eventually the snow fell and we travelled for an hour each day to find that we had so much work to do as the majority of the first day was spent on our faces. Unfortunately at the end of the camp there was no Nordic competition as the snow had disappeared. Before the Divisional championships we stayed in Chamonix for a week. We originally thought that we would drink lots of beer and have a relaxing holiday. However, **Lt James Acton** had a different plan and being in charge of the team he beasted us all around several loupes. At least we could now practice on snow. Just when we thought we had it just right we put on the wrong wax and were overtaken by OAP's! After this training phase we entered in the Divisional Competition and it was time to put on the sexy Lycra suit as modelled by **Lt James Acton**.

Lt James Acton - We ve just won the Minor Units competition

Sig Steph Bogart competed in our team and was the only female to compete in a mixed team and beat several males even though she had only been on snow for three weeks. She won a medal at the Divs for the Best effort. She then went on to the Army competition and won a gold medal in the 15km Classic as a senior novice.

Sig Steph Bogart at the start of the 4 X 10 Km Biathlon Sprint

During the competition phase we lost **Sig John Walker,** as he needed to return to Paderborn on a course, then **Sig Mark Harris** damaged his wrist. That left **Lt James Acton, LCpl Eddie Gregory, Sig Steph Bogart** and myself to compete in all the events including the Patrol race. At the end of all the hard work we came away first at the Minor Units competition. We now need a rest after all the hard work.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt K. A. Jones**
Tp SSgt **SSgt H. Cappelman**

QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT PERSONALITIES

QM **Capt K. A. Jones**
RQMS **WO2 G. W. Beech**

The return from Christmas leave proved to be return the ' nose to the grindstone' as the Department prepared for hand-over of QM's. Out going QM, **Maj (QM) Mick Bohanan**, carefully explained exactly what he required for the arrival of the incoming QM, **Capt (QM) Kevin Jones**. With its usual effectiveness and a few unusual late nights everything was ready and the Squadron was handed over successfully. Thanks go to everyone involved in the hand-over for a job well done. All that remains to be said is the Department wishes **Maj Bohanan** and **Jackie** all the best in Cyprus with his new job as OC Support Squadron JSSU and to welcome **Capt Jones** and his wife **Jane**. The King is dead. Long live the King. Apart from the hand-over the other major event of recent months has been the squadron move into Talbot Barracks. The majority of the groundwork has now been completed with only the Singlies accommodation and Restaurant currently remaining in Antwerp Barracks. Plans are afoot to move them by the end of February so hopefully by the time you read this the whole Squadron will be in Talbot Barracks. This will be the first time in 18 months that the Squadron has occupied the same barracks. With a couple of exercises looming, preparation for and the convening of a Board of Officers, the move of Brigade HQ and a couple of other things on the agenda it may well be that some of those noses will be looking slightly shorter than usual in the not to distant future. Oh well. Roll on November when we deploy on Op Agricola to Kosovo for a well-earned rest.

MOTOR TRANSPORT

After a splendid Christmas break the MT is open for buisness. A fond farewell goes out to **Sgt Rog Moore** and his wife **Stephanie** on a posting to 21 Sig Regt (AS), **Cpl Doick** and his wife **Ann**, on promotion to Sergeant and a posting to 1 (UK) Armd Div. Thanks go to both of you for all you did at the Squadron. We would like to welcome the following into the MT, **Sgt Aide Haslam** who joins us from 16 Sig Regt and waits for his family to join him and **Sig Lee Armstrong** on his welcomed return to the unit. Good luck to all of you

7 ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (207)

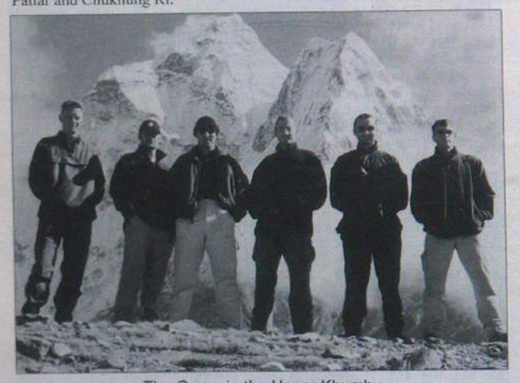
Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Roberts**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Mark Tivey**

This issue, a few articles from the major events over the past few months; an adventurous training expedition to Nepal - Ex Himal Diamond, a high profile visit from the **Colonel in Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**, the Satisfied Soldier scheme, the 2000/2001 skiing season and the first visit of our new Commander.

EXERCISE HIMAL DIAMOND
16 OCTOBER TO 14 NOVEMBER 2000

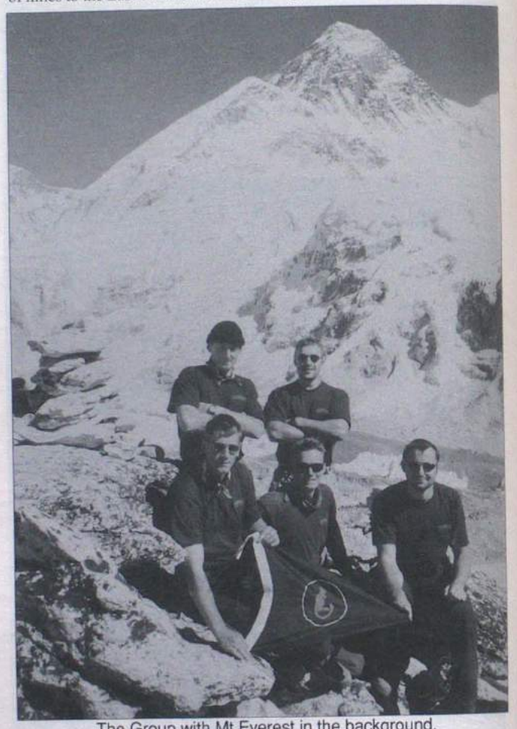
Ex Himal Diamond, was an adventure training exercise set up by **Capt Adam Corkery**. It was designed as a long distance trek from Jiri into the heart of the Khumbu region of the Nepalese Himalaya. The team, consisting of **Capt Adam Corkery, Cpl Roger Mortimer, Cpl Daz Pickard, Sigs Kev Cannon**, 'Magic' **McDermott** and **Chris Nixon** paraded outside the Troop office at 0900hrs, Monday 16 October, just in time to see the rest of the Squadron deploying on Ex Rodents Revenge. We all felt really guilty (honest). The journey to Munster Airport and on to Heathrow was pretty uneventful apart from a few overweight bergans but we passed through the airports without any real difficulty. After a little time in the UK before the flight to Nepal, we all met up at Heathrow on the Wednesday with a 16-hour flight ahead of us. After a short stopover in Abu Dhabi, we arrived in Kathmandu on 18 October 2000. The first couple of days in Kathmandu were quite an eye opener with everything from beggars to street sellers. **Roger** 'It's beautiful mate' **Mortimer** became the group's first and main shopper with **Daz Pickard** attracting every single con artist from miles around. For our first meal, we all opted for steak that was pleasant enough until the Boss announced half way through that '…It might not actually be beef!' - cheers for the warning! On our 10-hour trip to Jiri we encountered everything from broken seats to near-broken knees and a burst tyre on a mountain road, which the driver and the locals fixed in quite an impressive time. Jiri was small but it was quite literally the end of the road and comprised mostly of lodge houses or small stores set up at the front of the houses. This was it: the start of the trek...

The first week was actually some of the hardest trekking of the whole expedition as the altitude was low enough to be able to cover a good distance each day, and the whole team felt suitably tired but rewarded by each evening. The scenery amongst the foothills was awesome and at altitudes of up to 3500m, they would have classed as mountains in their own right anywhere else in the world. We all experienced a few new situations from beggars with tales of appalling poverty and hardship to wild and very dodgy mooshrooms (spelling by **Chris**) to injuries and disease that had an effect on the group as a whole. We also had a couple of days of rain in the first week during which **Chris** tried to prove that a Buffalo jacket was waterproof and then spent many hours drying out the evidence! Science has not yet found out why feet smell but we wished that someone would find a cure for 'Magic' and Kev's. They are the only guys that can clear a room in seconds just by taking their boots off! We reached the relative haven of Namche Bazaar on Day Seven of the trek and we were all glad of an opportunity to rest whilst acclimatising to the altitude. With knees rested and stomachs replenished from the new German bakery, we were ready to enter the upper Khumbu and over the next week, spent short days slowly gaining height and walking towards our goals of Kala Pattar and Chukhung Ri.



The Group in the Upper Khumbu
with Mt Ama Dablam in the background

Arriving in the village of Lobuche on Day Thirteen, one of the party was struck with a case of mild altitude sickness and felt unable to proceed the next day. The remainder of us went on up to the high point of Kala Pattar at 5500m - a long slog from Lobuche but with some quite outstanding and very worthwhile views of Everest which was just a couple of miles to the East but three kilometres higher!



The Group with Mt Everest in the background,
a mere 3,000ft higher!

After a few photos and a hasty descent back to our hovel in Lobuche, another of the party became unwell with mountain sickness and a descent the next day was the only option.

A lot of good quotes came out during the trek - the most memorable was from the boss on the leg from Khumjung to Tengboche, 'Today's leg guys is a traverse followed by a slight rise at the end.' A typical Rodney understatement for what turned out to be an enormous climb!

Dingboche provided welcome relief from the altitude and all felt well enough to continue up to Chukhung and an attempt on Chukhung Ri, a small peak dominated by the awesome South face of Lhotse, the fourth highest mountain in the world. Days Seventeen to Twenty were spent losing height back to a mountain airstrip in a village called Lukla where we were to fly back to Kathmandu from. The runway is carved out of the side of a valley and must be the least level in the world. Careering down the side of a mountain in a Twin Otter at an angle of about 15 degrees is an experience none of us will forget for a while I suspect! Back in Kathmandu was a chance for yet more shopping and some sightseeing. We went to visit a temple that was a real eye-opener as we could see the place where the locals bring their dead for open-air cremation. We also experienced some more of the culture that has been developed over the last 2500 years including the Sadhus - funny men who grow their hair long in dreadlocks and smoke drugs all day and practice a form of yoga. They earn money by donations and by letting the tourists take photos of them in contorted positions. This was pretty much the culmination of the trip away apart from, the trip back to Hohne. All in all, Ex Himal Diamond was a great success and all those who took part benefited in many ways. We all came away with a greater level of self-reliance and confidence, fitter and certainly more culturally aware.

Celebration drinks in Kathmandu
at the end of Exercise Himal Diamond

MEDAL PRESENTATION BY THE COLONEL IN CHIEF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL
10 NOVEMBER 2000

Friday 10 November was a day that the Squadron will not forget in a hurry. In an event that drew the line between our deployment on Op Agricola III in Kosovo and our re-rolling to warfighting, the presentation of our NATO medals had been eagerly anticipated. For our hard work within the freezing temperatures of snow-covered Pristina in February to the scorching heat waves in August, we were to be rewarded by having a personal visit from our Colonel In Chief. Accompanying Her Royal Highness was the Representative Colonel Commandant, **Maj Gen Stokoe** and the Regimental Secretary, **Col (Retd) Carter**. Soon to be Alpha Tp Commander, **2Lt Karen Moore** managed to escape her Troop Commanders' course to act as ADC to our Colonel in Chief. On a cold, windy day in Hohne the Squadron had prepared not just the usual 'on the parade square' medal ceremony. So that we could explain exactly what life was like out on tour, we decided to set up a series of displays in the field to cover the main aspects of our deployment. **SSgt Dave Sloane** presented the Armoured Headquarters that deployed six times throughout the tour. **Capt (QM) Dave Wilson** then gave a tour of Echelon highlighting the extraordinary low level of resources that were available to support a Brigade Headquarters of over 500 personnel. **Lt Andy Hill** presented the final stand portraying SYSCON, Spec Tasks and a simulated Rear Link Detachment. **Her Royal Highness** surprised many of us with her genuine interest and in-depth knowledge of the detail of the stands. **Her Royal Highness** also presented LS & GC medals to **Cpl Gav Dent** and **Sgt Dave Schofield** and the Accumulated Service Medal to **Jack Walker**. In return, the Mayor of Bergen presented our Colonel In Chief with the Bergen Medal of Honour, and **Sgt Gaz Higham's** son **Dale** presented the legendary Silver Rat. All in all, after nearly two weeks of preparation, the visit was a tremendous success. For many it was the first time that they had met their **Colonel in Chief**, a memory that will remain for a very long time.

SATISFIED SOLDIER - *by LCpl Johnston*

I recently returned from an attachment to Glasgow Army Careers Office as part of the Satisfied Soldier Programme. On arrival at the careers' office three other Signallers and I were briefed on the dos and don'ts when dealing with the members of the public and the criteria for possible applicants to meet. After that, I was straight in with the public. It was a varied experience in the type of situations I dealt with from discussing my experiences with applicants to reassuring terrified mothers. I even had to break the unfortunate news to one individual that he couldn't join the Army to evade a spell at Her Majesty's Pleasure! I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Glasgow Careers office and would recommend participation in the satisfied Soldier Scheme to all.

FIRST VISIT BY NEW COMMANDER. BRIGADIER G. BINNS MBE MC
1FEBRUARY 2001

A bitterly cold and snowy day was host to the first visit to the Squadron by the new Commander of 7 Armd Bde, **Brig G. Binns MBE MC**. After a walk around the Squadron offices and garages, the Brigadier moved to the field for lunch followed by a medal presentation to those individuals absent on duty for the visit of **Her Royal Highness**. He then spoke briefly but in glowing terms to all ranks of the reputation of the Signal Squadron and his desire to start working with us. After a presentation by the OC on the role and organisation of the unit, the commander was then escorted around the various Troops and spoke individually to the majority of people present. The day ended with the Commander and the Squadron both happy and looking forward to a continued good working relationship for the future.

ALPINE SKIING SEASON 2000 / 2001 - *by LCpl Jennings*

This season's 7 Brigade Ski Team consisted of **Capt Adam** 'Nice Socks' **Corkery, Lt Andy** 'Have you seen my shoes' **Hill, LCpl Mick** 'Fathead' **Jennings** and last but not least, **Sig Paul Wraight.** The Corps Skiing Championships in Austria was the first competition of the season and got us off to a good start. The team went on to win the Giant Slalom, come second in the Slalom and gain the Silver overall. With team medals and prizes galore the team took a well-deserved break over the Christmas stand down. On arrival back in Hohne the team prepared for a further ten days racing in the 1 (UK) Armoured Division Ski Championships located in the French Alps. There was some excellent weather and some hard racing, the team carried on in good form and collected the Minor Units (Germany) Trophy. **Capt Adam Corkery, Lt Andy Hill** and **Sig Paul Wraight** capped of the excellent result by qualifying for the Army Championships. Unfortunately they were brought back down to Earth as they were summoned back to Camp to get on with some graft! All in all it was an excellent season for the Squadron and they achieved some impressive results to build on for next year. By the way, if anyone finds a pair of Fila shoes and a green fleece in 'Crazy Daisy's' bar please return them to **Lt Andy Hill**, - he's had very cold and wet feet since December!

The Alpine Ski Team
(L-R): Sig Paul Wraight, Capt Adam Corkery, Lt Andy Hill and LCpl Mick Jennings with the Viking Trophy

19 MECHANISED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (209)

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Peel**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Miles Webb**

It seemed like only yesterday that the Squadron was returning after six weary months in Kosovo, yet here we are again, all packed up and ready to take over from 3 Cdo Bde Sig Sqn, so there is a sense of déja-vu for many in the Squadron. Since practising our brigade movement skills on a number of exercises towards the end of last year, we have spent most of our time working up to the imminent deployment for what will be a very different tour from last year. That included an 'amusing' three days with the OpTAG team, learning how to say things like 'tung, si jeni', and getting a thorough chest-poking from interpreters, (some more embarrassing than others). Congratulations go out to **Maj Peel, SSgt** 'Storeman' **Smithurst** and **LCpl** 'MT' **Berry** on their GOC's Commendations for their work in Kosovo last year, and to **Sgt Mick Clarkson** for his Air Officer Commanding No 2 Group's Commendation. Also to **WO1** 'Don't you know who I am, I'm the' **(RSM) Miles Webb** for being selected for commissioning (and the Corps RSM job if he wants it) and **WO2 (FofS) Nick** 'My name's spelled' **ter Morsche** and **SSgt Steve Legg** for their LS&GC Medal. Praise also to the 2IC, **Capt Alex** 'Elvis' **Clixby**, for managing to pronounce the Foreman's name about seven different ways during the citation. Did the SOinC notice?

You can get LS&GC Medals in Christmas crackers these days!
(L-R): Maj Peel, SSgt Legg, Brig Burton, WO2 (FofS) ter Morsche, WO1 (RSM) Webb

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Graham Clarke**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jase Smithurst**

On return from a very boozy extended Christmas break, the Troop has changed dramatically. First of all, we would like to welcome **Cpl Robinson**, **Cpl Russell**, **LCpl Horsburgh** and **Sig Birkett** to the Troop, and to wish **Cpl Alexander** good luck in his posting to 1 Div, (rather him than me). Things have been pretty hectic during the build-up to Op Agricola 5, but not without the chance of having a few Troop days out. Special mention must be made of **Sig Thomas** who was hilarious on our Troop Initiative Day. Also **2Lt Graham** 'Billy Whizz' **Clarke,** not only for looking like a Beano character, but also for his extremely long account of what he and his Troop have been up to for the last few months.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Simon** 'Eric' **Bristow**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Eric** 'Taff' **Williams**

This has been a busy period for the Troop, as we have not only been preparing for our deployment, but pre-empting anything which needs doing in the next few months that we won't be able to do in theatre, namely destroying our livers! As well as the Troop curry night which left a number of the Troop feeling a little worse for wear the following morning, we had the infamous Troop 'Mystery Tour'. With no idea of what was to come, the Troop was dropped off in Darlington in camouflage (ie: dressed semi-convincingly as civvies), split into groups, and given a number of tasks to complete, including having to make their way to Richmond. Within a few hours, people had been back to school, swept litter off the streets, test-driven sports cars, and even arranged blind dates for Saturday night. Sadly for **Cpl** 'Smiler' **Breaks** he was stood up and left to keep himself entertained for the night, (no change there then)!

There was also the golf afternoon, where **LCpl Chris** 'Fore' **McKechnie** successfully herded the Troop around nine holes of Stressholme Golf Course. The afternoon was enjoyed by all, but was made even more amusing by **Sig** 'Harry' **Harrison** sporting the latest in golfing attire, the water-prone **SSgt Eric** 'Splash' **Williams** and the exceptionally bad golfing skills of the boss, **Lt Simon** 'You mean the balls supposed to go forwards?' **Bristow**. With the arrival of OpTAG training, Bravo Tp has become no more for the next 4fi months (RIP), having re-formed as HQ Tp. The lucky members of the Troop were fortunate to stay with HQ Tp, but the majority of the Signallers have been temporarily transferred to Radio Tp under **2Lt Clarke** and **SSgt Smithurst**. Although they spent weeks crying and begging not to endure such torture, they were eventually carried down the corridor kicking and screaming, and had to be locked in Alpha Tp's crew room to stop them going AWOL. Come on guys, 4fi months isn't that long!

Aside from all that, congratulations go to **Cpls** 'Big' **John Quinn** and 'Oz' **Gambles**, **LCpls** 'Greg' **Robinson, Paul Tunnacliffe, Chris** 'The Golfer' **McKechnie** and **Lindsey Rakocevic** who are all wearing their new rank, and to **Sig Mike Whatmough** who has been selected for promotion but is yet to wear the tapes. If you guys can get promoted, there's hope for the rest of us! Goodbyes go to **Sig Kevin** 'sorry I'm late' **Herbison**, enjoy Blandford, and to **Sig Chris Lane**, good luck in civvy street. Good luck also to **LCpl Chris McKechnie** as he temporarily detaches himself to Blandford for his re-trade course, (leave the little Siggies alone). See you in eight months!

1 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (215)

5 DIV CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE - *by Sig Hartfield*

The running season is upon us once more and so, ably led by **SSgt Chris Coates**, the Squadron searched out its racing snakes and entered them in the 5 Div Cross Country League. The team has excelled thus far coming second in the Army Relay Championships, held at Bulford, and fourth in the Royal Signals Championships held at 21 Sig Regt, Collerne. Even our finely tuned athletes (really) deserve a break from all the exertions of the season. After the Royal Signals Championships at Collerne were out of the way it was straight down to the metropolis of Bath for a night of, ermmmmm….. socialising. The Spanish and American students seemed really impressed with our stories of running and running, honest! They must have pictured us as a team of Forest Gumps. That was until **Cpl** ' Two Teeth' **Chadwick** got on the scene and then it was the students turn to run and run and run. There are still races left this season but as for the nights out we'll wait for Collerne again as next year Cpl 'Two Teeth' is posted.

SIERRA LEONE

During October/November Staff from 1 Mech Bde were tasked to provide a Headquarters in support of British Forces in Sierra Leone. In response to this, elements of the 215 Sig Sqn were put on standby to go. After much deliberation on what and who to take 'The chosen few' were deployed to Freetown under control of the QM, **Maj Fred** 'I love fish' **Payet** and **WO1 RSM** 'Johno' **Johnston**. On arrival in Freetown a lot of the boys went down with the dreaded travel belly. Blame apportioned to some very dodgy food eaten during the overnight stay in Dakar and so most spent their first few days in theatre crammed into a cubicle designed for one. To greet us in Freetown were **Sgt** 'No hair now' **Eastman** and **Cpl** 'Two Teeth' **Chadwick**, fresh from their voyage of the Seven Seas. The local job centre was being run by **SSgt Mick** 'Steiner' **Brown**, who in his first few days had employed half the Sierra Leonian population to work at Jamil Lodge aka 'The Palace'. Unfortunately comms jobs were few and far between due to our colleagues from 30 Sig Regt, so under the guidance of **Lt/Capt Pete** 'Beaker' **Brunton** (congrats on the promotion) we went about providing the other essential life support requirements to the Headquarters. The time we did get off was rare and usually spent down on Lumley Beach. **LCpls Steve** 'Beach Boy' **Giroux** and **Franny** 'nice tan' **Francis** claiming the most hours on the beach. Christmas was made bearable by **Sgt Dave** 'Duff, Duff, Duff' **Duff** and his merry band of helpers in the sauna, I mean kitchen. The New Year's Eve celebrations rocked, or should I say splashed thanks to all the lads filling the swimming pool using the two water bowsers. They do have a purpose after all!

EXERCISE WHITE WALL DRAGON KESWICK

As with most adventure training packages we had to wait for early February (Nice weather), before we started trawling the available manpower to dig out the lucky unfortunates for the week's trip to the Lake District. First thing Monday morning we were all mustered wearing jeans and designer tops, everything that wasn't on the kit list. After twenty minutes of throwing everything that wasn't tied down into the back of the transit, we set off. Six hours later we arrived, the drizzle was out to welcome us. It's a shame nobody else was. We had the campsite to ourselves, obviously not peak season. Then came the fun bit, trying to erect our Gucci, all singing, all dancing inflatable tent.

Big enough for all, or so we were told. It just so happened that each night in the early hours, as if on a timer it decided to deflate itself. By the second night most were sleeping in the mini-bus, anything with a permanent roof. After a hectic Monday night checking out the Lake District's only bar, we awoke wearing the tent's roof. We quickly dried ourselves off and then set off for Skiddaw. Up we went and down we came. Then it was into Keswick for an admin/shopping trip, mintcake all round. The next day the intrepid adventurers, led by the illustrious leader **Lt** 'G-Man' **Wills**, attempted Hellvellyn, England's third highest peak, but due to the weather conditions 'we failed'. With a tear in our eye after the previous days failure we decided to up the ante and conquer the illustrious summit of 'Cat Bells' the Lake District's 349th highest peak, phew! Although the weather could have been better we all achieved our objectives, our wallets are considerably lighter and we're all far better at darts

16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216)

Sqn Comd **Maj N. Fraser**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. Drew**

In line with the rest of 16 Air Asslt Bde the Squadron has had another busy period involving a number of exercises of which two were overseas – Ex Iron Hawk, in Canada, and just before the Christmas stand down Ex Suman Warrior, in Malaysia. Post stand down the Unit has quickly been put to task with Ex Parthian Shot, a Squadron Training Exercise, followed by Ex Eagles Flight, a Brigade Air Concentration on SPTA with the Squadron providing EXCON facilities. Pre-Para Courses and Basic Parachute Courses continue at pace and gradually the Squadron is addressing short falls in parachute trained personnel. The re-structured Training Wing, under the guidance of **Capt John Griffiths**, is now beginning to flex it's muscles with revised training programmes focusing on trade skills, unit fitness and military training, all designed to maximise the collective performance of the Unit.

Despite a busy period, postings in and out remain fluid. The Squadron would like to say farewell to **Sgts Frank McGuinness** and **Al Combes**, whom both depart on promotion to 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt and 30 Sig Regt respectively. **Lt Rob Hamilton** who leaves on early promotion to Romeo Tp – best get polishing those pearl handle six shooters and arranging that Stetson. Also farewell to **Sgt Gileard** to 24 Regt RLC, **Cpl Barringer** to PJHQ, **Cpl Hoskins** to Aborfield (tasked to identify 'likely lads' for 216), **Cpl Ayre** AGC to the Posties, **LCpl Simpson** to COMSEC Tp and **LCpl Chackfield** to 280 Sig Sqn. Postings in have been equally numerous – big changes have taken place in the Troops with **SSgt Dez Elderidge** from 31 Sig Regt and **Sgt Pete Dimmack** from 14 Sig Regt both arriving at A Tp, and **2Lt Dean Atkinson** taking over the helm at B Tp. To those recently arrived – welcome.

Congratulations and well done goes to all those who came off the recent promotion boards; as with the postings in and out they are too numerous to mention. Several are staying in the unit to make use of their experience. Also congratulations to those Squadron personnel who have managed to beat the winter weather to complete their jumps courses – we all look forward to your 'punch nights'!

EXERCISE IRON HAWK (12 SEPTEMBER – 7 OCTOBER 2000)

Ex Iron Hawk was a HQ 3 (UK) Div led FTX in BATUS. The Div's constituent Brigades were represented by HQ 16 Air Asslt Bde and the Lead Recce Task Force (LRTF) HQ. A number of milestones and 'firsts' were achieved during Ex Iron Hawk, not the least of which was the successful deployment of the Lead Aviation Task Force and the first Division sized deployment to BATUS.

For the Squadron, Ex Iron Hawk had two distinct phases. The first saw a small number of dets providing intra theatre HF and INMARSAT comms support to 3 AAC BG and the Pathfinder Platoon on build-up training in the first month of the exercise. This was followed by the deployment of the Brigade Main HQ, initially as an EXCON supporting the LAvnTF TES exercise and subsequently as a player HQ during the Div TES phase. It was the first (and only) time this year that the Brigade HQ has worked with a UK higher formation HQ. This provided an excellent opportunity for both the Brigade and the Squadron to advertise the strengths and weaknesses of air asslt operations when used in conjunction with conventional armoured formations. Whilst the scope of the exercise proved less challenging from a comms point of view than we had initially anticipated, the size of the training area and the limited assets available forced us to rely on HF comms throughout. This proved challenging, but ultimately successful; defying all the scaremongers who'd previously said that HF comms were unworkable in BATUS.

A trip to Canada wouldn't have been complete without taking the opportunity to take in some of the local culture and do a spot of adventure training. Medicine Hat provided some entertainment whilst Calgary proved a more popular destination for those in search of some more intensive R'n'R. The adventure training package was run by 3 (UK) Div and gave a few of the Squadron the opportunity to try free-fall parachuting, para-gliding and white water rafting to name but a few of the activities. No report on an OTX would be complete without mentioning the weather - it started hot and dry, then rained, then froze and then went very windy. At minus 17°C it was colder than most of us had expected and the snow made our camnets stand out brilliantly!

EXERCISE GREEN TALON (16 – 28 OCTOBER 2000)

Ex Green Talon was a LABTF ex based on 3 Para to welcome them back from five years in the wilderness. The exercise was based on two key phases: a airborne operation into Otterburn after the initial planning and rigging at AMC South Cerney followed by a redeployment to Carlisle airport and a TALO/RAL operation into the STANTA area. Unsurprisingly for Otterburn in October the weather was destined to be foul for the planned Friday drop. Despite this drills were carried out, the parachute pax deployed managed to get a 'fun' jump from the Skyvan and everyone prepared to go to red on and then sit back down to return to Lyneham. The Squadron Ops Team and Air Adjt, **Capt John Griffiths**, furiously worked and reworked contingency plans to recover MSPs, wedges and pax from the possible divert options. However, with blind optimism the 15 ship stream headed north with an airborne UHF relay courtesy of 70 Sqn to provide the Bde Comd the live feed from the Pathfinder Platoon, with Squadron personnel deployed in the patrols as usual. In Chalk 2, the OC on his first Brigade jump managed to get '1000, 2000' out before meeting the DCOS's feet in his face! After a brief entanglement they managed to land safely and join the rest of the Tac staff and communicators tabbing off the darkening DZ. After a couple of hours de-rigging the Para Tac crew arrived in surprisingly undamaged wagons and joined the rest of the para pax for a long bus trip back to Colchester and an operational pause. 48 hours later the Squadron was up at Carlisle airport planning and preparing for a TALO/RAL deployment. During the second assault, from Lt Tac and Para Tac plus a few TSBs we then ended up with 4 HQs on the ground ranging from **Cpl Richardson** and a few radios with the Comd, **WO2 (YofS) Jones** and a skeleton staff in the dome tent having tactically moved across STANTA, the rest of the Ops Team and Tac staff in Para Tac having been delivered by a combined SH/road insert, and a dormant HQ of dismounted kit back in Sculthorpe. Stretched to the limit, and despite a dodgy patch of HF in the night, comms held for the 3 Para and 4 Regt AAC combined assault into the village.

The RSM aand OC Squadron
practice their modelling stance for next year s C&A Catalogue

EXERCISE SUMAN WARRIOR (10 – 26 NOVEMBER 2000)

Ex Suman Warrior is an annual exercise organised and run on a rotation basis by those countries that form the Five Powers Defence Agreement (FPDA with SUMAN standing for Singapore, UK, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand). This year the rotation of the exercise fell to the UK and in particular 16 Air Asslt Bde. Due to the proximity of the other countries to the UK the exercise, although the responsibility of the UK, took place in the town of Ipoh, Malaysia. The exercise took the form of a Multinational Brigade CPX – run by HQ 16 Air Asslt Bde with 216 Sig Sqn running various background activities and providing the usual command supports. Each national contingent had a BG (-) in country, except the UK which had BG HQs from 3 PARA and 4 AAC, and elements from other Brigade units, namely 7 RHA, 21 (AD) Bty, 36 Regt RE, Pathfinder Platoon and 13 CSS Bn. In all the Squadron had 60 personnel in country with another 140 from across the Brigade, including a large Brigade HQ contingent.

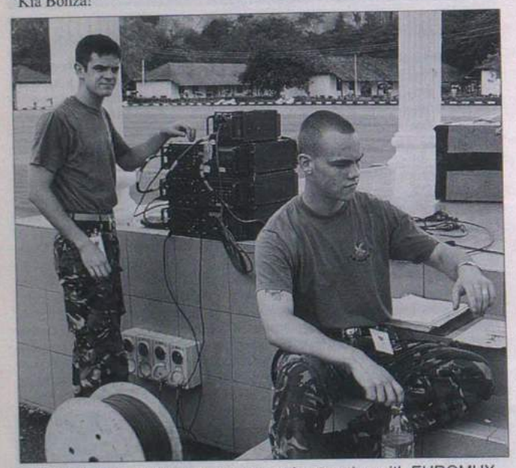
The stated aim of Ex Suman Warrior is to exercise elements of the FPDA Armies in Combined Operations with the objectives being to develop interoperability, extend knowledge of each others' organisation, equipment and unit capabilities, practise command and staff procedures in combined operations and to foster better relations and mutual understanding amongst FPDA countries. The exercise started with the necessary round of

and they re off! — the race for the door

Contingent Armed Forces briefings and cross briefings on tactical operating procedures relevant to the forth coming CPX, for which Multinational Division (Central) were HICON with CAST (N) 'marshalling' the exercise play. Also as build up training HQ 16 Bde ran a TEWT based on the exercise scenario. The TEWT was conducted in multinational syndicates with the scenario based on a NZ BG assaulting a Coy position involving integral support from attack and support helicopters.

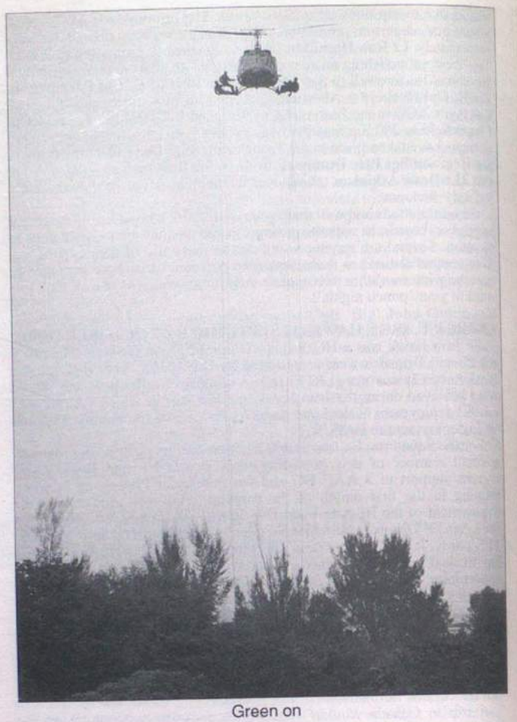
The CPX was programmed to last three days with two battles being fought. It started with the hardship of moving from air-conditioned offices into the uncomfortable working conditions of Brigade Main and BG tents. The heat and humidity combined with the frequent afternoon monsoon rains made for testing times especially when trying to maintain exercise CNR and Euromux comms. Running concurrently with the CPX were background activities – namely jungle familiarisation, helicopter abseiling, command tasks and 'potted sports'. The responsibility of which fell to the Sqn Trg Offr, **Capt John Griffiths**, with assistance in particular from jungle warfare instructors courtesy of the Pathfinder Platoon and heli abseiling courtesy of 7 Flt AAC with their Bell 212. The idea being that all those not involved in the CPX or real time exercise administration was split into multinational Platoons. Platoons rotated round the activities on a daily basis, although most afternoons saw those not wisely employed bused down to the local outdoor swimming pool or 'sight seeing' in Ipoh. All contingents agreed the background activities were a real success – it gave those not directly involved in the CPX an opportunity to view some of the country, work and socialise in multinational platoons and for many to experience a jungle environment for the first time. The day following the end of the CPX was set aside for the exercise tear down, post exercise party and the Contingent Rugby 10s Tournament. The latter of which many felt was the most important aspect of the entire exercise. On a heavily water logged and muddied pitch five teams took to the field (two UK teams were fielded as the Singaporeans had already decided rugby wasn't for them). The tournament was a real spectacle with some excellent rugby being played - congratulations going to the winning team, you guessed it - New Zealand, with the UK A Team coming a creditable second overall.

After the closing ceremony and post exercise party the contingents went on three days in-country stand down. The UK contingent was split between Kuala Lumpur and Penang – both locations involved four-star hotels, excessive drinking in the local bars and nightclubs, plenty of Christmas shopping, and mixing with all three genders. No overseas deployment would be complete without a long illustrious list of shame – a few deserve a special mention but what happens on tour stays on tour – 'Kia Bonza!'



LCpl Ebdon and LCpl Browning getting to grips with EUROMUX

ORGANISING A FUND RAISING EVENT? WHY NOT PUBLICISE IT IN THE WIRE? WRITE AND LET US KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING



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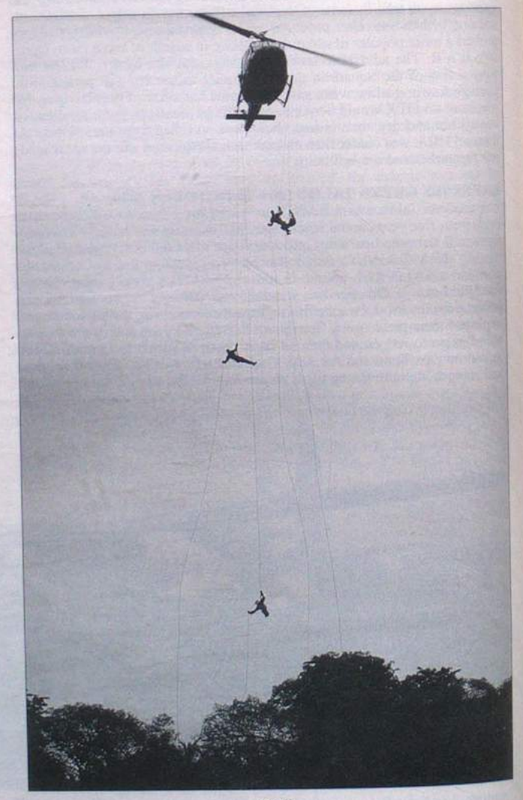

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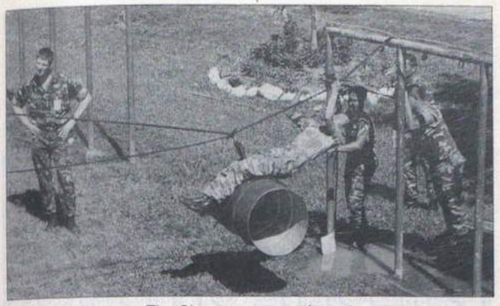


The Singaporean contingent fail to understand why there are actually no sharks, but tackle the command tasks anyway

A Brigade Instructor with the Australian Contingent

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Within Camp Sayed Putra lies a small cemetery, run by the Commonwealth War Graves Commisson, where British Army Gurkha soldiers killed in action during WW2 and the Malayan Emergency lie at peace. In a tranquil setting, surrounded by imposing cliffs, and to the sound of Highland Cathedral being played by a Malaysian army piper, members of the UK contingent assembled for a ceremony taken by the local Reverend, **Dr S. Batumalai**. The Brigade Comd dedicated a bench and laid a wreath to all those fallen while the OC laid a wreath on behalf of the Squadron, honouring a Royal Corps of Signals Gurkha, **Cpl Rambahadur Gurung**, who was killed on 7 July 1950.

The OC lays a wreath on Cpl Gurung's grave, Ipoh, Malaysia

EXERCISE PARTHIAN SHOT (8 – 19 JANUARY 2001)

Directly on return from Christmas stand down the Unit embarked on its first sqn level training exercise in twelve months. Ex Parthian Shot was conducted over a ten-day period and was split into two phases; phase one was run as cadre to teach those newly arrived in the Unit and the more junior soldiers the intricacies of the specialist communications used within the Brigade, combined with some basic military skills training. Phase Two saw a full Squadron deployment to various locations round the country. This second phase included a visitors day for Brigade staff recently arrived in the Brigade, outside agencies such as LAND and JHC, and other R Sigs Units with interests in the Brigade. The emphasis during phase two shifted to the planning and working of a multitude of communications systems over distance (particularly HF) and Troop level procedures in the establishment of the units various deployable headquarters. Day one saw the Brigade Main HQs deploy to SPTA and STANTA with Lt TAC parachuting on to Thorpe DZ to marry up with the pre-positioned Brigade TAC. Vehicle borne Rear Link Detachments were deployed to Bramcote, Colerne and Canterbury in order to simulate support provided to BGs and to achieve realistic distances over which to communicate. Each HQ saw at least one move with all deployed assets, accept B Tp Bde Main, re-deploying to Watton Airfield, STANTA, for the particularly successful visitors day. The exercise overall was a success – with the fluidity of recent postings in and out the need for sqn level training is viewed as extremely important. By the nature of the air asslt role the requirement for individuals at all levels to operate in isolation from the Squadron chain of command is something we must prepare for. This can only be achieved with confidence if sufficient training time is allocated to practice what we would do on operations. A big thank you should also go to the support provided by 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) for the provision of a Trunk Node and two 501 Satcom Dets respectively. This enabled Ptarmigan coverage on SPTA and STANTA by means of a satellite bridge through Corsham Hub.

JUNGLE WARFARE INSTRUCTORS COURSE (JWIC)

by Sgt Thornton

As most will realise 16 Air Asslt Bde has a wide and varied role. It maybe called to operate in almost any climatic condition and recent events have highlighted the need for experience in jungle operations at all levels and across all arms. Within the last twelve months members of the Unit have deployed to three different jungle theatres. On operations in Sierra Leone, a Brigade Exercise in Malaysia and with 2 Para on Ex Native Trail in Belize.

The Course … after a long and tiresome flight **Lt Toby Courage** and myself arrived in Brunei. Having worked in and around an Infantry Brigade for the last few years, I expected a course run by the School of Infantry to hit you in the face and start off at a hectic pace. This was not the case and I was pleasantly surprised at how structured our build up was. The course was progressive, building up from acclimatisation through to a final demanding two-week exercise. The course is All Arms and all ranks, however the majority of the course was from infantry battalions. It covered jungle operations from individual skills all the way up to coy group level. The first exercise included basic lessons in jungle skills such as navigation (something which tests your navigational ability to the limit) and jungle survival. In the main it was designed to get you used to the strange environment that is the jungle. After more time spent covering classroom work and a fare amount of range practice including contact drills from individual to section level we deployed on the second exercise. This was ten days long and, although not tactical for the full ten days, it proved to be a lot harder than the first. It confirmed all of what had been taught to that point, i.e: navigation, survival, communications, heli operations and CTR's to name but a few. It also acted to get us further adjusted to the heat and noise of the jungle. It is not until you actually leave the jungle that you see what effect it has on your body. Many lost large amounts of weight and suffered at the hands of the extremely annoying insect population.

Following the second exercise we had a bit of a breather from what was turning out to be a fairly intensive course - three days R&R in Malaysia; just about enough time for **Lt Courage's** mosquito bites to clear. After catching up on our drinking skills it was back to tea-total Brunei. On our return we spent the last week before the final exercise covering boat operations and river crossings (an alarming fact was the ever-present requirement for a crocodile sentry). On insertion, during the final exercise the view from the helicopter across the jungle proved to be quite a sight. Once on the ground the exercise began in earnest. It was fully tactical for two weeks, which meant no hammocks. The thought of sleeping on the ground along with a massive insect population was not overly appealing, but it was not as bad as I had been lead to believe. The exercise itself covered all of what had been taught throughout the preceding weeks, namely CTR's, ambush and contact drills, camp attacks, coy defensive operations, the list goes on. On reflection the final exercise was hard but enjoyable testing all the components of jungle infantry operations.

Stig of the Dump or is it the Brew Boy?

The course has reinforced my view that within Royal Signals units there is need to train for all types of environment on a regular basis. Soldiering in any extreme of climate is testing but only by experiencing the difficulties can you hope to overcome them on operations when other pressures need to be dealt with. A point to note is that the one job that everyone wanted to avoid was radio operations. Without doubt the most physically demanding job on the course was being a HF or VHF radio op. **Lt Courage** (or Brew Boy as he was known) wanted the job but his comms skills weren't up to it! At the end of the course the SNCOs and officers stayed on for a couple of extra days to complete a water safety officer's package to enable them to run river crossings themselves. The JWIC was an excellent opportunity, which has enhanced my soldiering skills immensely. It was intensive, the spectrum of the syllabus was very broad indeed, but the training team was excellent. Special mention should be made of the Admin Officer, **Capt Campbell** R SIGNALS, who kept us all in dollars throughout and made sure we got our flights home for Christmas.

VISIT BY NORMANDY VETERAN MR TOM BENTLEY 6TH AIRBORNE DIVISION SIGNALS

On 25 January Charlie Tp hosted the visit of **Mr Tom Bentley** - a veteran who took part in Op Overlord. **Mr Bentley** served with 6th Airborne Division Signal Regiment and inserted by parachute into Normandy ahead of the D-Day landings of 6 June 1944. The visit was to mark his 80th birthday. The day included a brief on the unit and a walk around the Squadron lines and heritage room. While in the heritage room he spotted himself on a 6th Airborne Division Regimental photograph taken in April 1944 – approx two months before D-Day. He presented to the Squadron a framed photograph of himself boarding a modified Sterling bomber at 2200hrs on D-1 (5 June 1944) together with the original manifest, which included the name **Lt Col Smallman-Tew** (originator of the 'para-cord' lanyard worn by the unit to this day). His stories put into perspective how fortunate we are today and what a debt of gratitude we owe those that fought in the campaigns of World War I and II.

OC presents Mr Tom Bentley with a Squadron plaque

2001 – THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The New Year has started as last year ended with the pace of life continuing to be extremely busy. The Squadron remains heavily committed to Brigade exercises, although in the margins time for squadron level training, adventure training, troop activities and sport remain high on the priority. Manning and equipment issues continue to be addressed at an equally frenetic pace. Little rest for the wicked and 2001 looks set to be as busy as 2000; but we wouldn't want it any other way.

THE 60th ANNIVERSARY AIRBORNE OFFICERS' DINNER

16 Air Assault Headquarters
& Signal Squadron (216)
will host the annual

AIRBORNE SIGNALS OFFICERS' REUNION DINNER AT CAYTHORPE COURT FRIDAY 27 JULY 2001

Returns will be dispatched in March to those officers eligible to attend. However, any ex-Airborne Officers not in receipt of a Return should contact:
Maj (QM) Steve Clarke on 01206 782784
or Col Mil (9)4651 2784

'Go To It!'

12 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (228)

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
ARMY CUP BOXING

We were drawn against 9 Para Sqn RE in the Army Cup boxing and the task of getting the team together and their training fell as always to the RSM in the absence of a qualified person. The team of healthy volunteers were finally assembled and set to the task of getting fitter and learning the ancient art of pugilism from scratch. They only had four weeks to get ready after volunteering for the bravest thing that they had ever done. We trained hard and then harder and then our trainer told us to train even harder, so we did. After four weeks of this the team was finally selected for the fights. We were led into the night by **LCpl** 'Killer' **Kelly – Rutherford** in the first bout who achieved a very creditable stoppage which put us on an incredible 'high'. That was, however, to be our only high point of the evening against a very strong opposition. The team must however be commended for their efforts and they consisted of these brave souls**: Sigs** 'Flying Fists' **Fallows,** 'Machine' **McGeorge,** 'Lightning' **Webb,** 'Herby' **Hide,** 'Crazy' **Hunt,** 'Powerful' **Perry,** 'Fighter' **Fenton** and last but not least **Sig** 'Swede' **Sweet**. All of these brave men put their lives on the line that night for the Squadron and we were all immensely proud of them and look forward to next year and hopefully a little more success.

EXERCISE LION SUN

After the fun and festivities of Christmas and the New Year (everyone say 'Alka Saltzer' and 'Slim Fast'), we left the cold, wet shores of good old Blighty for the much warmer climate of Cyprus on Ex Lion Sun 1 2001 for a month's intensive training. The advanced party, including the Ops Officer, RSM, **SSgt Dyer, Cpls** 'Paddy' **Briscoe, Al Wilson, LCpl Ross** 'Everybody, let's get naked' **Sharpe** departed, just after the New Year celebrations had died down, paving the way for the main party's arrival on 9 January at RAF Akrotiri. The bags collected, we travelled down the coast to our new temporary home at Radio Sonde Camp just outside Happy Valley and Episkopi Garrison. On seeing Radio Sonde for the first time the first words to enter our minds were help, escape and freedom but we grew to like it there. The amenities weren't bad and we had the Sutler's Bar courtesy of H. Fazullah and Sons, to supply us with all sorts of consumables. Chocolate, Lager, tea/coffee, soft-drinks, lager, toiletries, lager, postcards/stamps, lager etc. etc. including now infamous burgers – I'm not quite sure what they were made of; plenty of cats around, not one cow!

After we unpacked the bags, came the more serious note of briefings on various types of issues relating to our stay. Security, health and safety, types of wildlife we might meet (hands up those afraid of rats, spiders, lizards, cockroaches and snakes), road safety (including pictures that would make you wince and go 'Ouch, thats gotta hurt' – those crazy Cypriots!). An informative briefing on infantry training, from section level up-to company-level from a Sergeant of the KOSBs (kill, kill, kill). On top of this came 'acclimatisation training' (BPFA and tabs, nice!) which set us up nicely for the next couple of weeks ahead. Over the next couple of weeks we had a rotation of ranges, adventure training and more in-depth infantry skills training ready for the final exercise. Highlights included night-nav (plenty of thorn bushes), learning how to blow out of as many orifices as possible whilst attacking an enemy position up-hill, the visit from the Brigade Commander and finding out if we could keep last night's meal down whilst sailing on a small boat (plenty failed!). Occasionally we were let off the leash, with the day trip to Paphos being very popular (something to do with the number of pubs and bars in the town. After all of the beat up training and in what seems no time at all, the final exercise arrived. Three days and three nights of pure heaven. It was time to put what we had learnt into practice.

Dawn broke on the rose-coloured cliffs as two ridged raiders carrying team SBS (yeah right! Faces included **Sgt. Trev** 'Get Some' **Allen, Cpl Phil** 'Who ate all the pies' **Green, Sigs** 'Bof' **Walker, Al** 'Where's my webbing' **Sweet,** 'Wookie' **Stockdale** and various others), made their way up-to the beach under simulated cover of fire. This was supplied by the Navy and to the accompaniment of 'The Ride of the Valkyries' playing in the background. One minute later, the main body of a Company-sized attack were given an impromptu lesson in how to swim with all your kit on from a landing craft. Wet, they stormed the beachhead fighting through up into a valley and beyond. The exercise had definitely begun. Over the next couple of days, we fought through various locations, carried out patrols and seemed to tab everywhere. Somebody who shall remain nameless decided that he wanted to visit the locals, taking the platoon with him but due to a small navigational error he got us lost! We also used helicopter lifts to storm an enemy stronghold in The Village and then in the good traditions of the military we spent 15 cold hours on the side of a hill, waiting to ambush the enemy.

With everything done and End-ex being called, it was only left for us to clean up, take some Squadron photos and look forward to the R+R phase and maybe take on a few rays. The R+R phase itself, was a 4-day boat trip to Egypt and Israel, a huge success! With everyone enjoying themselves, even if on the first night we had the worst storm for 10 years and some of the party who will remain nameless (the 2IC), took to sleeping in lifejackets for fear of a Titanic-style disaster. Which was obviously never going to happen. We also held a Squadron Smoker in the last week at the local rugby club. The platoons were tasked to produce a 10 minute skit which they set about with relish. 2 Platoon managed a skit about how things went on exercise, with **Cpl Paddy Briscoe** playing the part of the OCs radio op. This showed us how easy it is to be the OC. Everybody does the hard work and he gets to lead people to certain death at the hands of unscrupulous enemies. 3 Platoon worked on the theme of Man Oh Man ably led by our industrious clerk, **Pte Cheryl Roberts,** assisted by **Sig Pippa Lavenu** who then destroyed the egos of the command team completely getting them to reveal their innermost secrets. It is also rumoured that they can also dance a bit but that is another story. In conclusion the Exercise was a huge success and we all learnt so much. Cyprus was an experience everyone will remember for a long time to come for a great many reasons some good some bad and some that we don't talk about! We are now back in the real world and the tan is fading and we are looking forward to the exercise season on Salisbury Plain and Canada.

238 (LONDON) SIGNAL SQUADRON

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj Ian Seraph**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ewan Hall**

MIKE TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt (TOT) Bob Nicol**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Andrew Twizell**

The last couple of months have seen a number of departures from the Troop. Goodbye and good luck to **Mick Ambler** who has left the Army and is now working oh so hard for a living with 'One to One'. The Troop also says farewell and congratulations to **Cpl Steve Mesmer** who is posted to the Unicom Team at Worthy Down and promoted to Sergeant on posting, again we wish him well. There have also been a number of welcome additions to the Troop. A big hello goes to **Cpl Chris Bain** and his wife **Cheryl** who join us from Northern Ireland. The welcome handshake is also extended to **LCpl Wes O'Connor** who joins us after completing his T3 at Blandford. The New Year has already been a busy period for the Troop, especially the hard task of cramming in the remaining leave entitlement for this leave year. The ACISG led by **Sgt Chris Jacobs** but ably abetted by **Cpl Paul Smith** and his team continues with the ongoing process of updating all the IT within London. The FRT's as always remain constantly employed. **Sgt Cory Pennicott** although a member of the Troop never seems to be here at present doing.....whatever. Where are you, **Cory**? Good luck to **LCpl Wes O'Connor** who has just started a computer repair course in Cirencester, the first from this Troop on this particular course. Radio Section consisting of **Sgts Andy Carnegie** and **Andrew Twizell** continue to do its Radio thing, believe me we are busy. The Section eagerly awaits the new stock of radio equipment to issue to all the guardrooms within London and bring them up into the early twentieth century! Finally, the Troop says hello to **Sigs Andy Milne** and **Tim Peacock**, detached to Bosnia/Kosovo. We haven't forgotten you.

OSCAR TROOP – *by Cpl McChesney*
Tp Comd **Maj (Tfc) Carl Storey**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mandy Eardley**

The military presence within the Troop itself has diminished somewhat in the past few months, as the civilian element has taken over the general day to day running of the COMMCEN. The general downscaling of the military in the COMMCEN, and the recent installation of Amcersps, which has replaced the familiar Trend printers, has triggered a lot of changes within the Troop with the Operators needing to be more IT friendly.

Over the last few months key personnel have gone, after 39 years service and a Sky TV debut, **Maj (Tfc) Dave Gilchrist** has been posted to civ div, all the Troop wish him well for the future, but not as much as the corps windsurfing fraternity will. Also a fond fare-well to **SSgt Karen** 'I've given up smoking again' **Ripley** who is going over the water to 15 Sig Regt in Northern Ireland, to be reunited with her husband **Sean**. We will miss you **Karen**,. Everytime I think of you whistling like a blackbird in a wardrobe on adventure training, or I see a lone shoe heel stuck in the sand with-out an owner at Sloane Square a wee smile comes across my face and happier times are remembered…ha ha! **Sgt Karen** ' I can recommend getting your head down on the ticket machine at Sloane Square sottaly tober' **Ellams** has departed to Ilford with 36 Sig Regt. We will miss your unique brand of entertainment so good luck. **Lee** 'I hate nights' **Pearce** is off to 21 Sig Regt, Colerne after successfully completing his re-trade to Area Systems Operator, no more cushy postings for you **Lee.** Also, last but not least, **Sig Ian** ' Where's my green ronhills with the elasticated waist?' **Slight**, who has followed me to every unit and every shift since I left Catterick, good luck 'Slighty' I am sure you will have an internet café near you and where ever you lay your hat your mouse will roam. A warm welcome goes to **Maj (Tfc) Carl Storey** who after many years active service with those 264 boys will finally have to work for a living …(size 10 slippers in the post sir)

RADIO TROOP – *by Sgt Tait*
Tp Comd **Capt Andy Wilson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mark Brooksbank**

Firstly congratulations to **LCpl Jay Beattie** on his promotion to Corporal and to **Sigs McGregor** and **Parker** on receipt of their first tapes both can know be found tying their own shoe laces with in the troop lines. Sadly a fond and emotional farewell to **Cpl Stevie Hook** who deserts us for 21 Sig Regt. The training wing will never be the same again with out him rambling round quoting PAM's and other training manuals.

Competing in a recent potted sports event, the seniors were not interested in losing and were determined to win, by cheating. Chief instigator was **Sgt Bob** 'Win and I'll break your legs' **Garlick**, whose new rules of basketball are being faxed as we speak to London Irish RFU Club, to see if they can incorporate them into a game plan for Saturdays match with Saracens. Feeling they had won, they were disqualified from two of the three games by **WO2 SSM Euan** 'It's my game and if you don't play properly I'm going home' **Hall**. However, the seniors may claim a moral victory for in the extra time played in the bar, **Cpl** 'Coma' **Storey** drunkenly invited anyone who would look at him to the Troops' Xmas function.

After Christmas we have been carrying out CBT (compulsory basic training) for members of the Troop who will be lucky enough to ride on ceremonial occasions. This has brought forward some unnatural bikers, **Sig Toby Green** deserves a mention, who whilst attempting a hill start, felt the need in mid flap to pull down on everything he had a grip on, causing the bike to flip, hit the wall and bounce back onto the ramp. An application to the 'Purple Helmets' is sure to follow. This selfless act of show boating was tame compared to what happened to **Sig Maggs** ' I had to drop the bike' **West**. She was doing all right until she hit Kings Road (literally) while trying to negotiate a corner! As all good women she managed to blame the bike and not her natural show stopping abilities. After the ambulance and police got there she was able to walk again aided with crutches, no one is too sure whether she passed or not but a swift recovery is expected.

The football team has improved with the aid of a couple of new players. The last game against MOD A we lost 7-0. When we played them on 24/01/01 in the Quarter Finals of the Londist Minor Unit Cup, however, the score was a closer 6-5 at one point we were 5-2 up. I must

mention the scorer of a hatrick **LCpl Shaun** 'Wrighty ' **Dinsdale**, How I don't know, but I do know that he scored one with his left cheek (not his face), a move which is in no coaching manual. There was also a steady display of 1950's football by **Sgt Ian** 'Charley Charles Charles' **Tait** who was playing his first game since a life threatening injury late last year. He even managed to contribute a goal after beating the same defender at least 12 times (why let the truth get in the way of a good story). Also I must mention **Sgt Mark** 'Ramon Vega ' **Brooksbank** who chipped in with two goals, one fumbled in with his knee and the other was an unstoppable header from 20 yards into the top left corner. Both, I might add, were past our own keeper, I don't know whether he has, but he will be getting a slab in. Although he denies responsibility for this and AKA Alan Hansen he blames the keeper for poor positioning. However, a berth was secured in the semi and we hastily await a big money spinning tie against the posties from Mill Hill.

Here pictured is **Sgt Bob** 'let me tell you' **Garlick** poised like a striking cobra awaiting the arrival of HM The Queen. His role is to alert the Gun Position at Green Park to enable them to Fire a Royal Salute at the moment Her Majesty's foot touches the ground at the Palace of Westminster, prior to the State Opening of Parliament. He is located on the Third floor of Victoria Tower (Palace of Westminster) and is able to give the command by observing the arrival of the Royal Coach through a retractable floor in the Tower. He is connected by radio to **Sgt Mark** 'Green Seven' **Brooksbank** at the Gun Position who on receipt of the order 'fire fire fire' will instruct the Gun Commander to give the order to fire. Behind **Sgt Bob Garlick** are historical scenes including the Reformed Parliament of 1833, Queen Victoria opening Parliament in 1845 and Churchill addressing the house during the Second World War. **Sgt Bob Garlick** is able to do this as he still has a radio. After completion of his task he descends to the ground floor and helps **Sgt Ian** 'Oops did I need that?' **Tait** to pick up the pieces of his radio.

Sgt Bob Garlick above Sovereigns Entrance, Palace of Westminster, in Victoria Tower

243 SIGNAL SQUADRON

5 DIV BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Cpl (Paul 'Pinky') Floyd

On Tuesday 6 February 2001, 243 Sig Sqn traveled to Tidworth Leisure Centre to compete in the 5 Div Minor Units Championships. After two sessions at Bulford and Blandford to hone our basketball skills, **FofS** 'Kev' **Moir**, realized that half our team were not too proficient at the game. However, he assured us with great confidence that we had the ability to win the competition and qualify for the Army finals to be held in Grantham.

Each game was to be played with 12-minute halves, three personal fouls, five team fouls and one timeout per half. The three personal fouls were something that would come back to haunt us later in the day. The day according to **FofS** 'Kev' **Moir** was going to be long and tiring as we had three games to fit in. Our first game started nice and early at 0930hrs against Depot Royal Irish. We started a little shabbily and the Depot took the lead and by half time we were 14 points down. I have to say at this point that 243 Sqn was just starting to warm up and the damage was soon to come. **LCpl** 'Ali (Shorty)' **Way** performed his dazzling manoeuvers alongside **LCpl** 'Steve (dunking)' **Miller** closely supported by 'Kev (the wall)' **Moir, Cpl** 'Olly (seldom sober)' **Gray**, and **LCpl John** 'Lanky' **Liddell**. The other team members rotated through which included **Maj Graham** 'Climb every hill top' **McNeill, Cpl Paul** 'Pinky, super sub' **Floyd, Sig** 'John (ugly)' **Denyer**, and **Mr David** 'I wish I had a stronger wrist' **Anderson.** The second half saw a strong performance all round and we ran out winners 41 – 34. This win boosted the team's confidence and we now looked forward to our next opponents. Our second opponents of the day were 91 Sqn RLC, who were convincingly beaten by the RMP. They approached the game with energy and vigor to overcome their first loss. After a few minutes of fast and furious play we settled into our game and all team members had a period of good court time. By now 243 Sqn were really cooking on gas and came out convincing winners 36 – 15.

The third and final game was against 6 RMP who had won all their previous matches throughout the day and were now positioned as our main opponents in the Championship. Having watched their games it was evident that this was going to be our hardest game, as some of the opposition looked 7ft tall and the remainder at least 6ft 4'. The game see-sawed, but we soon came to terms with their size and their elbows started to connect with our players as they became more frustrated and by the end of the half we were up. The second half saw a turn in fortunes and the RMP's came out with new tactics and the teams inexperience began to show as they clawed their way back into the game. Things grew tense and it was at this point that the three personal foul rule came back to haunt us, as **FofS Moir** was replaced by **Sig Chris** 'Oatmeal Savage' **McGuire** after committing his third and final foul, FofS 'don't kick the basketball'. The responsibility was now down to the remainder of the team, all who were under 6ft 2', to try and win the game. However, even a few spectacular three pointers by **Cpl** 'Olly' **Gray** and **LCpl** 'Steve' **Miller** couldn't save the day as we lost by a mere four points 24 – 28.

A great day was had by all and we finished runners up. We now look forward to the Army finals in March and expect to exact revenge on the RMP's at Grantham, both on court and in the bars.

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ACE MOBILE FORCES (LAND))

EXERCISE HARDFALL 2001 -NORWAY

by Lt Mike Fayers - OC Owl Troop

The Squadron deployed on its annual pilgrimage to Norway in early January to an alarmingly green Norway, with the usual seamless transition into war with a six-hour trip actually taking 20hours. On arrival the Squadron was introduced to its new friends, some members of Alpha Troop, 2 Sig Regt, some movers from 50 MM Sqn and a Squadron worth of Light Dragoons. It wasn't long until our new friends were also bonding well with the Quartermaster's Department, testing **QM Steve** 'Cough cough' **Morgan** and **RQ Andy** 'Scrumpy' **Slack** and their merry men generosity to issue shiny white kit. Eventually, we were all ready for our Novice Ski and Survival Course and some good old-fashioned clean fun…….or so we thought!

The first morning was a quick orientation to our pocket contents, which was soon to become the bane of our lives, but the cornerstone of our fitness programme. Everyone was amazed just how many pairs of gloves, chocolate bars, para cord, ski wax, hats and other bits of kit you would never see again could actually be spring loaded into our four pockets. However, our introduction into kit inspection artic style was soon over and we were on the slopes under our MSIs for our first morning of falling over with Army Planks on. I had left the UK quietly confident having skied before, but unfortunately my planks and I had a slight personality clash: That's to say we had differing opinions on what direction we thought we should be heading in, usually resulting in high speed followed by a sudden halt. By the end of the first day most had come accustomed with their special skis and legs relationship.

Survival Night
Lt Fayers and Cpl O Donell go about making a home for the night

The rest of Week One was a mixture of skiing, falling over, tent routine and cries of 'front support place', 'show me your (insert any item of kit, usually that item most difficult to get to)' not to forget lots of practice of our new found friend the snow plough. Most of this was under the careful eye of our attached Royal Marine Mountain Leader, **Sgt** 'The Moose Hunter' **Renny** who kept the course amused trying to work out exactly what he meant by his RM tongue. The finale to week one was a night ski that practised our snowplough to the exhaustion of our thighs, followed by the feared ice breaking drills. This was run by the **Sgt** 'Formally known as Jacko' **Jackson** and **Cpl** 'Warm kit on' **Witham** and was actually quite enjoyable. No one had any major dramas though some did seem to spend longer in the pond than expected!

MOUNTAIN LEADER DICTIONARY

Saying	All that good stuff
Definition	*A bit of beautiful and pucker mixed together with the finest ML planning.*
Saying	Beautiful
Definition	*Just how I would have liked to have planned it.*
Saying	The soldier formally Known as airborne.
Definition	*One that has been swayed to the dark side of the MLs' training methods.*
Saying	Front Support Place
Definition	*The press up position.*
Saying	Hot Wet
Definition	*A cup of tea, white one or NATO to the rest of the Army.*
Saying	Lack of Moral Fibre
Definition	*People who have an injury.*
Saying	Nutty
Definition	*Chocolate, biscuits, boilies, jelly babies and all that good stuff.*
Saying	Pucker
Definition	*That which the Marines do.*
Saying	Obviously
Definition	*Anyone who has also spent most of his or her life gaining the ML qualification would understand.*
Saying	Dragoons slayer
Definition	*ML*
Saying	These people are in way over their heads
Definition	*Their Training has obviously been insufficient*
Saying	Threaders
Definition	*I'm rather tired of today's activities and working with amateurs.*
Saying	Top of the hill-Go!
Definition	*Haven't planned the next phase, needs ten minutes pass me my fag packet.*
Saying	Wobble
Definition	*Response to female emotions.*

After a relaxing weekend absorbing the breath taking sights of Voss everyone was ready for the Survival and transition into tactics phase. Most of the course turned up for the first stand 'survival' wearing every bit of warmest kit they possessed and with strange limps, however, these were soon removed. After a brief tour of improvised shelter it was time to perform the dastardly deed on the chicken. Nobody was too upset, as these particular chickens virtually jumped onto our knives as they were that sad. After some helpful hints such as the wind direction we set about making our homes for the night. For some this did not only involve borrowing design hints from the DS examples but the floor, ceiling and the front door. The night was cold, but bearable thanks to our raging infernos and burning gaiters. Unfortunately the snow conditions did not allow snow holes, and despite being threatened with a night in a Quincy, the course was spared the ordeal. With our NSSC qualification in the bag after a few gentle bergen moves and helium pulks; all that was left was a week of tactical training, which proved to be equally as demanding and just as enjoyable when falling over.

Artic Warfare phase - All the gear no idea!

KIWI TROPHY 2000

by Lt Mark Stoter, OC Pussycat Tp and ***Sig 'Eddie' Waring***

While stationed in Bulford many years ago, a contingent of the New Zealand Army were tragically killed when a building collapsed on to them. Not content with making their successors carve an enormous Kiwi into the hillside in memoriam, their legacy exacts its revenge in the form of a 23km march and shoot competition, completed once a year. So, one foggy morning in November, the Sqn (the other units seem to have forgotten the occasion) formed up in pairs and set off on the competition. **Sig 'Eddie' Waring** left in 22nd position.

The OC, **Lt Stoter** and **LCpl Haffenden** all set off before **Sig Waring** and employed a cunning subterfuge, adding an extra three kilometres before rejoining the route slightly in front of **Sig Waring**. Two and a half hours later, most arrived at the firing point. A falling fig 11 target at 200m would not seem too taxing (indeed, **Sig** 'Deadeye Dick' **Waring** only missed four shots out of ten) but **LCpl Osmond**, **LCpl** 'Scouse' **Conroy**, **SSgt** 'I'm so weak' **Raybould** all managed to miss all their shots, with **WO2 (FofS)** 'Cyclops' **Holyoak** managing only to miss nine out of ten. The SSM, **Sgt Maj Marsh** and the OC, **Maj Hudson**, led the way, not missing a shot between them. The overall result was close, with **Cpl Keightly**, **Cpl Jones** and **Sgt** 'Maurice' **Pay** coming first, second and third respectively. **Sig Waring** came in 33rd. The event took much organisation and the Squadron would like to thank **SSgt (YofS) Hughes**, **WO2 (YofS) Kerr**, **SSgt Andy Allan**, **WO2 (RQMS) Andy Slack**, **Lt Mike** 'My God! It's huge!' **Fayers** and the 2IC, **Capt Terence Downes**. **Sig Waring** was not involved in the organisation but is thanked nonetheless.

259 SIGNAL SQUADRON

GENERAL'S VISIT TO 259 SIGNAL SQUARON

Maj Gen Angus Ramsey CBF, recently paid a visit to 259 Sig Sqn. The purpose of the visit was twofold, firstly to see the Squadron complete with new developments and secondly to present four soldiers with the Modern Apprenticeship Scheme (NVQ Level 3 in Communications.) The General was shown various aspects of the work of the Squadron and was given an opportunity to see the Installations Technicians at work utilising some of the latest technology in Health and Safety equipment. Further demonstrations that took place included the video conferencing equipment, which is of particular importance, due to two of 259 Sig Sqn's Troops being isolated commands. On the technical development side, one of the Squadron's SNCOs, **SSgt Elliott** has completed a cable and circuit database for use by the Squadron. This provides a rather more user-friendly system than the existing paper records system, which are used to track telephone connectivity. The finished product has been found to be very easy to use and has been adopted by the Royal Signals as a Corps standard. In addition to this development **FofS Winckle** has designed a web site for the Squadron, which includes information on personalities, social events, work etc. This will provide yet another tool to help overcome the problems of having three Troops in different corners of the island. The visit culminated with a presentation in the Jimmy Club for **Cpl Croft, Cpl Hogg, Cpl Palfrey** and **Cpl Readehead** to receive their Modern Apprenticeship Scheme NVQ Level 3 in communications. This formally recognises the abilities of Royal Signals Technicians as amongst the most capable and professional military tradesman in the world and is a valuable recognition of their competence.

EPISKOPI TROOP – *by LCpl Dan 'Barnsley boy' Reade*

Tp Comd **Lt K. L. Milner**
Tp SSgt **SSgt G. Mathieson**

Now is the time of change out here in sunny Cyprus and the floodgates now open to many new arrivals and departures. 259 Sig Sqn takes on a fresh batch from the factory and re-trading personnel to its team. Here at Episkopi we'd like to give a big welcome to **Sig George Forman, Sig Adam** 'The bear' **Huber, Sig** 'little' **Phil Harris, LCpl** 'Big' **Phil Parish, Sig Vicky** 'New Bird' **Marsh** and their new Telemech sensei **Sgt Terry Rogers**. Also into the Troop we've had some new tech blood in the form of **LCpl Paul** 'Old Man' **Fox, LCpl Steve** 'Speed' **Hudson** and **LCpl** 'Scott' **Varley**. Regrettably with all these arrivals we have also had to say goodbye to some of our friends as they move on. These being **Sig Robbie** 'Minceboy' **Williams** to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig Wayne Garnett** to 8 Inf Bde, **Sig Emma Flynn** to 3 Div, **Sgt Mark** 'Flash' **Gordan** to Blandford and finally **Cpl Steve** 'Coops' **Cooper**, who decided he liked it out here so much he has moved to Nicosia with his family. All the best in the future people, you will be sadly missed.

Promotions – We would also like to congratulate **LCpl Lindsay Stewart** on promotion to Corporal, **Sig Andy** 'Mini-Coops' and **Sig Kev Moss** to Lance Corporal. A big farewell goes out to him as he goes to 21 Sig Regt (AS), good luck in the future.

DHEKELIA TROOP
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Recently the Troop has had a high personnel turnover. We would like to say farewell to **SSgt (FofS) Bernie** 'Skeletor' **McAndrew** and his wife **Claire, Cpl Darren** 'Swampy' **Robson, Cpl Jase** 'Lord Lucan' **King** and **Sig Rab** 'Peanut' **Winter** (Don't worry **Lynne's** been putting in some long hours). Good luck to you all in Civvy Street. Also leaving but on promotion to Sergeant, **Cpl Adam** 'Pugilist' **Torrington**, his wife **Nicky** and daughter **Chelsea** to sunny Gibraltar. To Lance Corporal, **Sig Rachael** 'Mrs Nicholson' **Hulland** (watch out for the ivory hunters) and **Sig Craig Bate** to Northern Ireland, and **Sig Martin** 'Twitchy' **Fell** to Airfield Tp. Finally goodbye to **Sgt Fiona** 'Nünschüff' **Whitty** to JSSU Ay-Nic, **Sgt Lee** 'Goal Bird' **Turbitt** to 2 Sig Regt and last but by no means least **Cpl Ritchie** 'Mince Boy' **Palfrey** (Cheers for the pager back), to JCU(NI).

The Troop would like to wish a warm welcome to **Sgt Stu** 'Sooty' **Foster**, wife **Nicky** and son **Callum**, to **Sgt Richard** 'Lurch' **Musgrove**, wife **Carol** and daughters **Lucy** and **Charlotte**. Also **Cpls McCullen** and **Morgan, LCpl Gordon** 'Gofer' Pyrah, **LCpl Dave** 'I'm going 264 I am' **King**. Fresh from the factory is **LCpl Tom** 'After shock' **Cockerill, Sig Ben** 'Linford' **Mitchell, Sig John** 'Pizza Boy' **Dent, Sig Chris** 'Monkey Boy' **Hodgson** and finally **Sig Andy** 'Private' **Pyle**. We would like to welcome back from Kosovo **Sig Steve** 'Pole Climber Extraordinaire' **Baxter, Sig Gareth** 'From Russia with Love' **Davis** and **Sig Ben** 'Hyouge nappa' **Tierney** after a three month deployment (Holiday).

Congratulations are in order for **LCpl Jim** 'Imaginary Canadian girlfriend' **Stokes** on his promotion to Corporal in the Falklands and his fifteen seconds of fame. Also **LCpl Colin** 'Stumpy' **Simpson** and **Mr Graham** 'part timer' **McDougall** on their upcoming marriages. Also well done to **Sig Kye** 'Trocs' **Topping** on his marathon car-washing event. It only remains to say thank you to **Cpl Brent** 'Skin' **Readhead** who compiled these notes.

AIRFIELD TROOP - *by Cpl Bilby*

Tp Comd **Lt S. J. D. Covey-Crump**
Tp SSgt **SSgt B. Stenhouse**

The one thing missing from the beer and BBQ life-style at Airfield Troop was a place to drink the beer and have a BBQ, therefore the troop embarked on making one of those essential items, a patio. Enclosed in its own fenced off area the Airfield Tp patio offers the social drinker a chance to sit back and enjoy the delights of a Cypriot summer in a surrounding that lets your imagination run wild. In fact you have to let it run wild as it isn't painted yet, but soon to be finished it should be good to enjoy when the summer gets here. A special thanks must go to **Cpl Rudd** and **Sig Milevsky** for putting a lot of effort into the patio's construction. Goodbyes to **LCpl Barnett, Sig Stanley** and **Sig Murphy** we hope you do well at your new postings. Welcome to **LCpl Berry** the new technikettle support, **Sig Kendal, Sig Orr** and wife **Rebecca**.

BFBS FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The venue was set, the BFBS wireless for the Blind competition took place on Saturday 23 September 2000. 259 Sig Sqn entered three teams into this event, two from Episkopi and one from Akrotiri. The Episkopi teams consisted of 'The Old Codgers' headed up by the daddy of the old codgers **WO2 (FofS) Frank Cowan** and the 'Young Ones' headed up by **LCpl Carl Tindall**. Fortunately the two teams were entered into different leagues hence they would not meet each other until the later stages if at all. Both teams had a tough draw with the Old Codgers having to overcome the KOSB if they were to succeed. The young ones had a good run in their league not conceding a goal in the five games however due to other results they had to go into a penalty shoot out to proceed further into the competition. As for the Old Codgers letting in that only goal all afternoon proved fatal hence they were condemned to sit out the rest of the competition. The penalty shoot-out for the Young Ones was a tense affair and due to **LCpl Chris Palmers** and **Robbie Williams** missed efforts all appeared to be lost. However, they were riding their luck on this afternoon as the Opposition could not afford the time to stay on so the Young Ones were given a bye into the Plate Competition. Luck was fast running out for **LCpl** 'I look good' **Carl Tindall** and his crew as once again a penalty shoot out proved to be the hurdle that dispatched them from the competition. Sadly no trophies for 259 Sig Sqn but a good performance was put in by all concerned and everybody came away with a lovely sun tan. Well done to all those who were involved.

101 LOGISTIC BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS & SIGNAL SQUADRON (261)

OC **Maj M. Baines**
RSM **WO1 E. Udell**

The Squadron has been busy developing it's sporting prowess and exploiting the adventurous training opportunities available as it prepares for Ex Saif Sareea II, which commences deployment in June. Having already completed our first Exercise of the year, Exercise Black Mamba when **Brig Shaw** visited us, the preparations for deployment to support our sister Brigade in Germany have begun. Meanwhile twelve of the Squadron have been to Norway on the ski proficiency courses and another dozen to Bavaria on the Brigade ski trip while the remainder were coming second in the Corps cross-country and competing in basketball, football and hockey.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Lucy Thirsk**
Tp Sgt **SSgt Joe Crowe**

Alpha Tp has had a significant changeover of personnel with six new arrivals including **2Lt Cas Wootten** from RSS to takeover from **Capt Lucy Thirsk** off to pastures new in Ireland. **Cpl Thurston, LCpls Beerling** and **Skehorn** and **Sig Hebdon** to swell the ranks and replace **Cpls Galloway** and **Ellison, LCpl Lavender** and **Sigs Treen, Holden** and **Mills**, we wish them all the best.

ADVANCE SKI PROFICIENCY COURSE - NORWAY
by LCpl Andy Cole

A new milliennium, a major hangover and its off to Norway for a 10-day sking course. Having been bumped onto the advance ski proficiency we were ready to go !

Day One included the usual briefings and issue of stores. We were split into groups and issued skis and poles. It was then a ten minute drive to the local slope for a few hours of showing off and falling over so the instructors could guage how we got on. After this introduction the next couple of days were spent at Lillehammer on the olympic slopes including the women's downhill and some more adventurous off-piste powder sking with the draglifts proving too difficult for some. After the glamour of the slopes it was onto the more arduous tour leader training, this involved a change of skis, boots and the addition of skins. Skins are attached to the bottom of the skis to allow you to go uphill and across flat terrain. It was easier than Alpine and after three days we were confident for our expedition. After a two-hour bus ride up to the Rondane National Park we completed a 9km trek to our overnight shelter. The weather was outstanding and the trek a good but steady pace.

The last two days involved digging a snow hole and living in it and then digging ourselves out of it and treking through the whiteout to return to base. A very enjoyable course and we are looking forward to going on our Instructors Course next year.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd/QM **Maj Peter Beauchamp** RLC
Tp SSgt **SSgt Martin Stebbing**

We would like to welcome to the Troop **LCpl Tim McGukin** from 16 Sig Regt. Congratulations to **LCpl 'Geordie' Watson** on selection for promotion along with Signaller now **LCpl** 'Nice but dim' **Dimberline** and **Cpl** 'Heir Wez' **Barry** on his marriage to **Tanya**.

PARAGLIDING COURSE IN BAVARIA
by LCpl Skeggs

I has returned from Christmas leave with a terminal case of the back to work blues, ready for another year in green, when out of the blue came a the offer of three places for ten days paragliding in Bavaria, which could just not be passed up. Many hours of grovelling to the Troop Staff Sergeant secured a place for **Cpl Paul Rhodes , Cpl** 'Geordie' **Watson** and myself on an incredibly 'Gucci' course. Eleven hours of travelling in total; flights, no problem…Club Class but seven hours on numerous trains which should have been condemned was no fun. None the less we arrived. Thus began ten days of soaring through the sky like a bird; climbing invisible thermals to reach the misty heights of the clouds and above, to reach up and touch the heavens, to sit side by side with angels in absolute europhia, or so we thought. Imagine, launching off the top of a hill at an angle of 45 degrees, one hundred and fifty feet up. A rush, oh yes. But now imagine launching off this same hill twenty one times, and the only way to reach the summit of this hill is to place one foot in front of the other, while also carrying all your equipment on your back. All this hard work was in preparation for the 'Big one'. Launching off the top of the mountain who's shadow we had been living in, to conquer the mother of them all. Only to have our dreams dashed down at the last minute by the lousy weather……Damn. Out of the ten days, not only did we fly like a bird, but also many other smaller adventures were had when the weather was not in our favour. Tracking down the Snow leopard which turned out to be the biggest, and I mean 'Massive', tabby cat known to man. Exploring the most fantastic and surreal castle seated in the clouds as well as a touch of sking. What a fantastic week !

264 (SPECIAL AIR SERVICE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

After several years absence from *The WIRE* Magazine it was decided that it was about time that the Squadron started making contributions again. There have been a lot of changes in the past two years, both in terms of our location; we've just completed the move into a new camp, and our numbers. The Squadron manning situation has never been so healthy before, and that is purely down to the number of volunteers attempting Probation. Whilst there still are a number of vacancies for posted in personnel, the majority of posts are for Special Forces Communicators (those that pass Probation). The last course statistics are as follows:

PROBATION COURSE STATISTICS 2/00
(JULY – DECEMBER 2000)

	Started	Completed
Tele Op (Tg)	24	12
Tele Op (Sys)	6	3
Tele Op (Spec)	1	Nil
Tele Op (RR)	1	1
Tele Op (R)	5	1
Tele Tech (Sys)	7	3
Tele Tech (R)	3	2
Tele Mech	1	Nil
Dvr Elec	1	1
Dvr Lmn	3	2
All Arms Signaller	2	1
Officers	1	1
TOTAL	**53**	**27**

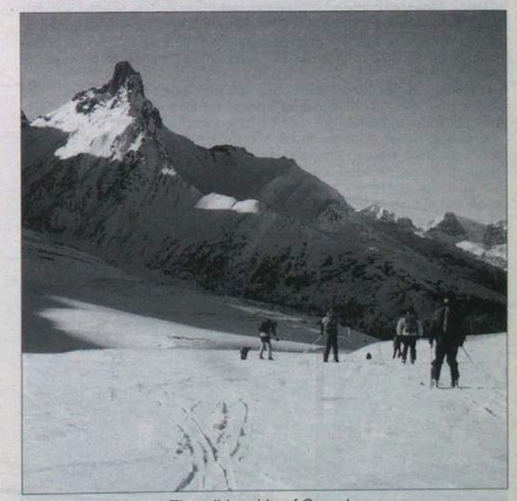
Apart from Probation the Squadron has been exceptionally busy both operationally and on exercise, but despite this we have still found time for a bit of downtime:

EXERCISE DOLPHIN'S DRAGON 14 – 21 JULY 2000

Ex Dolphin's Dragon was a Sub Aqua diving adventure training trip to the Red Sea, led by the Squadron 2IC. The aim of the exercise was to qualify all the participants to PADI Master Scuba Diver in just one week. This was achieved by starting early and finishing late! The group of 13 Squadron members lived aboard a boat called the Sir Cousteau that travelled North from Hugardha to some of the more remote dives on the Red Sea. The instructor on the trip was a former Second in Command who was a hard taskmaster but knew all the best sites in the area. It is hoped that the Squadron will be going to the Red Sea again soon!

EXERCISE THERON CHANCE 18 – 28 JANUARY 2001

Members of G Troop 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn deployed to Jasper, Canada during the period 18-28 January 2001 on Ex Theron Chance, a military Ski training exercise to develop skiing and extreme weather survival skills. Our macho Squadron Chief Clerk accompanied the Exercise just to confirm why he is Commando and Parachute trained. Training was based around the Marmot Ski Basin, located a few miles outside of Jasper, where the Squadron conducted downhill training. They also conducted Ski touring close to the Athabasca Glacier with the aide of local ski guide **Peter Lemieux**, during which they learned about ski touring, patrolling and survival techniques. A number of these techniques were put into practice later on during the R&R phase when some of the guys had to E&E from rather hot locations.



The wilder side of Canada

The Exercise participants spent the evenings exploring local cultural events sampling local beverages and tasting fine local fare. Its amazing how different steak and chips tastes in Canada. An awesome time was had by all. So if you want to go on top trips with hard-core dudes…. then do Probation.

280(UNITED KINGDOM) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. A. Harris**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. Kearney**

KILO TROOP - *by LCpl 'Twinkle Toes' Clarke*
Tp Comd **Lt L. J. Calderhead**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Weavers**

Firstly the Troop has to say a fond farewell to **Sig Si** 'Firestarter' **Hall** and wish that all his future comrades at Northwood appreciate his fire NCO capabilities. The Troop would also like to say goodbye to **Cpl Andy** 'Silver Fox' **Wilkinson** and family on his recent posting to 3 Div. We welcome to the front line **Sgt Stu** 'Mean 'n' Green' **McNeil, LCpl T.** 'Old School' **Turner, LCpl Neil** 'Brad' **Gritt** and also last but not least **LCpl Jimmy** 'The bellies Gonna Get You' **McGrory**. We also welcome **Sig** 'Ski, who me I don't Think so' **James** back from the COMMCEN at JHQ. Appreciation is given to **Sig** 'Tidy' **Rolf** on taking cover on PT by producing an almost near perfect pike dive. Get well soon messages have to go out to Signaller soon to be **LCpl Lloyd** who is feeling the effects of a harsh Christmas. Also loads of sympathy has to go to **LCpl** 'Done it better' **Jones** who had the River Dance performed on his anatomy by some members of the local populace. Next on the get-well roster is **SSgt** 'Have you seen him' **Weavers** currently being stood in for by **SSgt** 'Barking Mad' **Tyson**. Well done goes to **Cpl Matt** 'Winged Warrior' **Baber** on his weeks holiday at Hereford and would like to thank **Cpl Sammi** 'Bleach my Tips' **Samuel** for taking a months vacation in Australia. The Troop hope that **Cpl Matt** 'Sniffler' **Grant** has improved after his much needed plastic surgery on his huge proboscis. A big shout goes out to all the lucky guys and girls on the Det in Banja Lukkkkaaaaaa (Daz, Coops, Donna, Woody, Cookie 'Jackhammer'). We would like to say that we are missing you but alas we cannot! Mentions also go to **Steve Hudspeth** on his Class 1, the line guys Kerry, Monty and Dave, **Sig** 'Drive U round the Bend' **Plummer** on her arrival in Feb and **Sig Polly** '£200' **Pollock** on his close shave with the law. Oh yeah and **Cpl Jimmy** 'Summerville' **Cunningham** don't forget us now you have a new record contract with A+M records. Finally, congratulations to the boss on her promotion to Captain.

44th BERNER DISTANZMARCHE
by LCpl 'I'll Get The Batteries' Booth

On 1 December 2000 our motly crew set off to participate in the 44th Berner Distanzmarche near Bern in Switzeland. Setting off at the ungodly hour of 6 o'clock we started the 7-hour trip down to Thun Kaserne, our home for the next few days. Most of us got our heads down, including **LCpl Timmy** 'Tea Connoiseur' **Mallett** and **LCpl** 'Toothy' **Roberts** who after the night before managed to stay unconscious nearly the whole journey. Upon arriving in Switzeland and experiencing several weather vortexes we carried out a route recce with **Sig** 'I can drive…honest' **Smiejkowski** at the helm of the minibus. Everybody except **WO1 (RSM)** 'The Beast' **Kearney** then decided they'd have been much better off staying at home.

Arriving at the registration and briefing point in Belp we were entertained by a sword wielding maniac hacking up a children's play-ground. We immediately felt safe in the knowledge that all Swiss homes had assault rifles! With the briefing over we made our way to the start point and at 1400hrs we strapped our bergans on and set off on our 45km 'walk in the park.' After a while it became clear, as we tabbed along in file, that not all of the 2500 participants were taking the event seriously. Some individuals were bimbling around stopping off at all the pubs/bars en route. Not bad for the Swiss equivalent of the BCFT! With the pride of the British Army at stake we soldiered on. As the night fell and the kilometres went by it also became clear that we would have to finish the route if only to avoid the bodily odours of **Capt** 'The Beans' **Wilson**.

The victorious Berner Distanzmarche Team — Before sore feet!

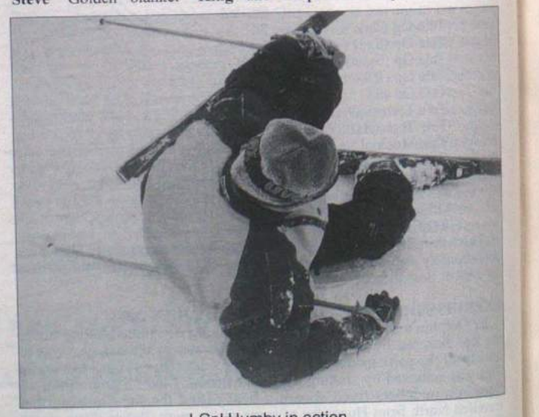
Eventually after several killer hills, endless woods and a promotion (congratulations **Cpl Mallett**!), we were welcomed by the surprised organisers, as we jogged over the finish line. We then hobbled to collect our medals from our gracious Swiss hosts. Leading the way were **Sig** 'The Rug' **Parrington** and **Sig** 'The Poster' **Watson**. That evening we managed to hobble down town to celebrate picking up the Best Team award and generally just finishing. Unfortunately **Sig** 'The Joker' **Sinclair** collapsed unconscious before finding his 'Bear Ladies'. Sunday called for a trip up Mount Eiger and the ski resort at Grindewald. Whilst **Sgt** 'Skimeister' **Taylor** zoomed off everybody else half skied half fell down. **Sig** 'Beer Me' **Crowder** seemed to have the right idea improving Anglo American relations in the wigwam!

EXERCISE SNOWY BACKSTOP 2001

On 27 January 2001, 17 members of the Squadron departed for a week of alpine skiing on Exercise Snowy Backstop 2001. **Sgt** 'Pathfinder' **Mason** and **Sig Sarah** 'One Ski' **Kimberley** were the first to arrive at the exercise location. However, due to slight navigational embarrassment they spent two hours on route attempting to dig the car out of rather deep snow. Eventually they met up with the rest of the clan at the rustic cabins that were to be the groups home for the next week. Then there was a brief acclimatisation period during which time **Lt** 'How the hell did I get up there' **Calderhead** and the seniors acquainted themselves with the slopes while the remainder investigated the alternative recreational facilities in the town.

The novice group, also known as the performing arts group, was taught by **Cpl** 'Are you sitting comfortably?' **Casswell** from 7 Sig Regt. The beginners after starting on the baby slopes where there were many falls, much laughter and many teddies thrown were all just about standing up by the end of the first day. Or were we? **Cpl Doc** 'It's not a pole it's a light sabre' **Savage**? **Sig Dave** 'Text me' **Kreuzcek** was always first to the coffee house due to his inability to stop! **Sig Rick** '1157' **Sinclair** was the king of the de-kit on the slopes. **Cpl Bri** ' I didn't spill a drop' **Woolley** mastered the art of turning right so much that he forgot to turn left! Meanwhile in the other group, led by **Sgt** 'Pathfinder' **Mason** all eight members were skiing in a much more competent manner. That is all except **Cpl Daz** 'I wanna be T' **Pearce** who needed a bit more one to one tuition. The award for the most crashes and burns, however, undoubtedly goes to **LCpl Esther** 'AAAAAH' **Humby** who also had the most bruises at the end of the week.

After being moved to the more advanced group **LCpl Gordy** 'I am the weakest link' **Kirkwood** and **Sig Sarah** 'One-ski' **Kimberley** managed to loose a ski each. Maybe they were not so advanced after all! The rustic cabins certainly added to the novelty value of the exercise and many team bonding sessions occurred in this somewhat cosy accommodation. This was not helped by the rather poor key control maintained by certain members of the group. One occasion saw **Sig Col** '10 slices' **Rolfe, Cpl Steve** 'Golden blanket' **King** and **LCpl** 'Pick up the cordless'



LCpl Humby in action
(and in the position she spent most of the week)

Chacksfield together with three other members of the group in the loft of one cabin. Needless to say this did not impress **SSgt Kev** 'Whatsit' **Roberts** or **LCpl** 'I wanna be Sysco' **Turner** on their return! Exercise Snowy Backstop was an excellent exercise that was enjoyed by all. If **Sgt Mandy** 'Pathfinder' **Mason** wishes to find this article we all advise her to follow the arrows and not the road-signs!

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT FALKLAND ISLANDS

UNIT HEADQUARTERS - *by Lt Jon 'J.A.P.' Mayne*
OC **Maj Ian Hunter**
USM **WO2 Karl** 'Gone Fishing' **Weaver**

As our six-month tour nears its end the unit has seemed to increase its activity level rather than winding down for a smooth hand-over. There have been several visits to the unit over the past month, including four German Media from Krefeld who came to report on their local BFG unit serving in the remoteness of the Southern Atlantic. The visit was a resounding success with visits to a Nature Reserve to see penguins and sea lions and a trip to see the wonders that Stanley has to offer. There was also a helicopter flight to visit one of our remote radio-rebro sites and spend a day experiencing what it is like to live for six months on top of a hill. The following week the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col J. E. Richardson MBE**, and **WO1 (RSM) S. Smoothy** paid us a visit, and this was the first opportunity that the members of the Squadron have had to meet the CO since taking over the Regiment. The visit went extremely well with the exception of attempted poisoning at the hands of **Sig Bibby** due to his cooking skills on Campito, and the CO's failure to catch a fish, but maybe that was just the USM's lack of knowledge when selecting a good fishing spot. The whole of 231 Sig Sqn would like to wish 219 Sig Sqn best wishes and good luck for there winter tour.

RADCON, ALPHA TROOP - *by LCpl Helen 'Warrior' Winterson*
I/C **Sgt Charlie Hart**

Only 23 days to go. Ask anyone and they can tell you exactly that. It's not that we are all counting the days, in fact the last month or so has been quite eventful. Firstly congratulations to **Cpl Nicky** 'Sturdy Girl' **Davies** on coming second in the Stanley Half Marathon in typical Falklands weather. The JCUFI March and Shoot Competition was held in January, and I am happy to boast the fact that the Alpha Tp Team came a well earned second place after the Officers' and Seniors' Team who we must say won under very dubious circumstances. Need we say more? **Cpl Nicky Davies** has been busy raising money, along with others she cycled 60 miles from MPA to Darwin and back again. They raised £610.24 for WRVS and The Open University Development fund for the disabled. Quite a few sore backsides, large and small after that event! Christmas and New Year went down well with everyone making a great effort on Christmas Day with their Cowboy and Indian outfits. In particular **LCpl** 'Dins Dog' **Dinsdale** in his cow suit and **Sig Nicky Brown** as Pocahontas. Everyone enjoyed the BBQ. It certainly made quite a change to be eating burgers and sausages for Christmas dinner. Morale in RADCON is high at the moment, we are all eagerly awaiting the arrival of 2 Signal Regiment, and are happy in the knowledge we will all return to Krefeld slimmer and fitter due to being gym queens and kings.

BRAVO TROOP - *By Cpl Charlie Sunderland*
I/C **WO (CY)** 'Buster' **Brown** RN
2 I/C **CPOWEM** 'Tim' **Isherwood** RN

As February rapidly approaches and along with it the end of our tour (for the Army Element anyway), it's time to look back over the past few months and reflect on the good times had by the members of Bravo Troop. November saw the premature departure of **Cpl John McGee, Cpl Richie Applegarth** and **LCpl Matt Childs** (the surplus to requirement boys). Nice of you to come along for the ride and hope you have all dried out now or at least your kidneys have! Also that month came the next round of COMMCEN V Syscon Go-Karting and for the second time the Syscon Techs were victorious taking prizes for first, second and third place. Special mentions must go out to **Cpl Angie Weatherill** who claimed the 'Driving Miss Daisy' award for taking three hours to do ten laps, and to **LCpl Dan** 'Schumacher' **Seward** for taking the championship title for the second time. Better luck next time COMMCEN. Most of the Troop managed to celebrate Christmas with the usual Festive Frolics, however, this year's shenanigans had a slight Wild West theme with most of the guys dressing up as Cowboys and Indians for the Christmas Day B-B-Q. No Wild West Bash would be complete without a Village Idiot so, thanks to **Cpl** 'Chelle' **Gilmour** for filling the role just nicely. Now that the New Year has been rung in everyone's attention has turned to preparing the hand over to our replacement the lovely 2 Signal Regiment. Guy's we all wish you the best for the next six months and hope you enjoy it as much as we have. Finally… … Congratulations to newly promoted **LCpl Sam** 'Rat Catcher' **Clarke**. Well done **Sam** from all the members of Bravo Tp.

CHARLIE TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Harriet Hebblethwaite**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Tony Black**

Since the last exciting instalment from Charlie Tp, we have been kept fairly busy over the Festive Season. **SSgt Tony Black** and myself have both taken R&R, the former on a trip around the Chilean Lake District (?) with **Sgt Mick Yendell**, and I went to Easter Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. After much cheap Chilean booze, Pina Coladas and loose women (no that wasn't me!) we returned for the remainder of the tour. **Sgt Chris Crompton** and **Cpl** 'Simo' **Simpson** organised the Troop function, which was held in Stanley. Needless to say I will never look at **LCpl Jordan** in the same way again, and I am not too certain whether the barmaid in the Victory Bar appreciated **Sig Maskell's** 'trick'. Sharkies Bar increased its takings a hundred fold over the Christmas period with Line Section organising the highly successful Christmas Party for JCUFI, with the JCUFI Band 'Last Orders' providing the entertainment. Christmas Day itself was marked with a BBQ and games, and there was a New Years Eve party too. Apparently I was there! Charlie Tp's Seasonal 'Sports' Program kicked off with Troop bowling and golf, but unfortunately the trip to Sea Lion Island and the Fitzroy Rodeo were thwarted due to an urgent cable fault. We are all looking forward to 2 Signal Regiment arriving to take over JCUFI, but all are in agreement that this has been an enjoyable tour with some happy memories. I am now permanently deaf due to a combination of helicopters, loud music and unrelenting gale force winds.

LINE SECTION - *by Sgt Dave Cascarino*
I/C Line Section **Sgt Dave Cascarino**
I/CProjects **Cpl Bob Cope**
I/CMaintenance **Cpl Glen Sunderland**
Ship's Cat **Sig Tex Walker**

Life has been as hectic as ever in Line Sect since the last time of writing we have all been having so much fun! The re-wire of the accommodation blocks has been our main priority, with three crews all working flat out to finish the re-wire before the arrival of 2 Signal Regiment. It has been a race against time but the Mechs of 231 Sig Sqn are made of stern stuff and we expect completion very soon. Line Sect were responsible for the JCUFI Christmas bash, and mentions must go to **LCpl** 'Shaz' **McCreaddie** and **Cpl Glen Sunderland** for their expert planning - the night was a great success, but who would expect anything less from the Telemechs? Thanks partly to the mammoth efforts of **Cpl Bob Cope** and **LCpl Jim Stocks**, the station now boasts a new Cyber-Café called Area 51. After much scratching of heads and waiting for local purchase stores, it was officially opened by **CDS General Sir Charles Guthrie**. Plans are now afoot for an expansion to the facility, so watch out Jim - best you break out your Cat 5 head again! To the Line Sergeant's dismay, the whole of the section, with the exception of **Cpl Jim Stocks**, are due to leave in February, to be replaced by Installation Technicians from 14 Signal Regiment. It goes without saying that you will all be missed terribly. As we all know a mention in *The WIRE* costs a round or two, it is with thanks, that the following people are mentioned:
Cpl Glen 'Glenda' **Sunderland**
Cpl Bob 'Dope' **Cope**
LCpl Sharon 'Ice Maiden' **McCreaddie**
LCpl Lee 'Unlucky in love' **Moody**
Sig Tony 'B.A.' **Barclay** - storeman extraordinaire!
Sig Michelle 'Onion' **Bargery**
Sig Ross ' where's me tape?' **Harmon**
Sig Jarred 'Brown bottle' **Morris**
Sig Chris 'Rocky' **Orr**
Sig Jim 'Geordie Geek' **Pearson**
Sig Mark 'Ghengis' **Powell**
Sig Sean 'Tex' **Walker**

It remains only, for this callsign, to thank the above mentioned for all their extremely hard work and effort. It may not have been the smoothest of rides guys, but take with you the knowledge that you are all now fully fledged members of the 'MECH' fraternity. The guys from 14 Signal Regiment will have to go some to outclass you lot!

POWER SECTION - *by Sgt Gaz Topps*
I/C Section **Sgt Gaz Topps**

This has been a busy period for Power Sect. **Cpl Caz Casswell** departed as part of the restructuring of Charlie Tp, ensuring the obligatory photo in front of the Chinook was taken and placed in the memorabilia of the Section Hall of Fame. However his replacement, Sig Sooty the black cat has fitted in well after a short period of adjustment and friction between **WO1 Lister**. Congratulations to **Sig Niall Marshall** on his well deserved promotion, it's like being a full Corporal in Tech years. All members of the Section have taken their R&R, with **Sgt Gaz Topps** topping up the sun-bed tan in Ascension. Most went to the same

Sunshine Island, although **LCpl** 'Monty' **Learmonth** took his locally, visiting the Stanley metropolis and the wildlife of Saunders Island, seeing some fantastic sights that you would never see in other parts of the world.

Christmas brought some partying on a monster scale. **Sig** 'Scotty' **Maskell** fails to recall most events of the day, although he is told that it was the best Christmas he has ever had. Team FED had a fantastic time at the Go Karting. **Sgt Gaz Topps**, **LCpl** 'Monty' **Learmonth** and **Sig** 'Scotty' **Maskell** set the standards all day, demonstrating some excellent driving skills and determination, but to no avail as they were pipped at the post by the USM in the final hour. **Sgt Gaz Topps**, **LCpl Kev Cranney** and **Sig Niall Marshall** were part of the Commando Challenge Team that followed the route from Teal Inlet to Stanley. It covered some arduous terrain over 50km, finishing with a falling plate shooting competition. The Team raised £215 for the '82 Trust charity which raises money for service personnel and their families who are in need of assistance following the Falklands War.

The tour comes to an end with mixed feelings, the comradeship that has been built over the tour has been fantastic, although we are all eager to get away and see our families. We will miss our days out golfing and afternoons at Gull Island Pond canoeing and sailing, but I am sure we will get over our traumatic separation and resume Regimental life with some happy memories.

FITTEST SECTION - *by LCpl 'Denzil' Depport*

I/C Section **Sgt Chris Crompton**

With only three weeks of the tour left to push, excitement in FITTEST section is running at an all time high, with most of our members relieving their tension through a heavy course of bowling and bar lounging. The weather down here has taken a turn for the best, with glorious sunshine gracing MPC on most days. This seems to have taken a profound effect on our most distinguished section SNCO, **Sgt Chris Crompton**, who keeps visiting that well known sun-trap Pleasant Peak, to clear up the numerous 'faults' which mysteriously keep appearing there. We are slightly worried that the FITS cabin may be emitting an unusually high amount of radiation as he keeps coming back looking more frazzled by the day. **LCpl Robson** has recently wandered down from Mt Kent, to be replaced by **Cpl** 'Knife Wound' **Baulch**. **LCpl** 'Gimpernet' **Jordan** has upheld his reputation for spending more time and money on the internet than Bill Gates, while **LCpl** 'Smoky' **Ross** has finally reached the dizzy heights of chief inhaler for Marlboro. Our newest edition to the team **LCpl** 'Giz a Quid' **Robson** is so broke that he has applied to join a mail order bridegroom list and he is currently looking to hitch up with any wealthy lady who can pay for his 10 pint a night habit. Our resident Marconi engineer, multi-millionaire and international playboy **Mr John** 'Al Fayed' **Nicol** has just returned from his Christmas leave where he was reported to have broke more casinos and made more posh ladies swoon than James Bond. To finish off, I must say that our time down here has been enjoyable (though perhaps not very beneficial to our livers) and we hope that the incoming FITTEST section from 2 Signal Regiment have a great tour. As for myself, **LCpl** 'Smelly Smock' **Depport**, I have managed to travel to and change allegiance with every mountain top in the Falklands, which must be a first. I think I will contact the Guinness Book of Records!

EXERCISE COMMANDO CHALLENGE 2000 - *by Sgt Gaz Topps*

Sgt Gaz Topps	**Cpl** 'Stig' **Baulch**
LCpl Phil Brown	**LCpl Kev Cranney**
LCpl 'Eddy' **Irvine**	**Sig** 'Bibbs' **Bibby**
Sig Sam Clarke	**Sig Niall Marshall**

Ex Commando Challenge is a patrolling competition based on the route yomped by 45 Commando Brigade during the Falklands War, initially with the purpose of raising sponsorship money to be donated to the '82 Trust. This is a Falklands charity that assists Service personnel and their families who are in need as a result of the Falklands War. Due to a lack of resources the route was shortened this year to only 50km, this was to be completed in two days, covering some of the most difficult and unrelenting terrain any of the team had ever experienced. The team had trained hard prior to the event, competing in the March and Shoot competition against Gallipoli Company, 1 Gurka Rifles, who at the time were the Roulement Infantry Company (RIC).

The first day started very early and at a very hard and fast pace. The ground was undulating, full of 'babies heads', rivers and ditches. We met all checkpoints and were catching up with the RIC, the leading team, and morale was high. One of the check points saw the team looking towards **Cpl** 'Stig' **Baulch** for his experience in building a raft for a water crossing, this ended in a strange looking vessel but none-the-less it floated long enough for the task to be completed successfully. **Sgt Gaz Topps**, the Military Training meathead, was the first to fall by the wayside. He suffered a muscular injury and although he struggled to the point of extreme agony had to retire with the nickname 'Steve Tickle'. The team was taken over by **Cpl** 'Stig' **Baulch**, finishing the first leg with a gruelling command task set by the Falkland Island Defence Force. (FIDF). This involved moving a huge amount of ordnance over a large water hazard and for some considerable distance. That night we stayed in the 5 star hotel provided by our sponsors, 'Survival Aids', this consisted of bashers, compo and all the fresh water you could drink. Day Two saw some weary bodies and even worse terrain to afford. The Police Section had to retire due to too many injuries, leaving 231 Sig Sqn, FIDF and the RIC to carry the torch. Some historic sights were visited during that day, Two Sisters, Tumbledown, Mt Longdon and Wireless Ridge, these all took their toll on the team's feet leaving them with blisters and open wounds. The team finished the day at the Stanley ranges for a falling plate competition shoot.

Overall the team came third with the FIDF in first and the RIC collecting second. The charity was given £2000 by HQ BFFI and the individual contributions by 231 Sig Sqn came to £215. Congratulations to all those who finished the patrol, and a special well done to **Sig Sam Clarke**, the first female to enter the competition and complete it. Those that attempted to follow the route, now know the pain and anguish of those before them, who did not only made it to Stanley in five days on foot but also fought a war when they arrived.

March and Shoot: Bravo Troop Team
Sgt Blizard, LCpl Seward, Cpl Brookes, Cpl Wilson, Cpl Swann, LCpl Hart, JT Harvey, LCpl Irving, Sig Clarke

JCUFI MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

By Sgt 'Snowy' Blezard

On Friday 12 January, JCUFI held an Inter Troop March and Shoot Competition. There were four teams entered: Alpha Troop, Bravo Troop, Charlie Troop and a combined Officers and Seniors Team. The competition involved a 10km forced march followed immediately by a falling plate shoot at 200m. Each team consisted of eight people, with at least one female in each. It was a tri-service competition with members of the RAF and Royal Navy being 'encouraged' to take part. Congratulations to **WO2 (USM)** 'Death from Above' **Weaver**, for succeeding in making members of both the RAF and the Royal Navy physically sick during the training. Charlie Tp were penalised when **Cpl** 'Where's the Line?' **Baulch** got a bit carried away helping other team members, and crossed the line with more kit than even he can shake a stick at. Congratulations to the Officers and Seniors Team for winning both the march and the shoot phases, and therefore the whole competition.

TORNADO TWO ZERO - *by WO2 (SSM) Karl 'gone fishing' Weaver*

On Wednesday 13 December 2000 I was fortunate enough, after a little gentle persuasion to be given a chance of a life time experience of a trip in a Tornado F3 over the Falklands for 1fi hours. The build up started three days early with medicals and briefings followed by equipment fitting which in itself took over two hours. All this completed, it was time for the flight itself. After a very light breakfast (to make sure I was not going to see it again), I reported to 1435 Flight Tornado Squadron MPA at 0800hrs, to start the process of preparing everything from clothing to yet more briefings to flight orders. All suited up and wearing enough kit to keep a family of refugees warm over the winter period, I made my way out to the aircraft hanger.

Having been shown around a Tornado before I thought it only right to carry out a few of my own first works checks. two wings, two engines, three wheels and a wind screen all seemed to be in order apart from a dodgy looking back left tyre which I was told had a few more take off and landings left in it. All outside checks completed it was time to climb on board and get strapped in to the rear seat. All pre-flight checks done which included me turning on and off radar buttons (who said it was going to be a free ride?), it was time to close the canopy and taxi out of the hangar. With our wingman only feet away from us on the runway it was Select first gear, slip the clutch and chocks away. Within seconds we were Airborne, acceleration fast leaving MPA way behind in the distance.

The first 15mins of flight was very sedate with only a few turns and twists with both aircraft maintaining a height of around 300 feet. My pilot then informed me it was time to liven things up and with a drop down of the gears things started to get very interesting. My 'G' pants started to inflate every time the pilot put the F3 into a tight turn pulling around 4 'G', it got to the stage that I thought my legs were going to explode with the amount of pressure that was being put on them. It was now time to go supersonic, from around 400mph to Mach 1 (760mph) in less than six seconds, nearly as fast as my mountain bike with the wind behind me. Then it was vertical from 300 feet to 21,000 feet in less than 20 seconds with both afterburners on before rolling over to level out.

We attacked a few of the permanent hill top sites around the Falklands before searching for the VC10 refuelling tanker. With more fuel on board it was back to the fun and games with yet again enough 'G' pulled to make your eyes pop out. At this stage I had not reached for the sick bags that I was given as part of my kit but the pilot seemed to be doing his best to get me to fill them. After a quick one sided dog fight with a C130 Hercules that was on a training flight it was time to head back to MPA and carry out a few low level attacks on the runway. 1 hour and 40 mins later it was time to come back to earth, with the undercarriage lowered and a quick squeal of the tyres we were back on the ground.

A trip of a lifetime that will take some beating in the future.

WO2 (USM) Karl Weaver
on the cockpit familiarisation phase of his re-trade course

1 (ROYAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS)

Sqn Comd **Maj S. Gregory**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. Scott**

A typically busy period for the Squadron, January and February incorporated a patchwork of equipment trials, continuation training, exercise, parachuting, the current Special Communications Course and the start of the first SC Assessment Course of the year. Timely congratulations must go to the following members of the Squadron who were successful on the first promotion board of the year: **Sigs Brown, Carrington, Chambers** and **Jones**, **LCpls Clarke** and **Roberts** and **Cpl Gott**. Congratulations go to **WO2 (YofS) Dave Hughes** who was awarded his Long Service and good Conduct medal on Tuesday 13 February. The medal was presented by Comd 2 (NC) Sig Bde, **Brig Jackson MBE** who also took the opportunity to present the Yeoman with his belated warrant. Equal congratulations go to **Sgt Ian Lumsden-Gordon** who was presented with the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal by the Brigade Commander during the same ceremony.

PROTECTIVE DRIVING SKILLS COURSE

by LCpl Dave Marshall

For **Cpl Stu Penman** and myself, we were on our way to the Royal Military Police Close Protection Unit for what we thought was going to be a long intensive week of driving on the Protective Mobile Skills course held at Longmoor Camp. On Monday we were looking forward to a good day's driving but unfortunately the DS had other plans, mainly death by view foil. The driving started on Tuesday with **Cpl Stu Penman** and myself let loose around the roads of Surrey in a worryingly new and powerful Omega, unfortunately for me it was an automatic. So when I eventually stopped trying to change gear it turned into a really good drive, and by the end of the day we were eventually putting into practice what had been taught the previous day. The driving was very controlled concentrating on good tactical skills other than speed. Wednesday involved Anti-Ambush skills in the crash cars, although there were no crashes we managed to burn out the clutch on one vehicle and the other two will never quite be the same again. Again on Thursday, we were out on the road this time we had had unexpected vehicle upgrade having just managed to master the skills in the automatic we had been put in a manual 5-series BMW not that we complained. It took some time getting used to the car but we were more confident and were let off the lead a little more than on Tuesday but we never came close to breaking the speed limit – honest. (**LCpl Gower** may have forgotten to mention exactly how many days after the course that he wrote off his own car. Could be a re-course.....)

LS&GC and VRSM presentations with the Brigade Commander

SQUADRON BURNS NIGHT – SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY

Carefully and lovingly organised by **Capt Alan Houghton**, **WO2 Willy Ironside** and **Sgt Ian Lumsden-Gordon**, the night was not only a celebration of the man Robert Burns himself, but also the dining out of **Capts Richard Newhouse**, **Conrad Giles** and **Sgt Michael (Jeff) Hope-Jefferson**. All started well with Athol Brose, a deceivingly potent creation, the recipe acquired in Dundee. Feeling the effects at this early stage, the diners adjourned to the table for a traditional menu of haggis,

tatties and neeps followed by a long collect of Scottish bards poems and speeches. To say the night was a success would be something of an understatement due in no small effort to the PSAO'S orchestration. The assembled Mess looked resplendent in a sea of tartan and even 'the Laird of Toytown' **SSgt Deano Poole** made an effort and borrowed Rupert Bear's trousers for the occasion. A mention must be made of our chef for the evening **LCpl Flo Jordan** who, as always, did us proud and **LCpl Den Comiskey** amazed all present, with his first class piping skills. Sincere thanks go to the Squadron members and cadets from our local ATC who all waited on with consummate proficiency. Finally, to the three Mess members to whom we bade farewell from Spec Comms, we wish all of you nothing but the very best for the future.

PARACHUTING WEEKEND - *by Cpl Jase Broome*

The news of the next training jump was met with mixed reception around the Squadron. An impressively ugly grin from the face of **Cpl Mick Peace** told a story of its own and so once again to Lyneham it was to be. The volunteers for the jump; myself, **Capts Angus Eavers** and **John Collyer**, **Cpls Mick Peace, Sylvester Hack, Ian McKerrow** and **LCpl Roberts** got off to a 0400hrs start in worse than dubious weather. Once the team met up with the 21 SAS Regt (V) sticks, the all clear was given for the drops to begin. The next challenge was to find the right aircraft on the pan in a minibus packed with the team in full kit. Some twenty minutes late, a safe drop was had by all onto South Cerney with some more than others looking forward to the next one.

Two Scots, three Englishman and a Welshman. So why six skirts?

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS AND CADETS

600 SIGNAL TROOP

Tp Comd **Maj Ron Kirkwood**

600 SIGNAL TROOP - WHERE ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY DO??

600 Signal Troop operates out of Basil Hill site in Corsham. Occupying a small tract of land on the same site as HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde & HQ DCSA and in the not too distant future UKNDA. The Troop, as part of its organisation, contains RSSST(UK) not to be confused with RSSST(Blandford)! RSSST(UK) carries out annual screening of all Ptarmigan assets in UK (not an RSIT inspection). They also provide System Support for tactical communications systems used by the UK Field Army wherever it deploys. It has also been used to supplement RSSST (Germany) during times of intensive deployments requiring RSSST involvement in Germany. The team currently provide System Support for the following systems:

Ptarmigan	Cleo / Myra Systems
UK Tactical SATCOM	Euromux
Bates/Ptarmigan Interface	ADCIS/Ptarmigan Interface
Euromux/Ptarmigan Interface	CIS/Ptarmigan Interface

The team is required to be involved in any Unit, Formation interfacing or trial activities employing any of the Systems mentioned above.

UK TACTICAL SATCOM

Satcom/Euromux team supports the field Army (RAF and Navy upon request) tactical satellite terminals, both Military and Civilian. These involve: UK/VSC 501, non-enhanced, enhanced and BV installed
Military off the Shelf Terminals, variants 1 to 4 International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT)

Involvement being most exercises above Unit level, trials as and when they come up, which includes in service trials if the equipment is just being introduced into service. They are also involved in the following future systems, which at this early stage is just meeting attendance, but will be present (aiding RSSST Blandford) at the User Trials when the equipment eventually comes into service:

UK/TSC 503 UK/PSC 504 UK/PSC 506

Satcom/Euromux team as Ptarmigan team is also involved in the commercialisation of the Balkans (Myra/Cleo). This involves being on call to rectify faults as and when they come up in the Hub, recently installed at Corsham, or being on standby to ease the transition of units when they roulement in either theatre by being present in either Kosovo or Bosnia. RSSST(UK) techs are heavily involved in the trialing of new equipment (MAPPS, G-TAP etc) and are now circuit managing state of the art equipment on the Myra/Cleo hub.

DOWN UNDER

The OC, **Maj Ron Kirkwood**, saw that the Myra/Cleo project was in safe hands and thought he'd hotfoot it to Australia on the bizarre excuse that an ABCA (Australian, British, Canadian and American) planning conference required his presence, he was quickly followed by **SSgt (FofS) Kev Peters**. The conference (the bit that got in the way of the Social side) went well. All five nations (New Zealand is an associate member, which basically means they aren't mentioned in the title) cooperating well, in trying to plan a test schedule for an exercise taking place in Ontario, Canada in 2002. A four day conference, which felt like four weeks, was intertwined with events such as an ice breaker function and an evening wine tasting to help foster good working relations. These events worked so well; that all nations are looking forward to what the New Zealanders are putting on for entertainment, at the next conference in April/May this year. Hearty hellos, go to both **WO2 (AQMS) Chris** 'I'm only here for a couple of months before I get promoted' **Rawlings** and **Sgt** 'Taff (I'm only here for a couple of months before I get bust)' **Tanner**, hope both your tours are what you wish of them.

FREQUENCY MANAGER/COMSEC
DATA PRODUCTION TEAM

A three man team in charge of Policy and permanent allocation of frequencies, Spectrum pricing Communications Information Packages for the British Army in all theatres around the world, Station football team, IIP, Equal opportunities. I think everyone gets the message. Any queries please phone the squash courts where all 3 can be found any time of the day.

PCGC/CDA HQ LAND

SSgt Neil Evans **Sgt Steve Pope**
Sgt Paul Green **Cpl Carl** 'Radar' **Noott**
Sig Sadie Kennedy

Now that version 17 of the Ptarmigan Database is done, does that mean PCGC can go back to sleep? The new database was finished and distributed on time leaving December what it is traditionally best kept for. The drinks, the parties and the Sergeants' Mess v Officers' Mess football match. **SSgt Neil** 'You only see goals like that in the premier league' **Evans** managed to put two in the net, helping raise the score to 8-1. Sweet revenge for last year! Whilst CDA is handing over all its accounts ready for the takeover by UKNDA in May, it's farewell to **WO1 (YofS) Steve** 'Geordie' **Holt** who leaves us for the Falkland Islands as the newly commissioned traffic officer JCUFI. Welcome to **Sig Sadie Kennedy** who joins us from 7 Sig Regt

LS&GC PRESENTATION

Brig J. M. Shaw MBE, ACOS G6/Comd Comms Land, coincides his visit to 600 Sig Tp with the LS&GC presentation for **SSgt Ian Munford** and **Sgt Steve Pope**. Congratulations to both soldiers for 15 years exemplary service.

Brig Shaw MBE, SSgt Munford, Tina Munford, Sgt Pope & Karen Pope

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **WO2 (FofS) Bob Wymer** on his recent promotion to WO1.

SPORT

GREAT BRITAIN LUGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

by LCpl J. O'Leary

This is a follow on to the last article, which referred to the Ice Sports Camp in Lillehammer Norway as a novice training camp with a view to further training for those who showed particular promise.

Well, after the first insight to sliding down the icy slopes all aboard a T-tray, I continued to pester the Winter Sports Secretary. Once again, I missed out on the British Army Novice Championships in Winterberg (Germany), because I took my two children on holiday to Cyprus as arranged before I got into this sport. This being the case I asked if I could take part in the GB Novice Championships at Innsbruck (Austria), to my surprise the answer was yes and details would follow. I received my joining instructions by fax with all relevant info including a costings page at a total of £450 for a week half-board including four slides per day. I had almost decided that it was beyond my reach, however, to my surprise £200 was being refunded on return to the UK. Unfortunately this was of little or no help as it was nearing the end of the month. Luckily I have an excellent job with White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team and my boss, **Capt Kyra MacAnulty**, said she would do her best to get me there if I could honestly say that I felt I had a chance at doing well. With that end in mind we approached the PRI fund and were given £200 to cover the track fees payable upon return to UK this was a great help, also another £75 to help towards the accommodation costs. We also approached G3 .PAT HQ 5 DIV and received a further £100. Now there was light at the end of the tunnel (a proviso of the money was that I wrote various articles and gave some action photographs) all I needed was £75 plus money for lunch (all sorted).

So there I was Saturday 20 January 0800hrs departing for Abingdon (4GS RLC) where I was greeted by **SSgt Graham Holmes** who had collected all the sleds together and got a minibus from the Army Sports Board with which we were to begin a mammoth journey to Austria. There we were midday turned around and driving to Dover. From there by boat to Calais (obviously taking in the amenities food/shopping/drink) and arrived at Calais at 8 o'clock CET. Our minibus was loaded down with all the sleds and was restricted to 65 mph. Meanwhile some of the civilians who were competing in the championships and were to travel in convoy could go a lot quicker but we kept to our snails pace. Taking turns to drive we kept to a good average speed only stopping for a fuel break (and a strong coffee) to keep us going. Bashing down the tarmac, driving through the night the roads suddenly turned white with snow and come 0200hrs we thought we must be getting close, allowing for the conditions, we plodded along and arrived at 0845hrs tired but relieved that the journey was over. We checked into our rooms and had a traditional squaddie shower then went to meet the local populous (Ann Marie's for Ham and Eggs) hit the spot quite nicely. 28 hours after leaving Blandford we were eventually at the track where we walked up and down several times to affiliate ourselves. Stopping at potential hazard points to compose and imagine our lines in and out of the turns looking like slow motion rave heads, rolling our bodies end lifting our hands (revision) all done and back to the hotel to unpack/settle in and have our tea.

A few pints of the local brew to relax into the change of scenery and time difference (my excuse). The start of a new day saw me up and about at 0600hrs on a roll and feeling good, downstairs for a swim, then into breakfast with a very large appetite. I was ready for it and was on the bus by 0800hrs (sled in hand). We drove up to the track, got changed, walked the track once again and was now ready to go. Having not slid for a while we were informed that we would be starting only half way up (from Kreisel) Turn 7. All seemed well, the ice was good so instead of getting two sessions of two runs each, we got two sessions of three runs each. Most took the extra slide as we all needed the practice but more importantly we were having so much fun all going extremely well with six slides in day one and no injuries to mention, spirits at Camp GB were high.

On to the important social side (work hard - play hard) into the sauna, swim and solarium then on to dinner (three course obviously!) and a couple of wets to aid a good night's sleep. However, all this only happened after the sleds had been prepared for racing the following day (safety is of paramount importance) and seeing as how we were paying we wanted all to be perfect which pretty much set the trend for the week to follow. Advancing further up the slope in accordance with an individual's performance just as we did at the Novice Sports Camp and the same as we will do for all the tracks until they become old hat as every track is different and experience counts for everything.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday went well for all (practice makes perfect and all that) it probably helped that the Italians and Austrians were there and we could look to them for advice and techniques so we watched them. The current World Champion was also there and we analysed their lines and tried to incorporate them into ours and in particular I observed their form and poise once in the sled (their aerodynamics). There I was mixing it with people who were at the top level of their chosen sport. Even the best are looking for that all important 1,000th of a second off their time, for hints and tips, this feels great the World Champion watching me for hints and tips (maybe not).

They stood at the side of the track and spectated at British Champions **Andy Croucher** (Male) and **Laura James** (Female), both in the REME, and the rest of the GB squad. This is one team that GB has which actually competes upon the same platform, at the same high standard as other nations. This despite the lack of natural tracks to train on that many other nations take for granted. You may well expect to see team GB doing well at the Winter Olympics 2002 at Salt Lake. For my part I have been asked if I would like to team up with **Andy Croucher** to form a doubles pairing. We are looking forward to making a medal winning combination, along a long road and hopefully getting onto the winners' rostrum in to 2006 Olympics.

The only thing that restricts our performance is, as always, funding. As with all sports the better equipment and training facilities we have the better we will do and have accelerated performance increases (**Steve Redgrave** and the rowing team lays testament to this). All potential sponsorship support would be greatly appreciated from transport to clothing or even financial would be a fantastic help! We have a large doubles sled that could quite easily accommodate logos and a uniform. As you can see, as per British Eurosport, Luge gets good coverage with a wide audience and is quite often on x-trerne sports.

One final thanks to all who have supported me along the way, from White Helmets for time off work and all those who have funded me. A big thank you goes to **Meru Hedges** from Outdoor Essentials for some clothing, who can be found on quite a few army camps and via Directory Enquiries.

RUGBY

ARMY U 21 RUGBY - 2000/2001 SEASON

In September 2000 the Army held trials for this squad and the U 20's. We went down to Aldershot for a weekend of drills, games and a final match against RMAS on the Sunday afternoon. It was a hard two days with a lot of people playing very well, especially the Fijians that have joined the ranks recently. In the final game that I played in the A string, we won 18-15 after eighty minutes. Within R Signals, **Sigs Sila; Drewery; Harlock; Littlehales** and **Garside** also played who all later made it into the squad. The selected squad met two weeks later for a game against Queens University, Belfast; this game was played at Ballynehinch RFC in N.Ireland. The game was very much a showpiece, as the Army has not played a representative game in N. Ireland for a very long time. Although a hard game we did win convincingly. The evenings' proceedings were made very special when we were joined by many of the RGBW soldiers at the camp we were accommodated in. The beer flowed and the boys had an excellent time. The coaches looked on it as a great team building exercise and to this day believe this had some bearing on our later success.

The next two games were against the two well known universities; Oxford and Cambridge. We were taken a bit by surprise and two performances let us down when we only drew with Cambridge and then lost to Oxford putting some pressure on team places and the team. The final lead up game was against the famous Welsh club side Llanelli. This was played at Aldershot where we put out an attacking side that should have won had it not been for the ' score tries only' attitude. The result forgotten we looked onwards to the Inter services U 21 Championship with great confidence in our ability. We were to host the Navy for our first game, but the Navy had already lost their first game to the RAF by a few points and were out to avoid a whitewash in the championship by beating us.

This was not to be, particularly with **Sig Sila** and **LCpl Beart** of the Royal Signals starting and **Sig Harlock** on the bench, the team were out to do the business. The squad had an excellent lead up to the game with

some strong training sessions and the uplift of the English international victory the day before. The game began and the impressive **Eric Butadroka** scored an early try and that set **Lt Geary** of the RLC to lead the Army to a devastating 70-6 victory, which was enjoyed by the whole squad. **Eric Butadroka** was awarded man of the match and this took us into the deciding game with the RAF in the highest possible spirits. The following Thursday the squad met, and despite the prospect of forthcoming Army Cup matches with their individual units, morale was still high. Training sessions continued but the atmosphere was a lot more intense as the players knew we were not far away from taking the championship. Against RAF Halton, the squad included **LCpl Beart** and **Sig Sila** on the pitch, with **Sigs Simmonds** and **Harlock** on the bench. This game was a lot harder and the RAF fought well, but unfortunately the game saw some seven sin bin offences often turning the game on its head. With only twelve players in the Army team for the last seven minutes, they stood their ground and won the game 35-13 to win the championship.

That night we celebrated in style in Guildford and the next morning was not a pretty sight. This was the end for the Army U21 for the time being and the U20 took the reigns...

With two games under their belts, the U20's have seen a loss against Hertfordshire, but an emphatic win against a Welsh national league side. They now enter the County Championship with the spirit the U21's took into the Inter Services. We now look forward to three events; firstly the U2O County Championship, The Combined Services U21 season and the tour of South Africa in June. We anticipate great success.

Army Under 21 Rugby Team

HOCKEY

ROYAL SIGNALS LADIES HOCKEY TEAM
CYPRUS TOUR OCTOBER 2000 - *by Sig Lindsay Smith*

The Royal Signals Ladies Hockey Team, arguably the most successful Royal Signals Corps side with three consecutive Outdoor and two Indoor Inter-Corps Championship titles, were given the opportunity to undertake their first tour since the team was set up in 1992. The release of additional funds from the cancellation of the Corps Millennium Sports event meant that an overseas tour was achievable and **Sgt Pam Mitchell** and **SSgt** 'Cozzy' **Calabrese** volunteered to get the tour rolling with sunny Cyprus as the venue. D-Day was 1 October 2000 and started with a rendezvous at Blandford Camp at 1600hrs to catch the transport to Heathrow. The journey from Heathrow to Larnaca was enlivened with the introduction of the fines system, courtesy of **Cpl** 'I'm not going to get fined this year' **Cath Burgess**. Instead of the usual flash cards we had dummies, which had to be in your mouth within a ten-second count. It got us noticed at the airport!

Our base camp for the tour was Dhekelia Garrison where we arrived drained and tired from the flight at early o'clock in the morning. Later that day we had the requisite security briefings and frantically tried to memorise the names of the Out of Bounds establishments. Our first hockey game was held in Happy Valley, Akrotiri, vs the Exiles a friendly team consisting of a mix of ex – pat and service personnel. Before the start of the game the Exiles were presented with a trophy by our Tour Captain, **SSgt Fran Graham**, a ceremony that was repeated at all the subsequent games. The match provided coach **SSgt** 'Bru' **Baker** with a good opportunity to conduct some pre-inter corps training. The final result was 6-1 to the Signals but the real winner was the heat with all players realising the need for acclimatisation. This first game also introduced two tour T-shirts, one for 'Player of the Match' and the other for the 'Plonker'. Both shirts had to be worn by the winner until the next match. Unfortunately there was a 'no washing' rule which resulted in some very unsavoury shirts by the end of the tour! Wednesday was our introduction to the beach, where of course we concentrated on acclimatisation training and how to get a better tan! That afternoon saw our second match at Happy Valley, versus the Saxons. A slightly harder game, as the Saxons had the accolade of being the best team on the Island, with a final result of 5 – 0 to the Signals. The next day the team moved base to Paphos, for some mid–week R&R. the day was ours shopping, bathing and sitting by the pool. It was here that **SSgt** 'Cozzy' **Calabrese** lived up to her Mission Statement for the tour ' There are no problems only solutions'. **Maj Louise Tomkins** decided that she simply must have an inflatable giraffe and 'Cozzy' scoured the town to produce 'Gerard' who then became our team mascot for the rest of the tour. Thursday night was theme night dreamed up by **Sgt Pam Mitchell**. Teams of three people making five legged teams with the centre person sporting a ridiculous dress. It was a memorable evening resulting in each threesome singing a Karaoke tune in order that they be released.

Friday provided an opportunity for some to experience parascending, before returning to Dhekelia to play our final game before the tournament. This was to be an interesting match as our opposition, Styx, were **SSgt** 'Cozzy' **Calabrese's** own team. Styx proved to be a worthy opponent and provided a very enjoyable game, the final result 4-1. Entertainment at the post match drinks was a kangaroo court. Members of the team were judged on some of their exploits and were exposed to some flash new words; superfluous, supercilious and rhetorical which were adopted for the remainder of the tour. Saturday was tournament day. The squad was split down into two teams, Royal Signals A and the super B Team. The tournament was a round robin with two of the Cyprus sides, Saxons and Styx. Both Signals teams won their matches against the Cyprus teams and had a hard fought game against each other which resulted in a 0 – 0 draw. Player of the match for the tournament was **Sig Gemma Officer** for her courageous goal keeping. Styx won the tournament by beating the Saxons, as a touring side the Signals were unable to win but were honoured by the Saxon Team who presented their runners up medals to the Signals A Team. Our thanks to the organisers and participating teams for allowing us to compete. That evening the Styx team hosted us at a Meze, entailing 20 courses with a mixture of dishes – some less popular than others! Our last day was spent in Water World where there were flumes, pools and lazy rivers, a brilliant day that nobody wanted to end.

An outstanding tour which will set the tone for future tours and a well deserved reward for players who have committed much time and effort to the Corps Team over the last few years. (**Cpl Sue Neate** – you were missed!) Finally a huge thankyou to **Sgt Pam Mitchell** and **SSgt** 'Cozzy' **Calabrese** for making the tour happen

SQUASH

ROYAL SIGNALS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS 2000

The year 2000 Royal Signals Squash Championships were played at the Corps Squash courts, Blandford Camp. Although not as well represented, as in previous years, it did not affect the standard of squash played over the three days. Due to the fact that the majority of players were eligible to play in the 'Over 35' competition, (come on, where are the younger players in the Corps) most players had more matches to play than they expected, in some cases playing the same person twice. The 'Open Competition' went pretty much to form and according to the seeding. **SSgt Dave Gallagher** had his usual easy passage to his place in the final, beating **SSgt Ian Piears** in a very good semi-final. **WO1 FofS Steve Bason** had a much tougher time reaching the final, eventually overcoming **Capt Yam** in their semi-final match in straight games. The final was won by the very much on form **Dave Gallagher** 3-0; **Steve Bason** obviously suffering the effects of jet lag, having flown from Cyprus that week, watch out next year **Gallagher**.

The players who lost in rounds 1 and 2 of the main competition played in the 'Plate Competition' and as in previous years it was to be more exciting than the 'Open Competition'. The 'Plate Competition' brings together players more evenly matched with each other, and a chance to win something as well. The final was more of a battle of pride than a game of squash; the two (older) Gurkas, **Sgts Hari** and **Chandra** played a thrilling five setter, with **Sgt Chandra** edging the fifth to win. The 'Over 35 Competition' is becoming more and more like the 'Open Competition' with an increasing number of players reaching the ripe old age of 35. **Capt Yam** had the pleasure of playing **WO1 FofS Steve Bason** (again), but this time in the Over 35 Final. The semi-final Open game between the players the day before took its toll, and **Steve Bason** came through as the winner.

The team competition consisted of one league with all teams playing each other. With the (dodgy) team from Northern Ireland, 15 Sig Regt, fielding two Corps players came through as clear winners. For the first time, a ladies competition was played and **Cpl Helen Nolan** beat **LCpl Justine Graham** 3-0. Hopefully more women will enter next year's competition and make **Cpl Nolan's** defence more difficult. The three days of Squash was enjoyed by all the players who participated and congratulations go to those who reached the finals.

INTER CORPS SQUASH

The players selected to represent the Corps in the Inter Corps championships were:

No 1 **SSgt Dave Gallagher**
No 2 **WO1 FofS Steve Bason**
No 3 **SSgt Ian Piears**
No 4 **Capt Yam**
No 5 **WOl FofS Adrian Woodley**

Due to Unit commitments, the Corps Team was perilously weak and three regular players were missing. However, congratulations goes to those selected. The competition was held for the first time at Aldershot in the new Army Squash courts. Unfortunately last year's runners-up performance by the Corps was not to be repeated. The team's main aim was not to be relegated, but with a very much-weakened team, it proved too difficult and the Corps lost all its matches, albeit by the narrowest of margins. The matches against the AAC and the APTC were both lost 2-3. **Adrian Woodley** and **Ian Piears** had very tense and difficult games against the APTC, both players eventually losing their matches 3-2. It was extremely close in the end, with relegation finally being decided by individual games won by players.

NORTHERN IRELAND
INTER CORPS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The inaugural NI Inter Corps Squash Championships took place on 19 October 2000. Due to several Corps pulling out of the competition, the two leagues were reduced to three teams in Division One and four teams in Division Two. The R SIGNALS were considered to be a strong Corps and were placed into Division One, along with the REME and the Infantry.

After an initial briefing, play commenced and it was soon evident that Division One was going to be a close competition between the Infantry and the R SIGNALS. Both teams easily beat the REME be a three-nil margin so it was all down to the match between the favourites. **SSgt Dave Gallagher** from 40 Sig Regt, quickly disposed of the Infantry number one seed and proceeded to encourage (??) his other team mates. Unfortunately the encouragement was not enough and **SSgt John Heaton** (HQN1 and 15 Sig Regt) went down by three games to nil. The deciding match was now to be between the Infantry number two and **SSgt Ian Piears**, also from HQNI and 15 Sig Regt. This proved to be a close game but **SSgt Mears** eventually came out on top in the fifth to win the game three games to two, the match two games to one and the first ever NI Inter-Corps Squash Championships.

Being the inaugural competition it is now up to the other Corps to follow in our footsteps and attempt to remove the trophy from our grasp next year. **SSgt Dave Gallagher** - 40 Sig Regt, **SSgt (Supvr R) Ian Mears** and **SSgt John Heaton** both of HQNI and 15 Sig Regt, were chosen to represent the R SIGNALS.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman: Major General A. H. Boyle CB

Vice Chairman: Brig N. F. Wood Area1; Brig W. H. Backhouse Area 2; Brig S. G. M. Gordon Area 3; Big K. H. Olds Area 4; Brig P. J. Evans CBE Area 5; Lt Col J. G. Billingham Wales; Maj R. Sampson CBE Scotland; Lt Col C. N. Lightfoot N Ireland

General Secretary and Treasurer: Col A. R. Carter MBE
Welfare Secretary: Mrs J. Cornick
Assistant General Secretary: Lt Col I. J. Hamilton
Administrative Officer: Mr P. J. Cuckow (Membership & Records)

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. Telephone: Military System (9) 4371 2090 or 01258 48 2090. Welfare Secretary Telephone: Military System (9) 4371 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. Internet: www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/museum/rsa.htm

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 to 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.*

NOTES FROM THE AO'S DESK

We start by acknowledging the contribution made to the Royal Signals Association by **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman CB**. As most of you will know **General Yeoman** handed over Chairmanship of the Association to **Maj Gen Tony Boyle** at the beginning of this year, after holding office since 1995. During those five years he has visited many of our Branches, from Guernsey to the Shetlands. There can be few members who have not encountered his enthusiasm and passion for the Association. It was fitting that **General Alan** was awarded with Honour Membership of the RSA at the last meeting of the Central Committee he chaired, in November 2000. We wish him and his wife, **Barbara**, all the very best in retirement.

BRANCH NEWS

The 18th Divisional Signals Reunion Assn has reluctantly been forced to disband. Holders of the Branch Secretaries List should delete them from the list of affiliated associations. The List should also be amended to reflect the following changes: The e-mail address of **Tony Hull** (Beverley Ex-Boys Assn) is now: bebe.tonyhull@lineone.net **Dennis**

Wilson (Hartlepool) is now: denwil@btinternet.com **Jim Brown**, Hon Secretary of the Hull Branch, has moved to; 71 The Parkway, Willerby, E Yorks HU10 6AY. His telephone number remains the same. Dennis Egan informs me that the date for the 12th/15th/18th Air Formation Sig Regt Assn Dinner has been change from 28 April to 12/13 May. Venue is still in Stoke on Trent. **Phillip West** is the newly elected Secretary of the Brighton Branch. His address is: 4 Hawthorn Gdns, Broadwater, Worthing, W Sussex, BN14 9LS. Tel: 01903-530431. As she hands over office, we thank **Dee Barber** for all her hard work, which is very much appreciated.

New Branch in Edinburgh: It is hoped to start up a new branch of the RSA based in Edinburgh. Anyone who is interested in joining or finding out more details should contact **SSgt Bob Harvey**, 61 Sig Sqn (V), Chesser Cres, Edinburgh EH14 0RS.

The Royal Hospital, Chelsea: Four former members of our Corps were recently admitted to the Royal Hospital: **Brian Howarth, Peter Turner, Edward Taylor** and **James Woolgar.** We wish them a long and happy stay at Chelsea.

Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital: Founder's Day this year will take place on Thursday 7 June and the Reviewing Officer will be **HRH Princess Alexandra, The Hon Mrs Angus Ogilvy GCVO**. Association HQ should have a (very) limited quantity of tickets, which will be offered to those Branches nearest to Chelsea. The Governer's Review on June 5, is a full dress parade open to the Public and Association members are welcome to attend. Anyone interested in attending the Governer's Review is asked to call the General Administration Officer at the Hospital for further details. Tel: 020 7730 0161.

E-mail: For those who had not noticed, we have dropped the 'mail.' from our E-mail address. It now reads: rhqrsignals@army.mod.uk

RSA Reunion – accommodation: We have been offered caravans for hire over the forthcoming annual Reunion weekend, 23/24 June. These four-berth vans can be sited on Camp, for a fee of £150. If four members could get together to share a van, it would cost them less than £40.00 per person. Meals may be taken with the rest of the members in the Regimental Restaurant. Anyone interest in utilising this facility should contact **Janice Pickard** on 01963-362606.
E-mail: janice@jangor.fsnet.co.uk

New Life Members: A warm welcome is extended to the following members enrolled since the last *WIRE*. We hope that those members shown as in the 'RHQ Branch' will make contact with their nearest branch of the RSA. We wish those who have recently left the Corps every success in their 'second career' and hope that they will stay in touch with Association HQ.

Rank and Name	*Branch*	*Service*
LCpl Matthew Wootton-Jones	RHQ	1991-00
WO1 Paul Sexby	RHQ	1976-00
Sgt Jim Street	RHQ	1942-47
LCpl Royston Rambridge	Beverley Ex-Boys Assn	1953-61
SSgt Ian Swan	RHQ	1976-00
Sgt John Bright	RHQ	1942-47
Sig Kevin Bakewell	Aberdeen	1999-date
LCpl Steve Franklin	RHQ	1977-00
Sgt Matt Murray	RHQ	1976-00
Sgt Mick Rutherford	RHQ	1985-00
Cpl Stephen Humphries	RHQ	1988-00
Cpl George Taylor	Berwick	1954-56
Dvr Alan Timson	12/15/18 AFSR Assn	1946-49
WO2 Jim Whelpton	Beverley Ex-Boys Assn	1951-76
Sig Eric Timewell	Southport	1950-52
Cpl Tom Watkins	Southport	1960-74
Sig Bert Weaver	Bristol	1952-55
Cpl Bert Beckett	Bristol	1945-48
LCpl Ian Sanders	RHQ	1985-95
Sig Brian Pratt	Rotherham	1950-52
Sgt Rod Hood	RHQ	1988-00
Cpl Damian Walker	RHQ	1988-00
Sgt D. L. Almey	RHQ	1986-00
WO1 Simon Lock	RHQ	1977-00
Sgt Gregory Cropper	RHQ	1989-00
Sgt John Robinson	RHQ	1987-98
Sig Mike Mann	RHQ	1988-00
SSgt Peter Lavers	RHQ	1967-94
SSgt Paul Waters	RHQ	1989-00
LCpl Paul Bradley	RHQ	1972-78
Cpl Colin Nicholas	RHQ	1948-60
SSgt Michael Shirley	RHQ	1975-99
Sig Nicholas Critten	RHQ	1995-00
WO2 Chris Nutt	RHQ	1974-00
WO2 Greg Robertson	RHQ	1965-00
Sgt Nick Turner	RHQ	1978-00
Cpl John McHale	RHQ	1978-00
WO2 Peter Turner	Royal Hospital, Chelsea	1933-56
Dvr Alfred Sumner	Sale	1948-50
Cpl Bill Gardener	Bedford	1942-46
Sig W. T. C. Heeley	Birmingham	1950-52
Pte Mary Liddiard (Power)	RHQ	1952-53
Sig Adrian Hall	Brighton	1961-65
SSgt Ray Counley	RHQ	1977-00
Cpl Phillip Rowley	RHQ	1988-00
Cpl Gary Meir	RHQ	1978-00
SSgt Kevin Quinn	RHQ	1978-00
Cpl Kevin Johnson	RHQ	1977-00
Sig John Wood	RHQ	1958-60
Sig Kieron Rolls	RHQ	1996-00
Sgt Dave Blair	RHQ	1988-01
Sgt Nelson Townsend	RHQ	1951-54
Maj Tim Bushell	RHQ	1969-01
Cpl Doug Bellshaw	Preston & Blackburn	1966-75
SSgt Derek Livesey	Preston & Blackburn	1975-99
Sig Bob Bonner	West London	1948-50
Capt Alexander Fennell	RHQ	1995-01
Sig Darren Clarkson	RHQ	1996-01
Cpl Hugh Macdonald	RHQ	1943-47
Cpl Nick Chapman	RHQ	1978-00
Cpl D. J. Bruce	East London	1977-86
Sgt Les Bostock	RHQ	1971-95
Sig Brian Lee	RHQ	1953-55
Sig John Perkins	RHQ	1954-57
Cpl Kevin Hibberd	RHQ	1985-99
LCpl Jonathan Nelson	RHQ	1993-99
Sig John Burt	RHQ	1943-47
LCpl Ted Clegg	RHQ	1953-56
Maj John Ankers	RHQ	1952-87
Sig Brett Baber	RHQ	1996-00
Sgt Ian Pearson	RHQ	1982-00
WO2 Steve Bertram	RHQ	1978-01
Maj Geoffrey Purdy	RHQ	1961-81
WLCpl Elizabeth Axe (Sheldon)	RHQ	1942-46
Maj Tim Mountford	RHQ	1966-00
WLCpl Rachel Carr	RHQ	1983-87
Sgt Tony Clarkson	RHQ	1955-69
LCpl Stuart Russell	RHQ	1990-00
Cpl Matthew White	RHQ	1995-01
Sig Barny Barnard	RHQ	1985-01
WO2 Steve Bolton	RHQ	1977-01
Sig Chris Woodcock	RHQ	1996-01
Sig Michael Johnson	RHQ	1985-98
Cpl Alan Johnson	12/15/18 AFSR Assn	1940-46
LCpl Frank Crompton	RHQ	1939-46
Cpl Edward Taylor	Chelsea Hospital	1938-60
SSgt Marlene Niblock	Glasgow	1974-date
LCpl Mark Nichols	RHQ	1994-01

Recently I have been informed that the listing of new Life Members in *The WIRE* is a waste of space. I had always believed that I was providing a service and that readers were interested. I would now like to hear your view - if the general opinion agrees that it is a waste of space – then no problem, I will discontinue the item.

BRISTOL BRANCH

We can look back on another year of regular monthly meetings, held at the TA Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol, and have maintained our average attendance of 16 members. Every other month we devote the meeting to Branch and Association Business, followed by a buffet held in the WOS' & Sgts' Mess, with several of our members partners also attending, it is always an enjoyable and convivial 'get together'. On the alternate months we leave business on one side, and devote the evening entirely to social activities, including the occasional guest speaker, or a visit to a local hostelry for a game of skittles.

The highlight of each year is our Annual Christmas Dinner, held in early December, and this year was no exception, only even more so than usual. A recent examination of archives produced the information that the Branch was at least 50 years old, so we immediately applied for, and were granted, a '50 year Pennant' for the Branch Standard. Rather than wait until the 2001 Reunion, we decided to ask for this to be presented at our Annual Christmas Dinner, so that most members could be present at the occasion.

Bristol Branch Christmas Dinner
((L-R): Ray Rigg - Secretary, the Master of Signals, Chick Cheetham, Mrs Annie Sprackling, Capt Tom Pengelly, Mrs Joy Cheetham

In view of this, we invited the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling OBE** to be our guest and to make the presentation. We were delighted and honoured when he agreed to do this, and there is no doubt that the attendance of The Master and his wife **Annie** added greatly to the sense of occasion.

The Master of Signals presents the 50-Year Pennant

It is worth noting that the Master and his wife drove up the M5 from Exeter to Bristol in one of the worst, heavy and continuous rain and wind storms of the winter, so we were doubly grateful that our guests decided nevertheless to brave the storm and relieved that they arrived safely. To add to the spectacle the Standard was paraded around the dining room, both before and after the presentation, by our Standard Bearer - **Mike Hawkins**, accompanied by pipes and drums of The Bristol Pipe and Drum band. It was a truly memorable occasion.

Finally a footnote from our Chairman, 'Chick' **Cheetham,** 'Whilst we were on holiday in Malta in November, my wife and I attended their Remembrance Day parade in the capital city, Valetta. We can assure any members who have any connection with Malta that the parade had a large turnout, and was well represented with poppies sent by the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Germany and many many other countries. The President of Malta was there to take the salute at the march past. There were many other dignitaries attending. It was gratifying to see so many people remembering those that gave their all during those trying times.'

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

It is quite a while since the Cambridge Branch received a mention in *The WIRE* so here goes. We have had quite a busy year and following the successful St George's Day supper last year it is intended to hold another this April. **Capt Len Carr**, our Treasurer and PSAO of 54 Signal Squadron, more than ably assisted by **LCpl Karen Carter** also from the Squadron, provided a super spread enjoyed by about 20 members. The Cambridge Drill Hall was the venue and was suitably decorated with the Flag of St George. During the summer a number of members made the journey to Blandford for the Annual Reunion and enjoyed meeting up again with old friends and acquaintances and have already planned this year's trip.

The Branch Standard was extremely busy at the beginning of November when our Standard Bearer, **Ken Grange**, assisted by **Tony Peachy** and **Peter Hirst** were invited to attend a number of functions. The first of these was the British Legion Festival of Remembrance held in the Cambridge Guildhall on Sunday 5 November. Four members from 54 Signal Squadron were also in attendance, **LCpls Karen Carter, Alison Radcliffe, Grant Wilson** and **Sig Karen Everett.** On the morning of Saturday the 11 November the Standard was paraded at the Armistice Day Parade at Ely in Cambridgeshire and in the afternoon at the Burma Star Memorial Parade at the Cambridge City Cemetery. The following day, 12 November and the Standard paraded with 54 Sig Sqn at their annual Remembrance Day parade at Fulbourn, a village just on the outskirts of Cambridge. In the evening the Standard Bearer and escorts were at a concert held by the Littleport Branch of the British Legion. The Standard was paraded and received by **Col D. H. Bristow OBE DL** and all proceeds from the concert were donated to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund.

Our November meeting saw an old friend of the branch, **Mr Terry Beaumont** who regularly gives presentations on his many interests, including the history of the Spitfire and his part in recovering and flying aircraft, which were lost in the Second World War. The meetings never seem to last long enough when **Terry** starts to speak and the assembled members are totally enthralled. To round off the year we again joined the Signal Squadron for their annual Christmas Draw and social evening. We would like to thank the Squadron for its assistance and hope to encourage a few more of their number to join the Branch.

EAST KENT BRANCH

The Branch AGM was held on 14 January at the County Hotel in Canterbury where 58 members assembled to welcome our guests for the occasion. The guests were **Maj Gen Tony Boyle** (only 12 days into his Chairmanship of the Association) and his wife, **Ann**. Having welcomed our guests the Branch Chairman, **Donald Crisp**, opened the proceedings. Following the preliminaries the Treasurer, **Lt Col Mike Barrett**, presented the Financial Report which showed the funds to be in a very healthy condition. This was followed by the Chairman's Report which illuminated the successful entertainment programme devised by the Committee. After this he thanked each of the Committee individually for all their hard work thoughout the year. He also thanked them for their company during his time in office as both he and **Mike Barrett** would now, in line with the Constitution, stand down having completed their terms of office.

The new Committee was then proposed and elected:

Mr John Ballantyne	Chairman
Mrs Jo Barrett	Vice Chairman
Mr Ted Drake	Honourary Treasurer
Maj Gen John Badcock	Honourary Secretary

with **Mr Vincent de Rose, Mrs Marion deRose, Mr Trevor Allison, Mrs Doreen Allison, Mrs Marion Ballantyne.** completing the Team. **Mr Roy Andrews**, having served for so many years on the Committee in so many capacities, is also standing down and will also cease to be the Southeast Representative at RHQ. All his hard work is much appreciated. At the end of formal business **Maj Gen Boyle** spoke at length on the work of the Association, its many strengths , its benevolence, its strong contacts with the serving members of the Corps, its manpower and retention problems together with the aspirations of those in high places to combat those problems - and all this from a Chairman who had only been in office for 12 days!

His talk met with a generous response after which **John Ballantyne** presented the General with a cheque for £200 for the Corps Benevolent Fund. **Jo Barrett** then presented **Ann Boyle** with a bouquet and **Donald Crisp** offered a cartoon to the General, it had been prepared and framed earlier, depicting an irreverant and negative response to the aforementioned talk. **Donald** was most insistant that the subject matter was all the idea of our esteemed Honourary Secretary who, he claims, commanded him to picture it thus. The cartoon was accepted gratefully and is to be consigned to the 'smallest room'.

This rounded off procedings from the top-table and we settled down to enjoy a delicious lunch accompanied by a great deal of nostalgia and a lot of 'Do you remember when.....?' or 'Whatever happened to.....?' conversations. We sadly said farewell to our guests after lunch and they made their way back home to deepest Wales, a memorable day. It was good to see so many members at the AGM but inevitably there was some who had fallen foul of the winter weather or other ills and ailments. Sadly **Bill Lovett** is still unwell as is **Jimmy Hand** who remains in the tender care of a hospice in Rochester, **Maj Charles Hughes** has a recurrence of an old problem and we wish them all well.

If the writer can take a moment to indulge himself just a little, he would like to mention that his son, **Paul Crisp**, a sergeant in the Metropolitan Police and a member of the Royal Protection Group, has been made a Member of the Victorian Order in the New Year's Honours List. He only mentions this because **Paul** was trained as an Apprentice Telegraphist at Harrogate from 1971 and left there as Apprentice RSM in 1974 to go to 1 Signal Regiment in Verden.

In keeping with tradition the outgoing Members of the East Kent Committee looked forward with eager anticipation to being 'Dined Out' on 8 February, but the best laid plans did not foresee that **Doreen Allison**, wife of **Trevor**, would perform a dive (with pike) from the top of her stairs to the bottom. Thus severely breaking her ankle. Nor did those well laid plans anticipate that **Donald Crisp**, the present writer and outgoing Chairman, would be heavily engaged in attending to his wife, **Marie.** who had suffered a frightening but thankfully minor stroke the night before, and was himself resting after spending the whole of the previous night at the hospital and paying the obligatory visit during the day. Both **Doreen** and **Marie** are now progressing well and apologise for not being in attendance but judging from the telephone call made to **Donald** during the festivities and the raucous grape-induced laughter accompanying the kind call we were'nt missed.

SICK PARADE REPORT

Firstly, due to a mistaken source of information I reported last month that **Major Charles Hughes** had 'suffered a relapse' of some mysterious ailment. I must now apologise to **Charles** who did not suffer a relapse of anything and all is well. Ten brownie points are to be deducted from the source of information who also owes **Charles** a pint: **Jimmy Hand** is still receiving treatment from the Royal Marsden Hospital and is fairly comfortable. As an aside, when the writer visited **Jimmy** recently another visitor turned out to be (after much quizzing and questioning because after all this time we were both unrecognisable:) one of the writer's Radio Mechs. when he was Troop Sergeant of the 4 Div Sig, Refit, Radio Relay Troop in 1959. A certain **Sig Brian Roalf** and I reminisced long and with much nostalgia whilst **Jimmy** lay entranced on his sick-bed. **Bill Lovett**, he of the mysterious and indeterminate symptoms of my previous writings, is now well and overflowing with beans. His previous ill-health he blames on the NHS for mis-prescribing his medication which has now been rectified.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

This month's activity took place at the Ashford Bowl where 26 of our athletic Members competed for the much prized and jealously guarded Ten Pin Bowling Trophy. Once again the Trophy went to 'an **Andrews**': **Roy Andrews**, a stalwart of the Branch and South East Area Representative at Association HQ, brings his family posse each year to compete and display the talents of his grandson, **Neil** who has won the Trophy several years in succession. He was again successful this year despite the efforts of the Hon. Sec. to 'load the dice' against him by arranging for all the other lanes to have the benefit of side bumpers: I mean, what sort of gentlemanly conduct is that for a Major General ? As usual, much fun and jollity was had by all.

GLASGOW BRANCH

A founder member of the Branch, **Bobby Gilchrist**, at the age of 76, asked members to sponsor him in a charity bid, in aid of the 'Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation'. We all thought he was mad, to volunteer to be raised 130 feet in the air in a basket, then slide down a zip slide to ground level. **Bobby**, who is an ex-Lance Corporal, who served with the Corps from 1943 to 1947 was the oldest participant to complete this daring feat, despite the fact that he has only one arm. **Bobby** was proud as an ex-smoker, to have raised £250 for the foundation.

Bill MacNamara, has paraded the Branch Standard at further festivals of Remembrance in the millennium period. He has been to Milngavie, Hamilton, Ayr, Falkirk, Helensburgh and Drymen in the last few weeks. In these travels, **Bill** has had inquiries from ex Corps members, who have seen the standard at these ceremonies, about the Glasgow Branch, if it included members from the West of Scotland. The answer to that is yes. **Bill** inquired if it were possible to have small cards printed, which members could hand out to interested inquirers. The committee agreed to look into the suggestion.

The Branch members were invited by the members of the Regimen to attend a social function, initially in the Wos' & Sgts' Mess, then to a kareoke and raffle in the JRs' Mess. Although only six members took advantage of the invite, it was a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks go to all ranks of the Regiment for entertaining us. The annual Burns' Supper was held on 20 January in the Officers' Mess in Jardine Street, with the kind permission of the CO of 32 Sig Regt, **Lt Col. J. K. McKee MBE**. **Joe Keegan**, as Chairman welcomed the members and guests, then said the Selkirk Grace. **Pipe Major Bill Cleezy** of the Corps Pipes and Drums piped the haggis in. **Bill McNamara** gave a resounding address to the haggis waving a large kitchen knife around. The menu was a choice of haggis or steak pie excellently produced by chef, **Cpl Debbie Carruthers** and her chefs. **Sgt Danny Beattie** monitored the waiters and ensured the glasses were replenished. **Capt Keith Anderson**, in his own inimitable style and 'suit', proposed the immortal memory. Somewhat different to any rendition I have heard before. **Jim Lockhart** gave the speech to the lassies, to which **Ivana Muir**, Branch Secretary, responded wittily as a true-blooded Ms. (I think she was just kidding). A guest, **Drew Dickson**, gave his rendition of Tam O' Shanter and Holy Willie's Prayer, to which he received a long round of applause, for his superb memory of the many verses. Another guest, **Miller Frondingham**, provided musical interludes on the accordion and mouth organ. The evening was then open to any individual to provide songs or poetry to entertain the company. **Brian** and **Anne Warren** sang solos and duets, which were roundly applauded. **Joe Keegan** as Branch Chairman, thanked the chefs for an excellent meal and **Danny** and the waiters for their excellent service with a round of applause from the company. He thanked the members and guests for their contributions to the evening's entertainment and the members and their guests for their attendance. The evening finished with the company singing together Auld Lang Syne.

The Branch members were invited to attend the presentation ceremony of members of 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), who were to be awarded Territorial Medals and Certificates, to be held at the HQ in Jardine Street, Maryhill, Glasgow. The medals, bars and certificates, were presented to the recipients by the Lord Provost of Glasgow and **Lord Lieutenant Alex Mosson**, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col J. K. McKee MBE**. The Lord Provost in his speech stated the pride Glasgow had in being associated with the 32 Territorial Regiment and the RSA members linked to the regiment. Afterwards a curried meal was laid on, with a glass of wine to toast the members awarded the decorations. It was a very pleasant occasion for the Branch members who witnessed the ceremony. Our thanks to **WO1 (SVWO) Terry McVey** for inviting the members and for his invitation to the next 'Jimmy Club' meeting on 16 February. The Branch Chairman, Committee Members, Members and Associate Members wish all Members of the RSA a belated, 'Guid New Year.'

HULL BRANCH

The year 2000 opened with the AGM in February, where three true and trusted volunteers were voted in as Branch officers (mind you it was the same three as last year). Thanks go to **Mr Roy Drewery** - Chairman, **Mr Jim Brown** - Hon Secretary and **Mr Bill James** - Treasurer, for guiding us through the year.

June saw our annual tour of the battlefields take us to Ypres and the Somme a very poignant pilgrimage. Members also attended the Blandford re-union weekend, a good time was had by all. In July we joined the 'Kohima' veterans in York the weather stayed fine and the food and entertainment was enjoyed by all. We had a get together with York Branch and members of the local TA at Halifax barracks during September. **Maj David Sixsmith** - OC 49 Sig Sqn (Leeds) and **Cpl Mark Warrington** 745 Sig Tp (Hull) had just returned from Bosnia, they spoke about the work carried out and the conditions for both soldiers and civilians alike. Our thanks to them both for giving the time to join us at what turned out to be a very enjoyable evening. November's Remembrance Parade at the Hull Cenotaph was well attended. The Hon Secretary laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch, **Mr Walter Raywood** paraded the Branch Standard. Lunch was held back at Halifax barracks. Later in the month 30 members and guests attended the barracks for our annual Regimental dinner. Thanks go to **WOII Alan James, Cpl Mark Warrington, Sgt Stuart Keys, Sgt Gary Openshaw** and Troop members for making the occasion a success.

Again our monthly luncheons have been well attended both old and new hostelries have been visited. The year ended in the usual festive manner with a good feast at a local hostelry. Our thanks go to all who have supported the Branch over the year and we hope 2001 sees another successful twelve months.

LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

Loughborough Branch held their Annual Reunion Dinner Dance on 18 November 2000 at the Carillon Rooms, Loughborough. 95 sat down for dinner, which was followed by dancing to The Terry Stewart Band. They came from all over England, (Isle of White, Cheltenham, Southport, Bristol, Worthing, Cornwall, Bracknell, Derby etc.) as well as our local Branch members and friends. Some of the ex-Signals hadn't seen each other for 30 years, and most had served some time during their Army career at Garrats Hey, Woodhouse Eaves, Nr. Loughborogh. The evening was a tremendous success and naturally there were lots of reminiscing amongst us all. We put on coaches, etc to pick up those around the area so that everyone could enjoy themselves. All are looking forward to next year's annual dinner dance that is booked for Saturday, 24 November 2001. During the evening **Ben Banyard** thanked all that had supported the Branch in raising £2700 for an electric wheelchair for **June Ross**. This of course included the RSA Benevolent Fund, British Legion, etc as we went through SSAFA and with the donations from **Ron's** friends who were in the Royal Signals we were able to get the chair in eight weeks. Well done everyone and sincere thanks from **June Ross**. If anyone reading this would like to join our Branch please ring our Chairman, **Ben Banyard** on 01509 503585. (The photograph is published courtesy of The Loughborough Echo).

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Our December meeting was a short one and was followed by a social evening. January's meeting was also a short one as **George Cook** had arranged through **WO1 (RSM) Steve Lockwood** for speakers from 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn to visit us. Two excellent speakers, **SSgt Rob Atherton** and **LCpl Debbie Bevan**, gave us a very detailed insight into their experiences whilst in Kosovo. Also present were **Debbie's** husband, **Cpl** 'Paddy'**Bevan** and their Driver, **Pte Shane Nobes**. It is good to know that the Corps is always at the forefront of any action and those of us who are a little bit older are usually intrigued to hear about the up to date equipment being used today (but then ours was up to date when we were using it). The thanks of the Branch go to all concerned. The Branch held a disco on Friday evening for the 'younger' members and friends. Though numbers could have been better the evening was still a success.

On a sad note it is with regret that we report the death of **Patricia**, wife of our long serving member **Ernie Mansell**. **Ernie** and **Patricia** have always supported the Branch over the years at Formal Dinners and other functions. Our sympathies go out to **Ernie** and his family. The Branch was represented at the funeral by the Branch Vice-President, **Maj (Retd) Noel Johnston** and **Mrs Johnston**.

If you are reading *The WIRE* and are in Northern Ireland and if you are not already a Branch Member or indeed are still serving in the Corps, you are welcome to join us any third Wednesday of the month in Clonaver TAVR Centre, Belfast.

POOLE BRANCH

It was no doubt fitting that **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman's** last official engagement, as Chairman of the Association, was to our Branch Christmas Dinner held on 15 December. The General lives just four miles from our 'base' and it was very good to see him and **Barbara** again - in very good form after another cruise. Fifty-four of us sat down to a traditional festive season dinner, our largest number so far. Not only is the Broadstone Royal British Legion Club well respected for its catering but the franchise holder, a former ACC Sergeant, was a member of **Bob Peake's** staff at Blandford during the 1980's and he always looks after us extremely well. It was good to see the many guests who come each year and some of our friends from the Dorset Branch. The high point of the evening was the presentation of Honour Membership to our Branch founder, **Jimmy Logan**. It was a very well kept secret and such was the surprise it reduced **Jimmy** to tears and rendered him speachless - for the first time ever according to **Eve**, his devoted wife. The award was richly deserved, for not only did he start the Branch but it was his dedication and determination that has kept it going for over 20 years.

We held our AGM in February despite our Secretary, **Tony Curnow**, being unable to attend owing to illness. There was a good turnout and a very pleasant evening ensued and functions discussed and agreed upon. We are very fortunate in being so close to Blandford and having the chance to share in many joint activities with the Dorset Branch, indeed some members attend meetings at both Branches. Should any other Association members find themselves in our area on holiday they are more than welcome to join us for an evening if their visit coincides with the first Tuesday of the month. A telephone call to **Tony Curnow** on 01202 770906 is all that is needed. After our AGM we had a group photograph taken to record in our Branch Album .....

(L-R): Bob Peake, Jess Weir, Nick Nichols, Brig Paddy Evans, Jimmy Logan, Peter Blunt, Don Mollison, John Hyde
(L-R): Pauline Peake, Carole Bamford, Pat Evans, Eve Logan, Carol Stephenson, Rose Beddingfield, Sheila Hyde

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Maj (Retd) Roger Pickard** - late Curator of the Royal Signals Museum. He was an excellent Branch member and he and **Danny** attended our meetings and functions on a regular basis, always with a smile and they were good company to be in. **Roger** had battled bravely against ill health over the past few years and seemed to have won a long-term remission. Unfortunately it was not to be and he died peacefully at home on 13 February. Our greatest sympathy is extended to **Danny**, a wonderful devoted and patient wife, their children and grandchildren.

ROTHERHAM BRANCH

Here is the first official photo from the newly formed Rotherham Branch of the RSA with their recently dedicated Standard.

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT BRANCH

We report the death of **Capt (Retd) John Hollis MBE**. He died peacefully on 2 January 2001 at the age of 89. **John** was a Life Member of the Corps and a member of this Branch. The funeral was held at St. John's Church, Rownham, on 10 January 2001. The Branch was well represented and our Standard Bearer, Brian Littlecott, carried the Branch Standard. The President, Chairman, Committee and all members of the Southampton Branch extend their belated condolences to **John's** wife, **Nancy** and all the family on their loss. Further details are published under the Last Post.

The highlight of the Branch social meeting held on 2 January 2001, was the presentation of the RSA 50 Year Badge and Certificate, together with a congratulatory letter from the Association's retiring Chairman **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB**, to **Mr Jack Cullingford** and **Mr Fred Griffiths.** Our Branch President, **Brig John Clinch CBE**, made the presentation. Both of them are long serving members of the Branch and were very appreciative of the honour, as was evident from the short speech of acceptance from **Fred** duly endorsed by **Jack.**

(L-R): Brig John Clinch CBE, Mr Fred Griffiths, Mr Jack Cullingford

TUNE IN TO THE WORLD

Hampshire school pupils have been to Russia, the United States, Sweden and a host of other countries - via the airwaves. Applemore College near Hythe marked the centenary of Marconi's famous first radio message from the Isle of Wight to Cornwall by launching its own radio club. Expert help came from the Waterside Amateur Radio Society led by its Chairman, **Maj (Retd) John Daw BEM**. He gave a two-day series of talks to the Applemore Radio Club. The first day was given over to communications down the ages from Mercury to the present day. The second day covered the practical aspect and equipment working. The talks were very well received, with praise given for the content and presentation. His next project is well in hand as he is organising an Amateur Radio and Computer Rally at the Applemore College to be held on 15 September 2001. **John Daw's** radio experience began when he enlisted in the Royal Corps of Signals on 3January 1938. The 4th September 1939 found him crossing the border into Poland as part of a team to establish communications back to the west and the UK. The German invasion of Poland resulted in a recall back to the UK; exiting the country just ahead of the invading forces. **John** served throughout the war in the Middle East, Italy, France and Austria. He was well known throughout the Corps, rising through the ranks to become a Foreman of Signals and was eventually commissioned. He retired in 1974. John is a long time member of the RSA Southampton Branch and at the grand age of 80 is still very active in the amateur radio world as his involvement with Applemore College shows..

BEVERLEY EX-BOYS ASSOCIATION

On reading the February edition of *The WIRE*, under 'Late News', we have noticed that **Pat Drummond's** son, **WO1 Andy Drummond**, has followed in his father's footsteps and is doing a sterling job in Sierra Leone. **Pat Drummond** joined the 6 (Boys) Training Regiment at the age of 16 in 1950.

Just before the last reunion, I had a telephone call from a lady named **Muriel Mongomery**. She had seen an article about BEBA in the Hull Daily Mail and she used to be a WVS Volunteer serving the boys from 6 (Boys) Training Regiment with tea and tea-cakes at the TOCH. We arranged for **Jack Quigg** to present her with a bouquet of flowers, (see the picture, courtesy of the Hull Daily Mail).

We also invited her to the Reunion and she came to the Meet and Greet on the Saturday afternoon and to the church service on the Sunday. We have since received the following letter from her:

Thank you all for the way in which you showed your appreciation of the work of the WVS. It was very gratifying to be so well thought of after all the years. I was pleased to see you all looking so well and smart, and hope you had safe journeys home.

Beverley is not the same without the barracks, the bugle calls used to drift across our sleepy town. Thank you also for the flowers they were a joy. Wishing you all Good Health, Good Luck and Happy Years.

Muriel Montgomery

We held a postal vote for the location of our next Reunion and although we only received 65 votes from a possible 158, the majority were for the Lensbury Hotel, Teddington, London. The Committee, at their meeting on 10 February, decided to book the Lensbury for Saturday 6 October 2001. Full details are available from **Tony Hull** tel: 01202 770261. We would also like to welcome the following new members: **Don Horton, Albert Trevor** and **Mrs Kathleen Smith**, the wife of **Ron Smith**, (Corporal in the Stores at Beverley, who died in 1975).

REUNIONS

ASSOCIATION OF HARROGATE APPRENTICES

Douglas Dickason Honourary Secretary
of the Association of Harrogate Apprentices

ANNUAL REUNION 13 AND 14 OCTOBER 2000

Uniacke Barracks is at present undergoing a major rebuilding programme and it was there amid the mud, scaffolding that the Second Reunion of The Association of Harrogate Apprentices was held. That is to say nothing of dodging the squads of students who were being drilled by those loveable creatures called Drill Instructors, on any spare patch of road in the absence of 'God's little acre', the barrack square.

Friday got off to a fine start with some 200 members, with or without partners, attending a reception in the Sergeants' Mess commencing at 1900hrs. It was a miracle that they actually found it as all the usual known landmarks had been erased. Soon there could be heard the rattle of glasses accompanied by the chatter of many mouths rejoicing in the meeting of long lost friends. Many pints were downed that night and by the early hours only the stalwarts remained catching up on the news after many years of separation. The evening was supported b a splendid finger buffet prepared for us by the catering staff of the Sergeants' Mess. Our thanks go to the Mess caterer and the staff.

Saturday morning started for some a bit bleary, only from tiredness I might add, although they appeared to be missing from the church service. This was held in Hildebrand as Uniacke is still without it's own church. The service was conduced by **Padre Patrick Irwin** and our own **Louis Kinsey** 55B. **Louis** is a Major in the Salvation Army and is based at Catterick Garrison. His delivery of the service was superb and with so much truth and feeling that I am sure that those who attended the church thought that they were still back at Uniacke doing term time all over again. After the service the members made their way back to Uniacke to the lecture theatre for the Annual General Meeting. Members met up with those who were unable to attend on Friday evening, along with those who did not attend the church service.

Two main points came out of the meeting. The first being that the Army Foundation College should be approached and be asked to permit The Association of Harrogate Apprentices to hold all future reunions, at Uniacke Barracks. With the exception of the June meeting at Blandford in 2001. After all, it was pointed out by many members, Harrogate is our home and we have many fond memories of it. The second point was that The Association should present the Army Foundation College with a trophy that would be competed for on an annual basis. It could be presented for accomplishment in sport, individual or team, best recruit or squadron. I am certain that in the fullness of time a suitable name and idea will be forthcoming.

Doug Dickason and Terry Cawthorne man the Reception Table

In the absence of our Chairman, **Col (Retd) C. J. Walters, Maj (Retd) Bryan Maltby** stood in and did an admirable job in controlling the proceedings. **Maj Gen (Retd) J. D. Stokoe CBE** was again elected as President, **Col (Retd) C. J. Walters** was re elected as Chairman. **Douglas Dickason** is to remain as the Honorary Secretary and **Terry Cawthorne** was elected as the new Treasurer. **Louis Kinsey** was voted on as the new editor of the Newsletter. The newsletter is published twice a year, in January and July. The editor is hopeful that members will send him good material for publication, the better the stories and articles he receives the more interesting our newsletter becomes. So please could members send in material and not leave it up to the editor to do it all himself. The newsletter can only be as good as the stories and articles it contains.

One problem the Association has is recruitment. It is amazing that from all the Apprentices who were trained at Harrogate over the years, 1947 - 1996 and the last thirty six years of this was Royal Corps of Signals, that we have only just over four hundred members. We need more members to broadcast that the Association is in existence and encourage ex-Apprentices to join. We also need the serving members who passed through Penny Pot to join. The address of the Association is: **Douglas Dickason,** Hon Secretary-AOHA, 25 Cherry Waye, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 4BY. I will be only too pleased to send details and an application form. The Association is also backed by the RSA as we are affiliated members.

The next reunion and AGM is to be held at Blandford and will coincide with the RSA weekend on 23 and 24 June 2001. As many of our members live in the southern half of the country and find it difficult to attend the reunion held in the north, it would be a good opportunity for those members to come along and meet up with old acquaintances. More details will be made known as and when they are available.

MEMBERS OF THE 12TH/15TH/18TH AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENTS ASSOCIATION

will meet in reunion in Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, 12 May. All past members of these units, their sister Air Formation Signal Units and CAFSO Staff who served in the UK, Europe or the Middle-East will be welcome. Contact **Colin Morgan** (01554 774638) for membership details

REUNION

DELTA TROOP - 22 SIGNAL REGIMENT
AUGUST 24 - 26 2001 INCLUSIVE

Location TBC

All Members from 1972 -1977 welcome
For further details contact either:
Mr Frank McCormick
Tel: 01438 832902 (H) Mob: 07787102860
or:
Maj P. H. Grainger
Tel: 003143 3284815 (W) or 003145 5273494(H)

THE MIGHTY THREE NORTH CAMP

3 SQUADRON, 7 SIGNAL REGIMENT

We are planning to hold a reunion for all ex-members of 3 Squadron, 7 Signal Regiment, who served in the Squadron between 1977 and 1980. We are hoping to hold the reunion in April 2002. Hopefully the venue will be the Garrison Sergeants Mess at Catterick Garrison. The people who have been contacted and are interested are myself, Angus (**Mr G. Morrison**), **Bob** Hami **Hamilton, Vic Bannister, Ralph Smith** and **Paul Gaffney**. We are hoping for a good response so, any other ex-member of the Squadron during this time, who is interested can contact Angus at: **Mr G. Morrison**
MOD Police
NATO (SGT) Balado Bridge
Kinross
Tayside, KY13 7NH
Tel: 01577 862456

LOST COMMS

Seeking **Robert** 'Bob' **Cobb**, ex- 56 Sqn, Air Training Corps, Woolwich. Past members are active with reunions and a newsletter and several always ask after you. We would like to hear from you, and any other past 56ers, to know if you are well. Better still, to see you at a reunion, the last Saturday each April, Pilot's Pals, Biggin Hill.
Contact **Marten Bowtle,** 107 St. Williams Way, Norwich, NR7 0AN, Tel: 01603 701779 or E-mail: 56PHOENIX@mbowtle.fsnet.co.uk

Mr Patrick Crago is seeking the present whereabouts of some of his former pals. Namely **Jim Barlow** (from Gorton Manchester) and **Walter Riggins**, with whom he served during trade training in 1955. Also **Alan Kennedy** (from Dundee) from the time they spent in 2 Signal Regiment, Dusseldorf, attached to 23 Fd Regt RA. **Patrick** would also like to hear from anyone who remembers him from 252 Sig Sqn in Hong Kong 1960-63. **Patrick** can be contacted on 01202 381105

Peter Vinicombe would like to hear from anyone who served with, or remembers, his late father; the former **Sig Peter Vinicombe. Peter** was a lineman, who served throughout WW2 in units such as: 52 AA Bde, 29 Lt AA Regt, 10 Corps Signals, 4 Trade Trg Bn, 1, 2, 3 & 4 Coy AA Signals, plus 80 AA Bde, 4 Armd Bde and 3 Armd Bde Sig Sqn as a Reservist from 1945 to 1947. He settled in the Filey area of North Yorkshire. Please call 01609 778220 if you can help.

From: **Peter W. Curtis**
'Porthgwarra'
Cattle Lane
Abbotts Ann
Nr. Andover
Hampshire, SP11 7DS

Dear Editor,

Royal Corps of Signals
North China Signals Section Tientsin (Tianjin) 1934

I recently made enquiries at the Corps museum concerning my father's service in the 'Signals' and in particular the North China Signals Section which was operating in China in the 1930s. The Archivist suggested that I write to you in the hope that you may wish to publish my inquiries in *The WIRE* and perhaps elicit some response from former members of the Corps and their families.

My father was **1858971 Sgt William** 'Bill' **Robert Andrew Curtis** who was posted to China in the 1930s. My mother either went with him or followed later with my sister **Mary** and elder brothers **Tony** and **Reg.** I was born in Tientsin on 2 August 1934. My birth certificate is signed **Lt F. S. Whiteway-Wilkinson** (for the Brigade Major) and I was christened in the Church of All Saints Tientsin. The baptismal certificate was signed by **Douglas Duncan** (Chaplain). My godfather on this occasion was **Sgt William** 'Bill' **Horobin** who later obtained a commission and attained the rank of Colonel. He retired sometime after World War II. My father became a Civil Service Radio Operator and spent the war years staffing various Aircraft Direction Finding Radio Shacks (DFS), all communications at this time were in Morse Code. He had postings from Lands End to the Isle of Lewis.

In 1981 I was fortunate to be able to visit China. Armed with information given by my sister, who was of school age in 1934, I went in search of our 'Army Roots'. As a result of requests to the appropriate Chinese Authorities I was able to make an 'accompanied' visit to Tientsin. My sister had recalled that the Quarter we lived in was named Mimosa Court. In 1981 the Chinese authority informed me from their records this was now 38 Ronghua Lane, Guangdong Road, Hexi District, Tianjin., roughly translated this means 'luxurious place'! The 'neighbourhood committee' warmly welcomed me and everyone treated me like the prodigal son. I found to my surprise the house was occupied by a retired Chinese Soldier. The Quarters' layout was a replica of what one would expect of an army camp in the UK. The houses had, however, suffered some structural damage in the 1977 earthquake and repairs were being carried out at the time of my visit. I have photographs taken in 1934 and 1981.

Since my retirement we have been piecing together our family histories together with any 'adventures' associated with it. What I would like to find out is whether there are any more 'Tientsin children' out there and does anyone have any information concerning the reasons for the British Army having a presence in China in the 1930s and of course the function of the North China. Signals Section etc. I am also anxious to find other information concerning the ships that the soldiers and their families would have been conveyed in to this far-flung outpost. Your assistance will be appreciated.
Yours Sincerely.....

Glenda Rice-Howitt would like to hear from anyone who served with her father the former **LCpl Francis Joseph Rice** (known as 'Jock'). **Mr Rice** enlisted into the Corps in Glasgow in 1928 and left in 1934. He was recalled for WW2 and served in North Africa. Please contact **Glenda** on 01566 86570.

Geoffrey Martin and **Eric Thurgar** would like to hear from anyone who was with 30 Wing Section, Air Formation Signals - 1942/46. They can be contacted on 01753 715088 or 3 Douglas Road, Slough, SL2 1NU

Stella Thomson (nee Webb) of 9 Potters Way Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 1QP, would love to have a reunion with old comrades pictured in the photo. They were stationed at 69 Brigade, Bath, at the time. Her twin sister and she were also at 3 AA Group, Bristol and 1st AA Group, London. They also served overseas in Helmond - Holland and Brussels (Royal Signals).

Stella Webb, Daphne, Rosemary Scott-Ellis, Bobby

Frank Crompton would like to hear from any of his Royal Signals colleagues who were at the following places at the times stated: Signals Training Camp (formerly the Thomas Cook Holiday Camp), Prestatyn North Wales from September to December 1939. Dainville, near Arras, Northern France from 1940 up to the time of Dunkirk. Also Bad Oyenhousen, Germany from 1945 to 1946. He can be contacted at:

118 Saddle Mews
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM2 1HU

CORRESPONDENCE

From: **Alan Boot**
90 Glebelands Road
KNUTSFORD
Cheshire WA16 9EA

Dear Sir,

Subject: **'Hairies'**

I expect that by now you will have been inundated with replies to the question posed in *'The WIRE -Feb 2001'* in the article entitled 'Cable Laying', why are linemen referred to as Hairies?

Well at the risk of boring you here goes! A short and hopefully humourous explanation. Our comrades in lesser trades alleged that all linesmen had hairy bums, an allegation probably not without some foundation! Hence the full and rather affectionate term ascribed to us was 'Hairy Bummed Linemen'. (This, of course, is the politically correct version and for 'Bum' one should read 'Arse(ed)').

Hoping that the foregoing was of interest to you.
Yours Sincerely.....

From: **Lt Col (Retd) F. M. Orr OBE**
The Larches
Hunton Road
SCOTTON
North Yorkshire
DL9 3NN
Tel: 01748 834265

Dear Sir,

In the last issue of *The WIRE* **Col (Retd) Cliff Walters** asked why Linemen were referred to as 'Hairies', and whilst no one can ever be certain of the origins of such nicknames, I think that the following is the most logical and probable explanation.

In the late 19th Century a draught or rough coated horse was known in the army as a 'hairy' *(see 'The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English')*, indeed by 1915 apparently any government draught horse was known as a 'G S HAIRY'. It therefore does not take much imagination to see why in WW1 the same name was also applied to RE Linemen. Imagine the state of these individuals when, in the winter of 1917 for example, they laid down a 13,000 mile cable system in one month prior to the battle of Cambrai (I find these statistics hard to believe, especially as the work was carried out in secrecy. However, Nalder quotes them and they are repeated in 'Through to 1970'.). They must indeed have worked like and resembled their rough mud covered namesakes.

I also include the poem 'Decibel - 5 to 4 Against', it is not war poetry but I think it will be of some interest and is certainly relevant to the 'Hairies' of our Corps.

DECIBEL - 5 to 4 against

The Walrus and the Signalman were tying back the twine;
They wept like anything to see the losses in the line;
'If only we could measure this, oh wouldn't it be fine?'
'But there are piles of *Volts* and *Amps*' the Walrus cried with glee,
'And so we multiply them up, and make them Watts you see.'
The Signalman only shrugged and said, 'Oh what's a Watt to me?'
'If seven *Volts* at seven *Amps* are starting off from 'S',
You've nearly fifty *Watts* with which your meaning to express;
Unless they meet a *Decibel*, and then they're something less.'
'A *Decibel*,' the Walrus said, 'Is really very clear;
A unit of transmission loss, to give you some idea.'
The Signalman said nothing, but wiped away a tear.
'Now if you take a hundred *Watts* and put them in a pen
With ten selected *Decibels*, the *Watts* will shrink to ten.'
'That's simple,' said the Signalman. The Walrus spoke again
'But if, instead of just one *Bel*, you turn it into two,
Your hundred *Watts* will shrink to one - I trust that's clear to you?'
The Signalman replied at length, ' Thank you, I'm sure I do.'
'Six *Decibels* reduce by four, and nine by eight;
Four thousand times is thirty-six, so all the experts state.'
But at the point the Signalman remembered he had a date!
'PINPOINT'
08/08/36 - Air Contingent Signals, S. R.

From: **Sgt (Retd)** 'Scriv' **Scrivin**
64 Albermarle Drive
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire, DL9 4HA
Tel: (01748) 833054

Dear Sir,

The enclosed cutting from the North Yorkshire News dated Wednesday 10 January 2001 may be of interest to you. In your December issue you pointed out that Mercury Bridge was closed just in time for it's re-opening. I do appreciate that copy has to be placed with you in advance and it was very nice to see that the ties with Catterick are maintained. I should also like to point out that for many years the bridge was unnamed as the plaque in the picture was missing. Due mainly to the efforts of **Mr Stan Perkin** the aforementioned plaque was found and replaced just in time for the centre pillar to be washed away.

In the same paper is a picture of and an article about my son **Timothy** 'Timo' **Scrivin** who is at the moment in Beaufighter Troop, 11 Signal Regiment, on his Area Systems Op Trade Training Course. He has won the Best Endeavour award in his training troop. **Sig Scrivin** won the prize for the recruit who worked hardest and improved the most during the 12 weeks of basic training.

'It is a real surprise for me to receive this award and a great honour for me and my family, who will be really proud of what I have acheived.'

'Timo' (as he likes to be known), completed basic training at Bassingbourn on 11 November 2000 and has followed his father into the Corps. Dad was **Sgt** 'Scriv' **Scrivin** a former RTG who retired under Phase 2 redundancy in 1983.
Yours Sincerely.....

From: **R. C. Bullock**
1 Seagrave Court
Arnold
Nottingham NG5 6JA

Dear Sir,

I feel the need to pay tribute to a very special lady, who is very deeply committed to, and involved in, the successful running of the Nottingham Branch of the Royal Signals Association. We hold our monthly meetings at the premises of 87 Signal Squadron, TA. These are situated on Triumph Road, Lenton and I am sure that I speak for Branch Members when I express our appreciation to the Unit for extending this courtesy to us. At the last meeting before Christmas, we were ushered into the Sergeants' Mess, to find sherry for all and mince pies in abundance. The latter provided by the very special lady previously mentioned. Her name is **Mrs Tina Ward** and she is ably assisted by **Mrs Norma Toft**, who has also played a very important part in making the Branch the success it is today. While we all appreciate the effort made by **Maj (Retd) Ron Toft** to re-establish the Branch and accord credit to **Mr Eric Haris**, for continuing where **Ron** left off, (due to ill health, I hasten to add), I believe that the two ladies should get credit where it is due, or maybe over due, for their sterling support and service. So lads, raise your glasses and let's have a toast

'**Mrs Tina Ward** and**Mrs Norma Toft**'

From: **J. Y. Templeton**
6 Everton Road
CROYDON
Surrey, CR0 6LA
Tel: 020 8654 8408

Dear Sir;

In response to Col Walters' query (February's *WIRE*) regarding why Linemen are called 'Hairies', I offer two possible explanations:

a) In the old days there were three types of Lineman, Field, PL and UG but the generic appellation for all Linemen was HA which meant 'Hairy' with the A standing for a part of his anatomy.

b) In the days when the Army used many horses, cavalry horses were sleek, pampered animals. However, the draught horses were, generally, of a more robust and hardy appearance and mostly pretty hairy round the legs and were known as 'Hairies' eg: 'Artillery Hairies'. Compare the sleek suave operator type with your typical lineman and you can see the connection.

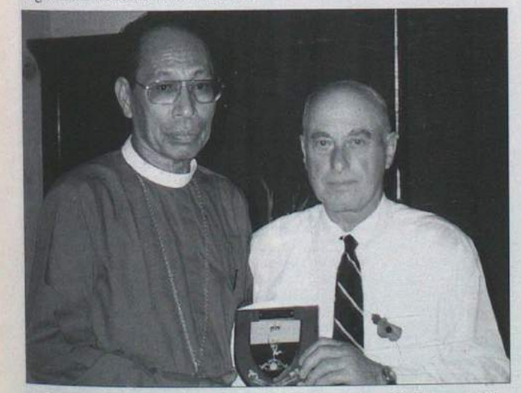
There was another query some time ago asking why we call Mercury 'Jimmy'. I got the following explanation from **Maj Derek Roberts** and he got it from his Dad who was a founder member of the Corps. When the Corps first formed it appeared on the Notice Boards at Maresfield that the new Corps wanted an emblem and asking for suggestions. One of a group gathered round the board, probably a 'Hairy' said, 'We've already got an emblem, **LCp1 Jimmy Emblem** in our Section.' When eventually the Corps decided on Mercury as the Corps emblem and posted a photograph of him on the Notice Board one of the original group said, 'There's our new emblem and it's our Jimmy with no clothes on,' hence 'Jimmy'.
Always glad to help earnest seekers after knowledge.....

From: **Bill Yates**
6 Regnum Drive
Shaw
NEWBURY
Berkshire, RG14 2HF
Tel: 01635 44207

Dear Sir,

On a visit to Rangoon Cathedral in 1999 I discovered that out of 98 Regimental and Corps plaques the Royal Signals plaque was absent. With the help of **Peter Cuckow**, from RHQ Royal Signals, it was arranged for me to be able to present one on my next visit. I served with 82 West African Division, 17 Indian Division and Burma Command Signal Regiment.

Bill Yates from Reading RSA presents an engraved plaque to the most reverend Andrew Mya Han, Bishop of Rangoon in the forces Chapel on Armistist Day 2000. The presentation was in memory of all the Signalmen we left behind in Burma.



During our third revisit in November 2000 we also visited some of the Chindit areas in North-East Burma. We also delivered a second donationof 1,000$ US (changed on the 'Black Market' to 407,000 Kyats), on behalf of the Burma Star and Royal Sussex Associations. This was to complete the rebuilding of their church in the small town of Katha, about 200 miles north of Mandalay. This donation is enough to complete the ceiling in teak and all the electrics.

The 9 Bn Royal Sussex Regiment camped on the football field opposite the church and attended morning service on Christmas Day, 1944. this was just before the heavy fighting at Pinwe and Hill 60 which took place only a few days later and during which they suffered heavy casualties. It saddens me to see the number of Signals Boy Soldiers' graves in Rangoon and Htaukkyan cemeteries, all recognisable by their first three regimental numbers. I acknowledged the memory of two of our unit's drivers, who were killed after the war finished, by laying two poppy wreaths on behalf of the Corps and the Association.

DONATIONS

Frank Corser	£ 10.00
Terry Wickens	£ 15.10
Capt (Retd) F. Dempster	£ 30.00
Mr C. Cunningham	£ 50.00
Mr P. B. Cairns	£ 13.00
Mrs M. L. Britt	£ 25.00
RSA East Kent	£ 200.00
RSA West London Branch	£ 75.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
The Glossop & District Royal Signals OCA	£ 25.00
From an ex-Far East POW	£1500.00
From the legacy of Mrs Marie Brown	£23581.82
Mrs M. Jones in memory of WO1 (RSM) M. F. B. Garland	£ 20.00
Mrs R. B. Sutherland in memory of WO1 (RSM) M. F. B. Garland	£ 5.00
E. M. Erskine in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule, Col J. R. Piddington & Lt Col (Retd) E. G. Day	£ 75.00
Mrs E. Day in memory of Lt Col E. G. Day	£ 100.00
Mr K. Teare in memory of Lt Col (Retd) E. G. Day	£ 10.00
A. T. & E. K. Burrows in memory of Lt Col E. G. Day	£ 10.00
Mrs E. Goddard & Mrs S. Lander in memory of Lt Col E. G. Day	£ 15.00
Mr & Mrs R. Henry in memory of Lt Col E. G. Day	£ 25.00
A. Overton in memory of Lt Col E. G. Day	£ 20.00
Mrs Shaby in memory of Lt Col E. G. Day	£ 10.00
John Crosby in memory of Col (Retd) J. R. Piddington OBE, MC	£ 25.00
Lt Col (Retd) B. Beattie in memory of Col J. R. Piddington OBE, MC	£ 25.00
Tom & Jane Bolton in memory of Col (Retd) J. R. Piddington OBE, MC	£ 25.00
Robert Warren in memory of Col J. R. Piddington OBE, MC	£ 25.00
3 Div Sigs Reunion Club in memory of Col J. R. Piddington OBE, MC	£ 10.00
Collection at the service of thanksgiving for Lt Col J. D. Yule	£ 236.50
Maj B. & Mrs M. Kentish in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 20.00
Former Colleagues at De La Rue Bull Machines Ltd in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 25.00
Mrs E. Trubodyin memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 10.00
Maj (Retd) B. Martin in memory of Lt Col J. D. Yule	£ 25.00
Miss E. Allden in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 20.00
Mrs F. R. E. Turner in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 20.00
Lt Col J. Sheepshanks in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 100.00
Lt Col (Retd) N. A. V. Ribchester in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 20.00
Gerald Carrington in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 20.00
G. B. Franklin in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 25.00
Colditz Society in memory of Lt Col (Retd) J. D. Yule	£ 30.00
Donated at the funeral of Col W. A. K. Stodart	£ 275.00
WO! (RSM) K. Hadfield in memory of Lt Col T. N. Skelly	£ 10.00
Maj (Retd) J. Radford in memory of Maj R. G. Aitken	£ 25.00
Maj (Retd) K. Hadfield in memory of Maj R. G. Aitken	£ 10.00
Maj (Retd) J. E. Stroud in memory of Maj (Retd) R. G. Aitken	£ 25.00
3 Div Sigs Reunion Club in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 10.00
J. Bergelin in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 50.00
Donated at the funeral of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 250.00
R. P. Dagg in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 20.00
A. A. Green in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 10.00
S. E. Moxon in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 10.00
K. E. Moxon in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 15.00
Lt Col (Retd) B. A. Beattie in memory of Charles Page	£ 25.00
Mrs (W) G. Rapsey in memory of Lt Col F. G. G. Rapsey	£ 250.00
Andrew Davis in memory of Mr K. O. Davis	£ 10.00

LAST POST

Allen - Sig C. G. Allen	Served 1941/45 Died 20/01/01
Bergelin - Maj F. Bergelin	Served 1934/68 Died 23/01/01
Bradshaw - Lt N. Bradshaw	Served 1942/46 Died 27/01/01
Bumpus - SSgt F. J. E. Bumpus	Served 1957/75 Died 08/04/00
Clarke - Maj W. H. Clarke TD	Served 1941/69 Died 29/12/00
Coatesworth - Lt Col D. Coatesworth MBE	Served 1940/62 Died 03/01/01

Publish it in
The Wire
The Editor is always pleased to receive interesting articles

Cotterell - Sig L. Cotterell	Served 1942/47	Died Feb '00
Crump - SSgt D. E. Crump	Served 1951/73	Died 21/02/01
Day - Lt Col E. G. Day OBE, TD	Served 1931/59	Died 26/12/00
Deeth - Cpl A. W. Deeth	Served 1939/46	Died 21/12/00
Delaney - WO2 G. E. C. M. Delaney	Served 1969/78	Died 16/01/01
Gladwyn - Lt Col R. F. C. Gladwyn MBE	Served	Died 24/12/00
Gunton - Maj N. G. Gunton	Served 1941/68	Died 25/12/00
Hill - Sig L. H. Hill	Served 1939/46	Died 17/02/01
Hollis - Capt J. A. Hollis MBE	Served 1940/47	Died 02/01/01
Hunt - WO1 G. Hunt	Served 1956/78	Died 13/01/01
Jackaman - WO2 W. R. Jackaman	Served 1927/43	Died 09/11/00
Kelly - Sig G. L. Kelly	Served 1940/46	Died 11/02/01
Mayne - Maj W. R. Mayne	Served 1948/83	Died 23/01/01
McLoughlin - Cpt T. J. McLoughlin	Served 1965/88	Died 05/01/01
Nickson - Cpl H. W. Nickson	Served 1940/46	Died 15/01/01
Page - Maj Gen C. E. Page CB, MBE, DL	Served 1940/74	Died 31/01/01
Piddington - Col J. R. Piddington OBE, MC	Served 1932/69	Died 22/12/00
Pickard - Maj R. Pickard	Served 1953/85	Died 13/02/01
Rapson - Sgt F. V. Rapson	Served 1936/46	Died 24/01/01
Reekie - Dvr D. Reekie	Served 1938/46	Died 27/09/00
Robinson - WO2 C. L. E. A. Robinson	Served 1940/59	Died 03/05/00
Slender - Sig J. W. Slender	Served 1952/55	Died 07/02/01
Smith - LCpl S. Smith	Served 1942/49	Died 18/10/00
Smyth - Wo2 T. J. Smyth	Served 1948/60	Died 08/02/01
Tibbett - WO2 A. Tibbett	Served 1960/84	Died 19/01/01
Tonge - Maryn Humphries Tonge	Served	Died 30/10/00
Truckle - Cpl P. Truckle	Served 1970/81	Died 12/01/01
Varlow - Mr J. Varlow	Served 1939/46	Died 12/01/01
Wornham - Dvr C. T. Wornham	Served 1946/49	Died 14/06/99
Yule - Lt Col J. Yule	Served 1936/61	Died 25/12/00
Ziar - Sig I. M. Ziar	Served 1939/45	Died 06/04/00

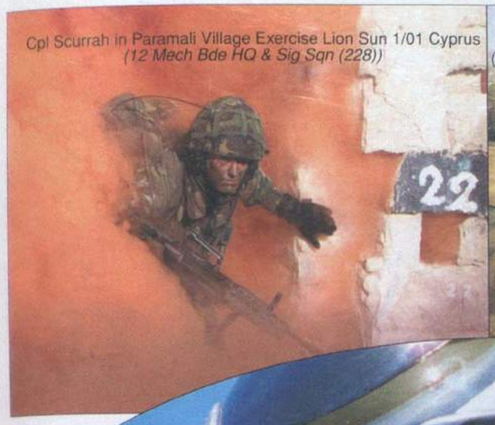
Ormiston – Sig John T. Ormiston from Newcastle upon Tyne, died after a short illness on 28 September 2000. His Army service commenced with basic training at or near Donnington in October 1942 shortly after which he joined the Corps in Glasgow for training as an Instrument Mech. However, in January of the following year he was posted to Catterick where he qualified as both Operator Keyboard & Line and Operator Wireless & Keyboard. He then joined 4 Wireless Group at Egham becoming a member of 15 W/T Det. Type 'M' Golden Arrow Section and was with the liberation forces until May 1945. In August of that year he joined 3 Coy 3 GHQ in Egypt and became responsible for the building and operating of a cinema at Polygon Abbassia Garrison.
On being demobbed in June 1947 he returned to his former employment as a cinema projectionist becoming a manager of what was the first Tatler News Theatre in Newcastle and then a complex which included a Restaurant and Night Club. After closure he was appointed 'Evening Manager' at the Newcastle University Students' Union until retirement after which (because for most of his life he worked in the evenings) he became a loyal supporter of the RSA (No. 27034 Newcastle Branch and the local Branch of the Normandy Veterans Association. Sincere condolences to his widow **Peggy** and son **Michael**.

Clarke – Walter Harold Clarke, It is with regret that we report the death of a former Royal Corps of Signals comrade. **Walter** was 80 years old and passed away on Sunday 14 January 2001, after having attended Southampton General Hospital with heart problems.
During his wartime service **Walter** landed in Normandy on D-Day 6 June 1944 on Sword Beach at 0630hrs and played an important part in Beach Sub-area Signals.
Walter became a member of No 24 (Wessex) Branch of the Normandy Veterans Association in 1993, proving to be a very loyal and popular member with a ready smile, infectious laugh, honest disposition and a strength of will that helped him cope with the loss of two wives. During the time that he shared comradeship in the NVA he met and married **Claire** and they settled in the Thornhill district of Southampton. **Claire** has regularly accompanied **Walter** to the Branch monthly business-cum-lunch meetings and we hope that she will continue to be able to join us on these convivial occasions.
The funeral service took place at the Southampton Crematorium at 1430hrs on Tuesday 23 January 2001, the service being conducted by the **Rev G. Annas** of Saint Christopher's Church, Thornhill. Upwards of 20 bemedalled veterans of the NVA and the British Korean Veterans Association formed a Guard of Honour with the Branch Standards of the two associations being paraded. All the while under firm control of NVA Branch President, **Philip Hedley-Prole**. During the service, veteran **Fred Nicholas**, a friend, spoke a few words about **Walter's** service, of his love of vehicles, especially motorcycles and of speed! He ended by saying that if **Walter** could not find anything good to say about a person, then he would say nothing at all. Many partners and other friends from the Southampton Ex-Service Men's Club attended the service and afterwards met at the Club for the wake, in honour of a true friend and a real gentleman. We offer sincere condolences to **Claire** and family members.

Hollis - Capt John Hollis MBE died on 2 January 2001 at the age of 89. He served with distinction in the Corp and was a member of the Southampton and District Branch of the RSA. As a Captain, he played a key role on D-Day, commanding an enemy intercept unit. He was involved in one of the heaviest battles in Normandy when crossing the River Orne where his Section was able to give advance warning of several German counter attacks thereby saving considerable casualties. **John's** war came to an end when a mine blew up his jeep at Wesel. One of Southampton's most prominent citizens he was awarded the MBE in recognition of his role in World War II.
Born in London, **John** moved to the Southampton area in 1935 while working for Cornhill Insurance. He quickly established himself as a member of the local community. After the war he returned to Southampton and re-opened Cornhill's office. At that time he lived in Highfield Lane with his wife and three children and began a long association with Highfield Church where he was treasurer for ten years. After his first wife, **Eleanor**, died following a long illness, he met **Nancy**, who was a widow with three children. They created a record at Highfield by being married with all six children present in church. In 1964 **John** joined the Insurance Brokers, Bowing Rose in Southampton and retired as a director in 1976. A man with a great sense of community, he was a member of the Southampton Abbeyfield Society and a trustee of the Langstaff Trust, dedicated to looking after the lonely elderly. He was also the Master of the Lodge in Southampton's Masons. As Chairman and President of Rownhams Conservatives he kept a keen interest in the constituency and in national politics. His second wife, **Nancy**, their six children, eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren survive **John**.

Tonge - Martyn Humphreys Tonge was born on 2 March 1918 and died on 30 October 2000. He served with the Royal Signals but was a very private man and little is known of his military service, but it is understood that he served in the Italian Campaign, joining it from Sicily. He was a well respected man and a wonderful character.

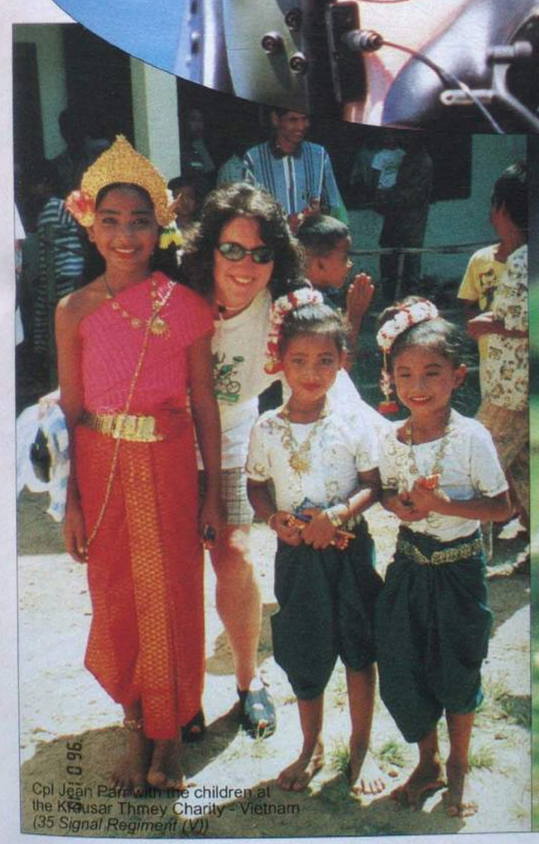
Varlow – John Varlow - it is with sadness York Branch report the death of their former Chairman, **John Varlow** in York District Hospital on 12 January 2001 at the age of 80. **John** joined the Supplementary Reserve in May 1939 and was called to the colours in August 1939. He served as a Despatch Rider with Northern, Command Signal Company at York and Catterick Garrison HQ. He re-mustered with 9 Corps Signals and served in the Orkney and Shetlands Defence Company from 1942 to 1944. He was badly injured in a motor accident in 1942. In 1944 he was posted to India serving at GHQ New Delhi. After de-mob in 1946 he returned to Post Office Telephones in York where he remained until his retirement in 1985. He was invested as Serving Brother of the Order of St. John and was a 'founder member' of the York Branch of the RSA. He served the Branch with distinction as Secretary and later Chairman. He was awarded his '50-Year Badge' in 1994. The aftermath of his accident left him with a severe disability that he bore with great fortitude and cheerfulness, ably supported by his late wife **Doris** a former teleprinter operator who he married in 1942 at Catterick Garrison Church. His funeral, at York Crematorium, was attended by officers and members of the Branch. **John** will be greatly missed by all his friends at the York Branch and we send our sincere condolences to his family.



Cpl Scurrah in Paramali Village Exercise Lion Sun 1/01 Cyprus
(12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228))

Cpl Lee Farrow about to be called as a witness!
(If anyone can identify the driver the PSI would be extremely interested in his whereabouts)
(36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V))

WO2 (SSM) Weaver in a F3 Tornado
21000 feet up and about to be sick
(Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands)



Cpl Jean Parr with the children at the Krousar Thmey Charity - Vietnam
(35 Signal Regiment (V))

LCpl Dudley takes a walk in the park
(249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L))

THE Wire

June 2001

The Royal Corps of Signals

A PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR

HRH is met by The Master of Signals and someone looking like the Colonel but with shorter hair

Cpl Milligan
the proud recipient of the 2001 Ernie Bayley A

Lt Monica Taylor (RAO Det Comd) asks, 'What's it like to be a Princess?'

OC 206 Sqn in full flow 'No, no Bill don't tell her that'

HRH is presented to John Templeton and members of 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club

HRH The Princess Royal visits 3 (UK) Divisional HQ and Signal Regiment

202 Sqn charm the Princess while Big Al contemplates another all day breakfast

SSgt (YofS) Rouse deputises for OC 222 Sqn and is presented to The CO and RSM try not to play the proud fathers

The Royal Signals Magazine

The Wire

June 2001 Vol. 55 No: 3

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Editor Lt Col (Retd) P. Valder
Deputy Editor Mrs J. A. Herring

Member of the Association of Service Journals

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FRONT COVER
Armoured fighting vehicles at work
Challenger and CVR(T) Scimitar with close air support
(Courtesy - AFV CIS School Armour Centre)

BACK COVER
Dawn breaks majestically over the big country that is Africa, with the sun rising serenely on another wonderful day in the Corps.
(Courtesy - 36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

The closing date for copy to REACH this office, in order to go in the AUGUST issue is
15 JUNE 2001

ADEN

As Officers of the Corps are aware, a picture is painted each year to mark the Corps' service in overseas stations. In 2002 Aden will be the subject location for the Corps painting.

Anyone with experience, memories or colour photos of service in the 'Barren Rocks' is asked to contact the Editor, who is charged with providing ideas for this picture, before all the local knowledge is lost in the 'mists of time'.

Authors alone are responsible for the content of their articles. The opinions expressed in the articles of this publication are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Royal Signals or the Ministry of Defence. This publication should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

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THE MAN FROM MANNING AND CAREER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

(Maj S. G. Hutchinson MBE R SIGNALS)

It has been a busy few months within the Division but then again when is it quiet? Yet again the Soldier Wing Roadshow has been touring the country with visits to 2 Sig Regt, 14 Sig Regt and 264 (SAS)Sig Sqn; our thanks go to all those who have been associated with the smooth running of these visits. The pace has been no less hectic within Officer Wing with issues such as the introduction of the new MS Year and OJAR dominating proceedings. In terms of personnel, the Division welcomes **Maj Jonathan Whiteley** (SO2 INT), **Angela Ellis** (AA Courses) and **Eileenan McGlynn** (AA C Wing). A sad farewell is bade to **Maj Graham Fairclough** who left for sunnier climes (Cyprus); who said those within the MCM Div could not organise their own postings ? – at least **Graham** got one right !

January saw the start of the Soldier Promotion Boards cycle. Promotion prospects for soldiers throughout the Corps remain good with approximately 20% of the Corps selected for promotion each year. Including reserves, a total of 1,207 R SIGNALS soldiers were selected for promotion during 2000. The results of these boards are summarised below.

Promotion Board	'Main List' Selections	'Reserve' Selections*	Total Selected*	Promotion Year Ends
2000 A1 (W)2 to W01)	37	15	52	30 Jun 01
2000 A2 (SSgt to WO2)	79	27	106	30 Jun 01
2000 B (Sgt to SSgt)	100	32	132	30 Jun 01
2000 C (Cpl to Sgt)	160	9	169	31 Oct 01
2000 E (LCpl to Cpl)	278	50	328	31 Jan 02
2000 F (Sig to LCpl)	387	33	420	31 Jan 02
Totals	1041	166	1207	*As at 26 Mar 01

In terms of postings we continue to do our utmost to ensure that both Officers and Soldiers alike continue to get as much notification as possible of a forthcoming posting. Short notice moves are, however, an inevitable consequence of promotions, operational priorities, undermanning and compassionate postings. In order to make the system work and minimise any potential disruption or disappointment it is essential that we receive your Posting Preferences. Less than 40% of our soldiers submit Posting Preference Proformas. They take less than ten minutes to complete and in many cases could be the main factor in determining where and when your next move is likely to be.

On an extremely positive note, the Division has been fortunate enough to send a number of Desk Officers away on unit visits. In January four members of the Division visited 249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn in Norway during Ex Hardfall. The visit was a great success and our intrepid travellers left Norway extolling the virtues of Winter Warfare Training. More recently, but by no means less exotic, four Desk Officers visited 12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn in Aldershot. The visit was tremendous value and those fortunate enough to attend received a valuable insight into the workings of a Brigade Signal Squadron.

(L-R): Elaine Easton, Carol-Anne Forrest (with the Wings!), Lesley Scott and George Walker contemplate a life outside the APC

We continue to be extremely receptive to invitations to visit units; it is important not only for the staff to visit units but also to give the soldiers an opportunity to meet those who are intrinsically involved in the management of their careers.

WARNING ORDER

With effect from 8 June 2001 Soldier Wing R SIGNALS/INT CORPS MCM Div will be adjusting to a two wing structure as opposed to the three wings it is today. In essence, one wing will manage all Operator Trades and the other all support trades such as Sys Engr Tech, Tech Sup Spec and those on the RD roster. Additional staff are being recruited to assist with the career management of the CEGs. It is hoped that this reorganisation will be conducted with minimum disruption and in many cases the Desk Officer and telephone number will remain the same. Apart from the introduction of a new Officers' post, Officer Wing should remain largely unchanged. A more detailed brief will accompany the next edition of the MCM Div Newsletter.

WISHING TO CONTACT THE DIVISION ?

R SIGNALS/Int Corps MCM Div has, at last, been brought into the 21st Century with the introduction of its very own Internet Terminal. Whilst allowing units to contact the Division more easily, individuals are reminded of the need to involve the chain of command in career management issues.

Our Internet Address is: rsignalsintcorpsmcmdiv@dial.pipex.com

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM - VOLUNTEER GUIDES

The museum is open every day from mid-February until the end of October and is manned by volunteers at the weekends and on public holidays. Outside that period it is open on weekdays except over Christmas and the New Year. The 'weekend volunteers' play a very important and significant role in the museum, meeting and greeting visitors, talking to them and making them feel welcome. As word has spread that the museum is open and that it is an interesting place to visit, with displays and 'visitor trails' that appeal to children of all ages as well as to adults, so visitor numbers have increased. Weekend takings this February were up 83% over February last year and the takings in March were up 22%.

The message is a two-fold one. When you or your friends plan to holiday in this area, include a visit to the museum in your plans. It may be located within the confines of a very active military camp, but it is open to the general public and the displays are of interest to those who have not served in the forces as well as to those who have. Secondly, if you live within easy reach of the museum and would appreciate a rewarding day working in the Museum at the weekend, occasionally, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, **Lt Col (Retd) Pat Soward** (01258-860647) or a member of the museum staff (01258-482248) for details.

Other volunteers work in the museum on weekdays, carrying out research and generally assisting the permanent staff. This, again, is very rewarding work and as a volunteer (in either role) you will learn much about the Corps that you did not discover in a lifetime of service!

A FIVE STAR EVENT BOOSTS THE ARMY'S NATIONAL CHARITY

A unique military event took place on Tuesday 27 March 2001, at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. All ten living British Field Marshals, including **HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh** and **HRH The Duke of Kent,** attended a commemorative Chapel Service and Dinner on behalf of the Army's national charity, The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF). Two former Prime Ministers - **Sir Edward Heath** and **John Major** and seven former Secretaries of State for Defence: **Lord Carrington, Lord Gilmour, Lord Mason, Sir John Nott, Michael Heseltine, Tom King** and **Michael Portillo** also supported the Dinner.

Gathered in the historic setting of the Great Hall at the Royal Hospital were a total of 111 'stars', calculated at one for a Brigadier, two for a Major General, three for a Lieutenant General and four for a General. The Field Marshals alone rated 50 between them. Not included in this total were five for **Sir John Mills** and four for **Stephen Fry,** both of whom were guests at this unique event. **Sir John**, famously portrayed Field Marshal Haig in the film *'Oh! What A Lovely War'* and Stephen Fry played the blimpish General Melchett to perfection in the BBC television series *'Blackadder'*. **Patrick Shervington**, Director Fundraising for the Army Benevolent Fund, said:

'It is a sobering fact that the Army Benevolent Fund supports soldiers, ex-soldiers and their dependants from three successive centuries - amongst them Great War veterans born in the late 1890s right through to Service families who have babies born in the 21st Century. Conscious that - to misquote - 'There is no longer a Field Marshal's baton in every soldiers knapsack.' *I felt that a celebratory evening to pay tribute to the 5-star Army rank would be a focus for raising funds for the Charity.'*

Promotion to Field Marshal and to Admiral of the Fleet and Marshal of the Royal Air Force has been suspended in peacetime, although not formally abolished. Only 138 men have held the rank since **King George II** introduced it into the British Army in 1736. Chairman of the Army Benevolent Fund, **General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie**, who is Governor of the Royal Hospital, hosted the Dinner that raised nearly £40,000. Fittingly, the last Field Marshal to be appointed in 1997, **Lord Inge** presided over the occasion in his role as President of the Charity. The roll call of those who reached the ultimate pinnacle of 5-star rank included the two most senior; **His Royal Highness Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh**, appointed in 1953, and **Lord Carver**, appointed in 1973, who as a young officer in the Second World War was awarded the DSO and MC. Also present were the other Field Marshals, in order of appointment: **Sir Roland Gibbs, Lord Bramall, Sir John Stanier, Sir Nigel Bagnall, Lord Vincent, Sir John Chapple** and **His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent**. Only **His Majesty King Birenda of Nepal**, who was appointed an Honorary Field Marshal in 1980, was unable to be present.

A highlight of the evening was the formal presentation to the Royal Logistic Corps of two paintings by the celebrated artist, **Terence Cuneo**. *D-Day* and *Sefton* were bought at auction for £30,000 by **Mr Raphael Djanogly** and the money was donated to the Army Benevolent Fund. Artist and former England cricketer, **Jack Russell**, has been commissioned to paint in oils a picture of the Field Marshal's Evening. This will be made into a limited edition, of 138 prints. Musical entertainment was provided by the Band of the Welsh Guards who played the Regimental Marches of all the Field Marshals.

MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
APRIL 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Maj M. G. Webb	MoD Centre Block
Capt A. Balsdon	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Capt A. P. J. Coulston	Exchange Officer Australia
Capt R. D. Cowan	11 Signal Regiment
Capt S. A. Dixon	15 Signal Regiment
Capt C. P. Gill	2 Signal Regiment - JCUFI
Capt A. Higgins	2 Signal Regiment
Capt C. F. B. Hymas	7 Signal Regiment
Capt W. McCreath	JSSU Digby
Capt C. G. McGinley	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Capt M. Rouse	16 Air Asslt Bde & Sig Sqn (216)
Capt M. A. Schofield	280 Signal Squadron
Capt S. A. Smoothy	2 Signal Regiment

OFFICERS
MAY 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. P. R. Roberts	PMSP
Maj A. Weaver	JSSU Oakley (US Det)
Capt G. P. J. Buxton	MCM Division
Capt D. W. Craig	2 Signal Regiment
Capt N. Donohue	Army EMC Division
Capt M. R. Edwards	11 Signal Brigade Headquarters
Capt K. V. Fowler	7 Signal Regiment
Capt A. V. Hilborn	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Capt S. G. Jackson	7 Signal Regiment
Capt I. Rutherford	The Royal School of Signals
Capt S. W. Slater	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Capt S. M. Toms	14 Signal Regiment (EW)

WOS AND SNCOS
APRIL 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 RD S. T. Archer	7 Signal Regiment
A/WO1 RD A. J. Barry	HQ 2 (NC) Signal Brigade
A/WO1 RD I. J. Carter	12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228)
A/WO1 RD G. R. Crozier	UOTC Birmingham
A/WO1 RD S. Day	33 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
A/WO1 RD A. J. Frost	2 Signal Regiment
A/WO1 RD J. G. McNaught	15 Signal Regiment
A/WO1 RD R. J. Pye	30 Signal regiment
A/WO1 RD G. D. Robinson	4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204)
A/WO1 RD S. J. Russell	32 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
A/WO1 RD T. Smith	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
WO2 RD S. H. F. Bovan	JSSU Digby
WO2 RD T. W. Comyns	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
WO2 RD A. Dick	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
WO2 RD T. Parle	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
WO2 RD M. E. Walton	1 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (215)
WO2 RD K. R. Peters	JSSU Digby
WO2 K. S. Scaife	1 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (215)
SSgt FofS D. R. Crowther	HQ SOinC (A)
SSgt FofS R. G. James	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt FofS A. J. Miller	35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
SSgt FofS L. R. Morrison	2 Signal Regiment
SSgt FofS B. Palmer	2 Signal Regiment
SSgt FofS B. D. Pradhan	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
SSgt N. L. Cain	259 Signal Squadron
SSgt T. Davies	35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
SSgt R. G. Stenhouse	16 Signal Regiment
SSgt N. M. Wakefield	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Sgt M. P. Curbishley	31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Sgt N. Flanighan	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218)
Sgt M. P. Hay	ACIO Irvine
Sgt R. G. Kidd	HQ Brunei Garrison
Sgt M. King	37 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Sgt C. A. Leader	ACIO Doncaster
Sgt R. A. Lodge	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt S. W. A. Murray	NSE Northwood
Sgt G. Padfield	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt K. D. Perks	AFCO Birmingham
Sgt J. G. Pollock	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt D. R. Potts	RHQ AFSOUTH
Sgt S. M. L. Samuel	12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228)
Sgt J. M. Simpson	AFCO Birmingham
Sgt M. A. Tench	2 Signal Regiment
Sgt T. N. Treadwell	RHQ AFSOUTH
Sgt P. C. Walledge	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218)
Sgt L. Younger	241 Signal Squadron

WOS AND SNCOS
MAY 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 RD S. C. Keilty	HQ SOinC (A)
WO1 FofS R. H. Batley	40 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
WO1 FofS A. Holyoak	The Royal School of Signals
WO1 FofS P. L. Lewis	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
WO2 RD R. G. Dalton	30 Signal Regiment
WO2 RD G. Dewar	249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L))
WO2 RD P. G. Griffiths	2 Signal Regiment
WO2 RD J. A. Smith	JSSU Digby
WO2 RD P. Tasker	15 Signal Regiment
WO2 FofS D. J. Coffey	249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L))
WO2 FofS M. R. Flather	16 Signal Regiment
WO2 FofS N. Hendry	HQ British Forces Cyprus
WO2 FofS P. A. Holland	RHQ AFNORTH
WO2 FofS P. J. Hubble	15 Signal Regiment
WO2 FofS P. Johnson	SHAPE Regional Sp Gp
WO2 FofS N. A. McGregor	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 FofS G. J. Pearson	31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
WO2 FofS M. P. Riley	CIS Eng Gp
WO2 FofS K. Robinson	36 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
WO2 FofS J. K. Sutton	280 (UK) Signal Squadron
WO2 FofS I. J. Walling	600 Sig Tp
SSgt FofS R. D. Allen	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
SSgt FofS S. W. Crowther	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
SSgt FofS D. K. Fielding	71 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
SSgt FofS M. Frangleton	7 Signal Regiment
SSgt FofS P. A. Leach	225 Signal Squadron
SSgt FofS O. D. Leyland	259 Signal Squadron
SSgt FofS N. J. Mitchell	242 Signal Squadron
SSgt FofS S. G. Prendergast	HQ SOinC (A)
SSgt FofS P. R. Stevens	280 (UK) Signal Squadron
SSgt FofS J. P. Walsh	34 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
SSgt K. Barker	JACIG
SSgt P. J. Brooker	ATR Bassingbourn
SSgt P. A. Dunn	JSSU Digby
SSgt S. Fleming	ATR Bassingbourn
SSgt R. G. Foster	HQ DSSS
SSgt G. R. Williams	34 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Sgt L. J. Chappell	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt P. J. Conroy	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (213)
Sgt A. Costello	15 Signal Regiment
Sgt P. Farmer	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt A. J. Finn	7 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (207)
Sgt C. H. Giles	238 Signal Squadron
Sgt R. M. Goldsmith	30 Signal Regiment
Sgt L. Griffiths	36 Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Sgt M. P. McChesney	2 Signal Regiment
Sgt M. J. J. Nowosielski	280 (UK) Signal Squadron
Sgt C. G. Pennicott	HQ DFTS
Sgt C. A. Porter	241 Signal Squadron
Sgt G. Smith	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt I. Smith	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt B. R. Steadman	243 Signal Squadron
A/Sgt S. D. Roughton	ATR Bassingbourn

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NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS SIGNALS OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)

ROYAL SIGNALS WEB SITE

The Army web site now features a new and up to date section on the Royal Signals. The old single page of outdated information has been replaced by a site containing over 100 pages of information ranging from sports and activities to individual regiments and pictures from the White Helmets. With every major unit throughout the Corps having its own page the site is set to expand and become even more comprehensive. Units are not limited to the single page that currently represents them, once the new content management system is online units across the world will be able to access the site and change their own pages accordingly.

The site is primarily being used as a recruiting and information tool with plans laid down to expand the serving soldier section in the future to allow access to recent pamphlets, course guides and much more up to date information.

The current site was created by **2Lt Graham Gaw**, a TA officer from 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) who does similar work in his civilian career. The site took less than two weeks to put together and he returns to Blandford on a regular basis to assist in updating the site and turning the many ideas of the SORLS team into reality.

If you have any suggestions for the site or want more information about how you can update your unit's pages then contact the Royal Signals Webmaster by e-mailing: signalswebmaster@army.mod.uk.net
You can visit the site directly at: www.army.mod.uk/royalsignals/

HEADQUARTERS MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION (CENTRAL)

Chief CIMIC **Maj Keith Danby**
Chief EW **Capt Terry Crosby**

With a unit name like that you may be forgiven for thinking that we are in the Balkans somewhere but no, this Airmobile Divisional HQ is tucked away in JHQ Rheindhalen with just two R Signals personnel.

Maj Keith Danby is a character that no-one can forget and he finally comes to the end of a long and eventful career in August when he retires into the civilian world. What will the Hash House Harriers and CATS (the Amateur Dramatics Club) do without **Keith** and **Jenny**? Plans are already underway to ensure they are suitably dined out in style.

Capt Terry Crosby has spent the last two years getting stuck into a slightly unfamiliar employment role in Electronic Warfare. Off the beaten track (literally) he pulled a bunch of no-hopers from scratch to win the UKSC(G), BA(G) and Army Minor unit orienteering championships all in one season. In February, **Terry** led an Adventurous Training Exercise to Nepal to trek around the beautiful Annapurna region. In amongst the party of 14 was **Sig Ryan Mitchell** (7 Sig Regt) seen here making sure the COMCEN in Pokhara was still alive. On the last day of the 8-day trek, they visited a Gurkha Welfare Centre and presented a cheque for £2000 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Capt Terry Crosby (left) and Sig Ryan Mitchell (7 Sig Regt)

ROYAL SIGNALS INSPECTION TEAM HEADQUARTERS LAND COMMAND

OC **Maj (TOT) Plumb**
FofS **WO2 (FofS) Marston-Weston**
Management **Sgt Payne**

5,4,3,2,1 RSIT ARE GO!

A busy New Year has seen RSIT not only overseeing the high standards of maintenance throughout the Corps, but also keeping their bodies and minds sharply tuned with some arduous training. First port of call for the fearless team was the notorious waters of Colerne swimming pool for a spot of canoeing. The fiasco began with a short swim test with the ability to swim a necessity not a luxury given the standard of canoeing. The man responsible for organising the day **Sgt Paul Hughes** set off in his natural team colour of milk bottle white and astounded all with his ability to canoe in a small circle, with the idea of going in a straight line sadly way beyond his capabilities.

This may of course been an unselfish gesture by him to allow the Royal Signals Gurkha Capsize Display Team the space they needed to express themselves freely. However, **Sgt Lal** 'Turtle' **Gaha** and **Sgt Suren** 'Torpedo' **Rai** soon overcame their desires to instantly capsize and mastered the art of canoeing almost in a straight line. The other end of the pool was almost in reach. Eventually **Sgt Suren Rai** came to realise that he wouldn't be able to ram raid his way out of the pool and began stopping before hitting the sides. The waters hadn't even settled from the last capsize as **Maj Gig Plumb, WO2 Fofs Andy Marston-Weston** and **Sgt Tim Mayner** conformed to canoeing protocol and stayed in their canoes in a straight line to the other end of the pool ....and back.

Eventually **Cpl Tara Daneey** from Basil Hill Gym had seen enough and her nerves could take no more, so canoeing was shelved and a nice relaxing game of water polo was suggested. Oh dear, enter **Maj Gig** 'Great White' **Plumb** who must have mis-heard polo as rugby. **Sgt Tim Mayner** was proudly displaying his ability at water polo and only seconds later was coming up from under the water gasping for air with the ball gone along with all feeling below the waist. A fine sporting display was shown by **Sgt Tim Mayner, WO2 FofS Andy Marston-Weston** and **Sgt Suren Rai** despite **Maj Gig Plumb's** best efforts to restrict their creativity whilst his two team mates showed all the water agility of a couple of housebricks.

PATHFINDERS

A test of the Team's navigational skills was next. The Team was set the challenge by **Sgt Paul Hughes** to navigate around the historic town of Evesham, following a river. The biggest achievement of the day was probably no-one reporting to the police a suspicious group wandering around almost hypnotised as their leader explained the relationship between breeding rabbits and the growth of a sunflower. **Maj Gig** 'Honest as the day is long' **Plumb** had his work cut out for him with the continuous struggle to keep **Sgt Tim** 'Wide-boy' **Mayner** on the straight and narrow when he stumbled upon an unmanned ferry and his mischievous grin couldn't hide his joyriding intentions. As the sun was setting and the tired Team was making its way back through Evesham town centre they found their light at the end of the tunnel 'All You Can Eat For £7'. A poor unsuspecting Indian was about to have his business plan tested to the limit because if there is one talent RSIT has in abundance it's eating, and boy did they eat, even **Sgt John** 'Two Puddings' **Payne** was suitably stuffed by the end of the feeding session. It would appear even **Sgt Lal Gaha** is starting to get an RSIT belly. Here the day ended except for **WO2 FofS** 'Shandy' **Andy Marston -Weston** conning free beer from the publicans in Evesham by claiming that the bottom half of every pint of lager was flat (how do they do that **Andy**?).

TRAINED KILLERS

Weapon training, Battle PT and a blast on the MOD video game (SAT) next on the menu, yummy. When **Sgt Tim** 'ND' **Mayner** finally worked out which way to put the magazine on, he set about earning his new 'ND' nickname. Never mind **Timmy. Maj Gig** 'Brute Force' **Plumb** set about redesigning the rifle, 'It will fit this way.' **Sgt Lal Gaha** effortlessly slipped back to his drills with the only noticeable mistake by **WO2 FofS Andy Marston-Weston** being unable to find his boys brews when called upon. After faultless displays on the weapon test the Team headed off for some background activities (a cup of tea) before the afternoons fun and games. A sunny afternoon in Corsham is a quiet, relaxing and soothing experience, picturesque countryside, wildlife roaming free, almost perfect silence except for the peaceful sound of a gentle breeze. Not when RSIT have got a couple of logs.

WO2 (FofS) Marston-Weston inspects RSIT 's bellies

Grunts, groans and screams of pain (or was it laughter at our gymnastic skills). Corsham's forest SQMS, **SSgt Ade Lines** and the RAF Regiment's **Cpl Mike Davis** joined the Team under the watchful eyes of Basil Hills gym RAF PTIs, **Sgt Steve Moore** and **Cpl Tara Dancey**. After a good PT session the day ended with a competition on the SAT.

If I keep staring at it, maybe it will go away

The Team's self sacrifice and etiquette were unquestionable with the OC, **Maj Gig Plumb** winning the shoot and **Sgt Paul Hughes** who organised the competition coming a close second. As the day came to an end among cry's of 'I'm normally a much better shot than that' all disappeared off into the weekend with the satisfaction of another day's pay earned.

Why not visit the Royal Signals Museum?
For opening hours ring :
01258 482248

HEADQUARTERS 2 (NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS) SIGNAL BRIGADE

2 SIGNAL BRIGADE SWINGS INTO OPERATION PENINSULAR WITH A VENGEANCE

2 (NC) Signal Brigade is the LAND Command lead for the provision of Land environment CIS to support military efforts to eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease in the mainland UK as part of Op Peninsular. In addition to normal tasks of supporting operations and exercises worldwide, Peninsular has witnessed the deployment of TA soldiers and equipment providing integral CIS capability to deployed Military/MAFF C2 Nodes throughout the stricken areas. Not a pleasant duty but one nonetheless taken on by the Brigade as a Main Effort until the outbreak is finally quashed. As the SO3 G2/G3 Ops, **Capt Andy McCole** emphasises, ' The Peninsular task is one where R SIGNALS must take immediate action to provide the right assets, at the right time in the right place to ensure a full delivery of CIS capability in the field. In this the Brigade has not been found wanting. With a Joint Ops Room established on Day One of the military involvement in the outbreak units were immediately warned, thorough planning of the hot CIS issues leading to the speedy, successful deployment to the regional Brigades so that they could do the business.' **Andy**, a ten-year veteran of the Corps, enthuses pride in the Brigade for its can-do attitude across all units.

The man who is responsible for ensuring the right kit gets out to the staff user in the correct quantity, using well developed Just In Time (JIT) principles, is the Brigade's SO3 (W) Tels/Eqpt/G4, **Capt Gareth Marsh**. 'I've been responsible for ensuring UOR action takes place for key requirements identified in the field. The Brigade has deployed EMS Response/Support teams, Mould Insertion Vehicles and crews, CIS LOs plus over 15 EMS terminals in support of the operation. Brigade CIS professionals have done this without complaint and it provides yet another example of the inherent synergy between the regular and the reservist right across the Brigade. I have no doubt that we will be able to duke this one out and provide an even better service in the future from what we have learned from Peninsular.' **Maj Iain Brownlee** - SO3 G3 O&D adds, 'I'm just glad that we have such an obvious high trade skill level across our TA soldiers that really complements the hardened 'street-sense' of the Regulars! Where would we be without it?'

COMMAND POST EXERCISE (CPX) HORSESHOE EAGLE 2 SIGNAL BRIGADE DEPLOYS TO POLAND

The Brigade will deploy to Poland as part of the scenario for Ex Horseshoe Eagle. This CPX involving the Brigade CPX and Regimental Command Groups will concentrate on the work needed to plan a deployment into an operational theatre and established connectivity to support a far ranging multi - national coalition force. The Exercise will be centred on the AMC at South Cerney and will concentrate on tackling the real time issues of Mission Planning, Battle Procedure, the Estimate/Orders process and CIS provision. This will test the Brigade thoroughly in a scenario that closely matches one that closely represents the type of operation many Brigade personnel will experience in the next 12 months.

From vision to reality! A major build; well planned, underway on time and on budget - another 2 Sig Bde achievement! The Comd visits RM Condor, near Dundee, to review the progress on the new build of the hanger to house 2 Sig Sqn's latest state of the art equipment with OC 2 Sig Sqn. The delighted **Comd** (centre) meets with the smug, Florida sun-tanned OC, **Maj Eric Blyth** (L) and (R) his 2IC, **Capt Andrew** 'I cannot comment on the existence or non existence of such a mission whether in fact it ever existed – yet' **Bruce.**

NEWS OF TRAINING

AFV CIS SCHOOL
ARMOUR CENTRE

Chief Instructor **Lt Col Christopher Donaghy**
Sergeant Instructor **Sgt Gary West** *(Author)*

For those who have never heard of the Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) CIS school, and I'm sure there's a few, here's our pitch. The AFV CIS School is part of the AFV Training Group located at the Armour Centre in Bovington. Although geographically near to Blandford, our world is about a million miles from that of the Royal School of Signals. We are Battle Group focussed and we train anyone concerned with operation in Armour in various aspects of CIS and command and control. This effectively boils down to all RAC, some Sappers, Infantry, RA and an occasional AAC.

There are only two of us from the Corps here in this 'near flung' outpost of the R SIGNALS world; the CO, **Lt Col Christopher Donaghy** and myself, **Sgt Gary West**. The remainder of the instructors and command appointments within the CIS School are filled with Household Cavalry & RAC Officers and WOs, one RE Sergeant and some contract Civilian instructors. We are expected to teach all aspects of communications applicable to an armoured Battle Group, at all levels. Now, that could mean teaching basic voice procedure to the recruits in the morning, briefing Commanding Officers after lunch followed by antenna theory in the afternoon to Advanced Signallers. So a varied life is the routine pattern.

All instructors at the school including the RE and R SIGNALS personnel are required to have all completed the RAC Signals Instructors course and the AFV CIS School cadre. Therefore, my replacement can expect to have his head stuck in Pamphlet No 5 (AFV Signals handbook) and the LCTP for the first few months in the chair, with a TP or two thrown in for good measure. Once these two courses are passed, however, you can look forward to an extremely interesting and varied tour. That is of course if you can put up with incessant whinging from the RAC sergeants about being on the lower pay 2000 scale, say good-bye to the Crew Commanders pay boys.

VISIT OF YEOMAN OF SIGNALS COURSE

It has to be admitted that this article was prompted by a visit from the Royal School of Signals. On Wednesday 21 February 2001 we hosted a visit from the Yeoman of Signals course. The idea of the course was to acquaint the nearly new Yeomen with the communications systems employed within an Armoured Battle Group, then have a little fun on the driver training circuit. The day went well. The visit started with a brief from one of the Group Warrant Officers, **WO2 Rab Livingston 1RTR**, followed by a tour around a Challenger 2 (CR2) with **SSgt Darrin Abbott 2RTR**. The visitors were genuinely surprised with the lack of space to operate within the confines of an otherwise sizeable MBT. The Yeomen were then treated to a 'cabbie' around the training area on a CR2 driver-training tank and a CVR(T) Scimitar, with a chance to get filthy through some quite deep puddles. All in all, the visit was a success and may well be repeated on future courses.

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ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT
BASSINGBOURN

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj F. E. Hargreaves**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. V. Slaney**

The big event of the year was the OC's pay rise that extended to a new flashy motor and some dancing lessons. Welcome to **Staff Sergeant (SQMS) Paddy** 'The Painter' (not) **Townley** who has joined us from 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron. He recently has been displaying his artistic skills by demonstrating how not to paint the Corps colours in SHQ. Congratulations to **WO2 Tony** 'I don't play practical jokes' **Slaney** on his well deserved selection to WO1. Congratulations to **SSgt (SQMS) Paddy Townley** on his well deserved selection for promotion to WO2. The 2IC, **Capt** 'Scotty' **Scott** would like to thank the SSM for stealing his bicycle back. A common occurrence at ATR Bassingbourn is the re allocation of resources. (Using anyones bike and then abandoning it.) Yes SSM it was me.

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Sarah Irwin**

It has been a cut and paste month for A Tp. **Cpl Nutall** moved up from C Tp, along with **Sgt Conroy** on promotion. **Capt Emma Bruce** moved to Wray Coy as 2IC, but is still only a phone call away from **Capt Sarah Irwin** – I know where you live! **Cpl** 'NIMDA' **Knowler** has been posted to 30 Sig Regt, hope it goes well. His replacement comes with a ready-made story about a Chinook and its door falling off – can anyone guess who it is yet?

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Darren Talbot** (RE)

Welcome to **Capt Darren Talbot** who has joined us from 28 Squadron (Royal Engineers). **Cpls Matt** 'What's ITGIS' **Witham** and 'Smudge' **Smith.** Goodbyes go to **Lt** 'Gunny' **Gunson** who has moved to 28 Sqn (RE), **Cpl** (Now Sergeant) **Dave Langridge** posted on promotion to 21 (AS) Sig Regt and **Cpl Mark Collins** over to Somme Platoon for a rest. Congratulations to **Cpl Mark Collins** and Marissa on the birth of their first child – many sleepless nights to come! Finally hello to **Cpls Andy** 'Head Down' **Doyle** and **Danny** 'Lets have some port with that' **Cooper**.

DELTA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Hervey Scott**

Delta Tp has continued training its latest intake of recruits despite the best efforts of Foot and Mouth disease to stop us. **Cpl Lindsey Payton** is still away enjoying herself in Blandford on her class one upgrading course. Welcome to **Cpls** 'Geordie' **Gough** and 'Trumpet Boy' **Bazzard** from 21 (AS) Sig Regt and JSSU (AN) respectively. They have already started to get to grips with recruit training, with lots of enthusiasm and new ideas. Meanwhile **Capt Hervey Scott** and **Sgt Dougie Icke** are busy visiting a sick member of Delta Tp in hospital. Not a recruit as you may imagine but **Cpl** 'Sick Boy' **Campbell**, who has come up with a weak excuse of something to do with Pneumonia! The highlight of **Cpl Campbell's** little holiday so far, was when the nurses in the medical center thought he was a recruit because he looked so young!

ECHO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Chris Biddulph**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Micky Piper**

Well it has been a relatively quiet period for the 'Mighty Echo' Troop. Last time we left you, Echo Tp was preparing for a Pass-off parade, 27 recruits passed out and proceeded to begin Phase Two training at RSS Blandford and RMSE Chatham respectively. After dispatching 27 recruits back to their parents, the Troop permanent Staff headed for North Wales and a spot of Adventurous Training. Unfortunately, the punishing regime prepared by **Sgt** 'Mickey' **Piper** was cut short by the discovery of foot and mouth disease. The finale and, as it turned out, the highlight of the trip was a night out in the thriving metropolis of, wait for it, Bangor! Mind you, it definitely rates higher than Hollyhead! The training team is now occupied with transforming yet another batch of healthy, motivated and intelligent young men and women into trained soldiers of the British Army. Quite a task!

FOXTROT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Dave Jackson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Craig Purdon**

This month the mighty trots say a fond farewell to **Sgt Gav Wilson** who is off to 14 Sig Regt (EW), (Our deepest sympathy to the regiment). He is leaving after a pretty hectic last week, which involved him winning the CO's Best Section award, being promoted and taking the pass off parade - best of luck Boy Wonder. Hello to **Cpl Blacklock** who is arriving in the very near future, he'd best know where the kettle is. **Sig Tony Richards** is to be congratulated on not only winning the award for best overall recruit but also passing RCB and being accepted to start training at RMA Sandhurst in May. We hope he knows it involves more than just drinking brews! Finally a big thank you goes to the Troop for digging deep and raising over £1300 for a local charity. We are now away on a couple of weeks leave and then it is down to the local station to collect the next lot of willing volunteers.

NEWS FROM THE BALKANS

MULTI-NATIONAL BRIGADE (CENTRE)
HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON
OPERATION AGRICOLA 5

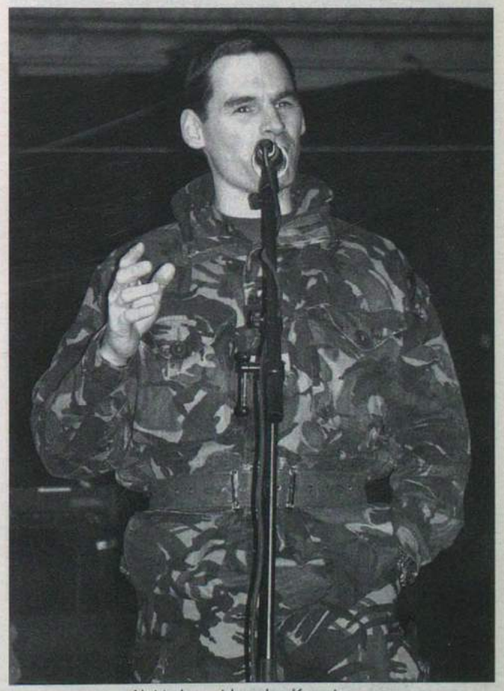
NEWS FROM KOSOVO
Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Peel**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Miles Webb**

Picture a cold day in the mountains, around 200 worn but smiling faces parade outside the Pristina University building. After six months of freezing Kosovo weather, we were finally going home. 332 days, 4 hours and 32 minutes later we have returned to what is a very different place.

Arriving on the advance party on 8 February we were all carrying plenty of warm kit to cover ourselves with as we dismounted the plane. That we did, struggling down the steps looking like Michelin men, to be met by confused-looking Royal Marines in shirt sleeve order. Our initial reaction was that they were all either mad or extremely hard, but to our pleasant surprise it was warmer than it had been back in Catterick, so it was not long before we joined them. After watching the same presentations that we'd seen during OPTAG training, we were issued with our Paradigm phone cards, (our vital link back to our loved ones in the UK, allowing them to whinge at us for a whole 20 minutes per week). After a short journey we arrived at our home for the next four and a half months. The gate guard, finally seeing that the end of his sentence was in sight, had to be controlled to stop him performing some true Kosovo-style celebratory fire.

After a short but very effective hand-over from the Marines, we were finally in the hot seat, and hot it was! Troops were immediately dispatched throughout MNB(C) and beyond, supporting the Brigade's troops deployed to lend a friendly hand to our American and French neighbours, (the American camps always being preferable, as the cookhouse hands out free coke and Burger King is only a stone's throw away). Those who remained in Slim Lines, (the HQ's new location), soon discovered its delights. We were surprised to find that the XL Club looked more like a Yates's Wine Lodge, there was an excellent gym, and that there was even a barbecue area and volleyball court. In a month or so, it will make the perfect sunbathing area! Oh, and all the Scandanavian Battalions have saunas, but the less said about that the better – we'll only get jealous! However, it hasn't all been work! The combined Officers and Sergeants Mess had a visit from the Irish Transport Regiment's band who kept us entertained with Irish folk songs and anything else that they could sing for an entire evening, thanks to **SSgs Steve Legg** and 'Sammy' **Samanjoul**. Also the Swedish group 'Kamostars', who due to a last-minute cancellation and some extremely quick thinking and action by **Sig Jamie Danby**, were brought in at the last possible moment to do a 'gig' for us.

DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Not to be outdone by Kamstars,
the RSM gives his rendition of 'Sweet Caroline'

It was an excellent night, with the added bonus of Miss Bikini of Sweden showing us how to dance, making us all want to get up on the stage and join in. Yes, we wanted to sing with the band! We've started to settle down now, and for the first time have the whole Squadron within our own Bridage area, not that we expect it to stay that way. Some people have even got their R and R out of the way, but with only three months left, even they should still be sane by the time we go home. In fact, with a summer tour this year, we might even want to stay on. (Only joking 7 Brigade!).

The Chief Clerk shows the OC and Ops Officer how to play table football

On a final note, overwhelming congratulations go to **Sgt Neil Hunt** and **SSgt Jase Smithurst** who have both recently been selected for promotion; our best of luck to you in your new jobs. Also, good luck to **WO2 Nick** 'Foz' **ter Morsche** as he fades away to discover life outside the Army. And I final mention for **WO2 (YofS) John Wright**, who's been particularly upset that he hasn't seen his name in print for some time. Nothing much to say about him, but it's enough for a fine anyway!

CIVIL MILITARY OPERATIONS - *by WO1 (RSM) Miles Webb*

After a settling in period, Adjutant **Capt Alex Clixby**, OC Radio Tp **2Lt Graham Clarke**, myself and other members of the Squadron set about identifying possible CMO projects for the duration of the tour. Our first port of call was the Children's Hospital in Pristina, not far from ourselves. 'Saffy', the Mess barman, introduced us to the hospital director and we very soon learned of the desperate situation that the hospital was in. There were 400 children waiting to be seen by the doctor, and only one ECG machine, which was itself unreliable; each machine costs £2500. A friend of mine living in Malta mentioned that she had some friends working for SOS Albania in Kosovo, and after several E-Mails, SOS Albania (Malta) have agreed to send a cheque for £2500 to cover the cost of a new ECG machine – excellent news. In the meantime members of the Squadron, with generous help from 38 Engineer Regiment (thanks lads), have started a refurbishment campaign within Pristina Hospital. They are currently designing wooden benches for the waiting rooms, along with decorations and murals to be displayed on the ward walls. **Capt Alex Clixby**, **2Lt Graham Clarke** and **LCpls Jase Whitehead** and 'Shaggy' **Palmer** will be abseiling down the PTK communications building (the tallest building in Pristina at 69 metres) to raise funds. Raising funds for the ECG machines was always going to be the biggest hurdle, but any more funds received can now be diverted into other projects outside the hospital, such as the football club. We are also organising a theatre-wide half-marathon on 3 June to raise more funds for the hospital. Children's toys and clothes go a long way in Kosovo, particularly for the orphaned children who depend solely on external support. If you have toys or clothes that you have grown out of and wish to donate, please send them to 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn at Gaza Barracks, Catterick Garrison, and we'll ensure that they are brought out to theatre.

With Manpower shortages in the Squadron, WO1 (RSM) Miles Webb and 2Lt Graham Clarke go recruiting at the Children s Hospital

HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Simon Bristow**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Eric Williams**

A little over two months ago we were spread throughout the Corps. The fortunate (or unfortunate, depending on your position), were then chosen, and HQ Troop was finally brought together. Individuals were dispatched to either the COMMCEN or NCC after some gruelling courses (they're worth nothing to civilian employers, honest lads), and have since settled in to those long days and even longer night shifts. Since arriving in theatre, the COMMCEN personnel have worked their socks off! Under the guidance of part-time DSO/Commcen IC and full-time Gym IC, **Sgt Mick** 'Terminator' **Clarkson**, the crew has made the COMMCEN their own with never a dull moment. **LCpl Jase Whitehead** had gone to great 'lengths' to work with the guys from 30 Sig Regt, even going to the 501 Det to 'put a mast up' in his spare time. Meanwhile **LCpl Greg Robinson** and **Sig Shaun Falconer** have taken to poetry; not so much heart rending, but rather stomach churning. **LCpls Glen Armitage** and **Kelly Garrett** have teamed up with **Cpl Billy Russell** and the DSO (Double Sausage Order) to sabotage the link on each and every day shift, thoughtfully providing the night shift with something to do. Believe it or not, they do work now and again…

Under the watchful eye of **SSgt Paul** 'Stiff Barron' **Brannon** the NCC crew are now in the swing of things. After many changes, the NCC is now the way we want it…for now anyway. It comprises three departments; OATIS headed by **Sgt Andy** 'Six Shooter' **McNeil**, CLEO supervised by **Sgt Mark** 'I'm not your pal, does your phone do this?' **Brundle**, and Polygon run by **Sgt** 'Lenny.net.com' **Martin**. We appear, without a doubt, to be the busiest department, due to the lack of IT knowledge of the users in the Headquarters, and **Cpl Auz** 'We're not magicians' **Gambles** is leading the fight with his patience and calm manner. **LCpl Mark** 'I can't do that, can I? **Carlisle** is finally getting to grips with the systems after a lot of head scratching; the new Dell servers were successfully put in place after their belated arrival and are making life much easier. At least we no longer have to hold the power switches on with blu-tac and banner rubbers like the old Compaqs…h'allegedly!

As **Cpl Pete** 'Webmaster' **Hoggart** finishes the new OATIS intranet (it's been a long time coming but its worth it), **Sgt Andy** 'Internet Guru' **MacNeil** leads the way for the welfare internet, and is therefore a wanted man. The trouble is, nobody can ever find him. If you see him, please write to NCC MNB(C), Op Agricola 5, BFPO 559! Finally, we say a big farewell to **Sig Falconer** who leaves shortly for 1 Div. A big welcome also to all the augmentees who will be with us for the rest of the tour; those not already mentioned include **Cpls Milton**, **Whenman**, **Smith**, **Lodge**, **Kelly**, and **Hadley**, **LCpls Comery** and **Pratap**, and **Sigs Earp**, **Rigby** and **Maxfield**. And most importantly, a very big 'thank you' to their units for releasing them; don't worry, we've found plenty of work for them!

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Graham Clarke**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Andy Allen**

Following Christmas leave, the Troop swelled to a healthy 55 through restructuring prior to our deployment on Op Agricola 5, and evolved into what is now Radio Tp. For many of the Troop, returning to Kosovo less than a year since finishing Op Agricola 2, better accommodation and a new gym do little to appease them. Suffice to say, it's not much like 'Groundhog Day'! Fortunately, the relatively tense situation out here has given cause for numerous and varied Troop deployments. Amusement was had at the expense of the French Mountain Troop, whose gigantic berets make them resemble the 'Mario Brothers'. Of course, with their world-renowned sense of humour they take the joke so well! Full credit to our American colleagues, who manage to uphold their cheery and helpful outlook despite having to wear every item of issue clothing plus more body armour than Robocop, all at the same time. Clearly paving the way on the 'hearts and minds' front. The Pakistani Special Police Force deserves particular mention for riot control drills that can only be described as 'efficient'. Having instructed the crowd a whole three times to disperse, they then wasted no time at all in deploying CS gas into the crowd, followed up quickly by a flurry of batons, hospitalising 15. Fair play to them, the crowd weren't a problem after that! Congratulations go to **SSgt Jason Smithurst** (currently back in the UK) who is posted as SSM Birmingham UOTC on promotion to WO2. Cheers Jase! Birmingham UOTC will be better for it. We also wish **Cpl** 'Hodge' **Hodgkinson** the best of luck on his posting to JCUNI and to **Sig** (soon to be Lance Corporal) **Lindsey Rakocevic** who's off to Ireland. Farewells also to **Sigs Knowles**, **O'Rourke** and **Weller** who all leave the Army shortly. The Troop welcomes **Cpl** 'Stevie' **Stevenson** and hope he is not too mentally scared from his experiences at gate 'Terminator', or gate 5 as all non-Americans call it.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Dave Sacree**

We have been here in Kosovo for just over six weeks and Sp Tp have settled down into our work routines and some departments are working round the clock to keep the Squadron moving forward. The Troop as, a whole, have taken on extra commitments with the Military Transport section taking on the Force Signal squadron driving requirements, the Light Aid Detachment (REME) looking after said vehicles and the Quartermaster's Department taking on the theatre stores accounts. As stories go concerning the troop, several incidents of note have occurred, some a little too eye-watering for full publication but **Cpl Darren** 'Bunk Bed' **Smith** had a little accident that involved a few stitches and lots of pain in the nether regions. Ouch! Another incident occurred when **LCpl Kelbie** 'Bertie' **Bassett** tried stealing a towel from the shower room where **Cpl Darren** 'Benger' **Clough** was still in the act of washing. After a short scuffle **Cpl Clough** ended up running down the corridor in his birthday suit with blood emanating from a rather painful gash on his bottom. As a break from the norm, the 'Kamostars', a band hailing from Sweden, treated the squadron to a performance of several recent hits. A band from Swebat supported them with renditions of classic hits. All who attended had a good night. Welcome to the new members of the Troop, **Sig Elliot Keightley** and **Cpl Dave Pendleton**. Goodbyes to long serving members of the troop, **Cpl Carl** 'Speed Demon' **Harris**, **Cpl Ally** 'Golden Blanket' **Munro** and **Cpl Ian** 'Victor Meldrew' **Smith**.

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

XV

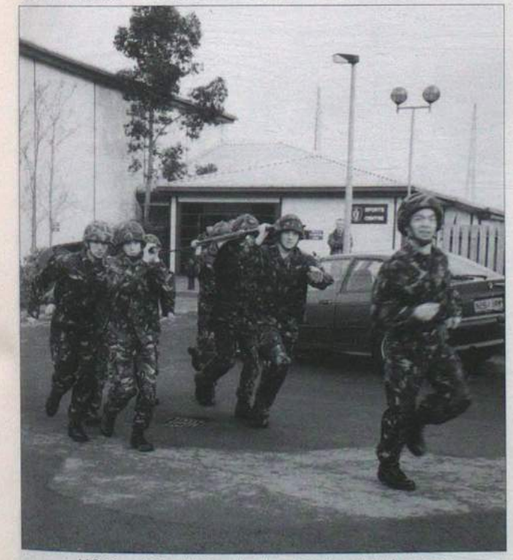
HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND AND 15 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col M. P. Llewellyn**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Balsdon**

RHQ have seen a fair amount of movement recently. A warm welcome and a large in-tray are extended to **Sgt Craig Dixon** on his return from sick leave. **LCpls Brown** and **Bowes** have been doing admirably as our R Irish representatives in the Orderly Room, covering for him. **WO1 (RSM) Al Balsdon** has had a very tricky final month preparing for his move to 21 Sig Regt on Commissioning to Captain - tricky in as much as he has had to remember to come in to his office occasionally between packing up his quarter. He will be sorely missed in RHQ, for his humour and banter as well as the work! Congratulations to him and **Sue** on their engagement - he has proved himself to be a pure romantic at heart. Welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Jim McNaught** and his family. No doubt you will enjoy your time in the Regiment - good luck! The Regiment and G6 Branch are busy preparing for the 'Marching Season' but extra curricular activities are still featuring strongly on the Regimental calendar.

MERCURY CUP TOUGH GUY COMPETITION
15 FEBRUARY 2001 - *by Cpl Shane Blakey, HQ Sqn*

On the 15 February 2001, ten lucky 'willing' volunteers from HQ Sqn took part in the Mercury Cup Tough Guy Competition. It was a physical challenge (very physical) fought out between all Signal Squadrons in Province. It was broken down into four stages. The first event was 'Get mean with yourself. A 3km stretcher race/ammo box carry weighing about 100kg. The Team achieved a very commendable time aided by **Cpl** 'I'll carry the stretcher by myself' **Toner** - the Squadron PTI! After the first 200m half the team had nice bruises, but after a rapid change of tactics we gained Third place in this event.



HQ Sqn 'Tough Guys' set out on the stretcher race

After a brief rest it was time for the second event 'You know it hurts'. There were two rowers and two bikes and the idea was to get the best combined distance in the time given. **SSgt** 'Tri-Athlete' **Chivers** covered most of the distance on one of the bikes by himself. Included in the competition was a 'joker' that you could play on any event and double your points for that one. We played ours at this stage after a team consultation, unfortunately to no avail! This was followed by 'Keep to the rhythm of the beat'. This was basically the military bleep test. We thought we would be tiring by now but using the experience of the PTI **Cpl** 'Mark' **Toner** not one member of the team dropped out before level 12 and we actually came First! We had also been 'strongly encouraged' throughout by **SSgt** 'Icky' **Gratrick.** The final event for the day was 'No gain, no pain' – this was a 30-min swim in four separate lanes. In each lane the participants had to do a specific stroke except one where you had the pleasure of swimming with a traffic cone for company! To make it more challenging it was in combat trousers and shirt. The team would probably agree this was the longest half an hour of their lives. **Sig** 'Revs' **Reveley** came up with an original idea of swimming with the cone by placing it on his head and doing an impression of Co-Co the clown. He looked stupid but it proved to be an effective method for himself to the amusement of the others. The pain paid off, and we beat the other two Squadrons in the Regiment. We look forward to the next challenge!

ARMY BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 19–23 FEBRUARY 2001
by Sgt Stephen Anderson, HQ Sqn

Following last years' success **Maj Dave Duggan** decided that the Regt would enter both a male and female into this year's contest. The team list was as follows: Men's Team: **Maj Dave Duggan, WO2 Dave Ormorod, WO2 Gaz Bennett, SSgt Sam Slade, Sgt Steve Anderson, Cpl Danny Mills, Cpl Terry Twinning, Sig Henry Brennan, Sig Mally Mallinson, Sig Rob Moore, Sig John Rees** and **Sig Ash Ward.** Ladies Team: **Cpl Cathy Winder, LCpl Michelle Rayner, Sig Pippa Henderson** and **Sig Kerry Stewart.**

The team arrived at 5 Trg Regt (TA) RLC, Grantham on the Sunday before the competition was due to start, and arranged to meet at 0800hrs Monday morning. The days were spent hard in battle. Some players were battling so hard that they broke a number of racquets. 'Whatever you do, don't lend **Maj** 'Dave' **Duggan** one of yours if you want it back in one piece!' Players of all standards were trying their best. Some of them were even getting extra coaching whilst warming up. I am not sure if making **Sig John Rees** do press-ups every time he lowered his racquet will improve his game but it was funny to watch.

In the evening **Sig Pippa Henderson** wowed us, and all of Grantham Town with her amazing singing skills, don't give up your day job just yet! **Cpl** 'Terry' **Twinning** spent the rest of the week getting constant grief from the rest of the team, as he changed allegiances and started supporting the Ghurkhas half way through the Tournament.

On the whole the competition was an excellent success for 15 Sig Regt - all members of the team came away feeling a sense of achievement and are looking forward to the Corps in October. An extra special well done and congratulations go to the following people:

Male Veterans Doubles Winners:
WO1 Chris Sturdy RE and **WO2 Dave Ormorod**
Unit Doubles Runners-up:
WO2 Dave Ormorod and **Cpl Danny Mills**
Mixed Doubles Winners:
Capt Layton-Shaw RMP and **WO2 Dave Ormorod**.

CO'S CUP CROSS-COUNTRY - 23 FEBRUARY 2001
by SSgt Mark Chivers, HQ Sqn

The CO's Cup Cross-Country race was held on 23 February 2001. We had had a decent spell of weather for this time of year in Province, but as we began setting up for the race it was 'four seasons in one day' - rain, snow, wind and sun. Three teams braved the storm. The race was run over the quality cross-country course of last year and at 1410hrs the CO dropped his arm and we were off like greyhounds from the traps. Two Regimental runners continued the fast pace. **Sgt Dave Kilgallon** held on to the first lap and a quarter. Then **SSgt Kenny Butler** left **Dave** and **SSgt Icky Gratrick** standing - even after repositioning a direction sign he still took first place! A hard run competition over a demanding route - well done to all who took part.

Results	Males	Female	Team
1st	**SSgt Butler**	**Lt Mclellan**	HQ Sqn
2nd	**Sgt Kilgallon**	**Cpl Lake**	225 Sig Sqn
3rd	**SSgt Gratrick**	**Capt Stewart**	233 Sig Sqn

Should you make a purchase as the result of seeing an advert in *The WIRE*, please let them know that you saw their advert in your Corps Magazine

Plenty of enthusiasm and sunshine for the line-up

SSgt Ikky Gratrick strides into Third place
in an interesting pair of shorts!

EXERCISE WINTER WARRIOR 2001
28 FEBRUARY - 14 MARCH 2001
by Cpl Carolyn Thomson, 225 Sig Sqn

On 28 February six keen comrades departed for a skiing adventure in Austria. **Cpl** 'Chicken Lip' **Hopgood** with his kevlar 'Nothing's getting into this baby' suitcase, **Cpl** 'Wheels of steel' **Hobson, LCpl** 'Crazy Daisy' **French, Sig John Rees** and **Sig** 'Soul Glow' **Ward**. After a 19-hour journey of pure fun on the ferry/coach we arrived in Hochfilzen – a quaint little village surrounded by snowy mountains. The first weekend was spent Nordic skiing, which proved to be the least enjoyable activity for the majority of the group! **Cpl Hobson** mastered the art and was in his element - **Cpl Hopgood** felt the most pain being as tall as 'Tom Thumb'! Having qualified for the bronze award everyone was relieved to be moving on to the alpine phase. Once again **Cpl Hobson** learnt quickly and at the end of the week actually won the slalom race, receiving a hard earned medal for the team. **Cpl** 'Howwww u doin' **Thomson** picked up the prize for fastest female and received a recommendation to join the BLAST program (sounds good to me!) **Cpl Hopgood** was also a racing snake, but no match for **LCpl French** when it came to dobbing and getting the worst wipe-out award. **Sig Rees** laughed his way through the whole week watching the misfortunes of others. **Sig Ward** tried to be 'Tom Cruise of the slopes' and was as cool as the snow beneath him, until he came plummeting down the slope himself! Everyone enjoyed the exercise and would not hesitate to go back. Not only was the skiing challenging and good for the thighs, but the events organised for apres-ski were good fun too.

15 Sig Regt team on Ex Winter Warrior 2001

REGIMENTAL POTENTIAL LEADERSHIP COURSE
13-14 MARCH 2001 - *by LCpl Dave Rice, 233 Sig Sqn*

The Regimental Potential Leaders Course was organised by **Capt Stewart,** 225 Sig Sqn, and aimed to develop the leadership qualities of signallers and JNCOs within the Regt. The first day of the course involved mainly classroom work. Most entertaining were the five minute lecturettes given on a subject chosen by the syndicate DS. These included 'Children's Television' by **Sig Jackie Bridger,** and the rapper 'Eminem' by **Sig** 'Kenny' **Everett**. Each member of the syndicate was also given a subject about which they had to 'chair' a discussion, and were given key issues to raise. The main task was to make sure that both sides of the argument were heard and to keep the discussion going. The hardest part of the day was a first attempt at a written estimate. Having completed a timed written attempt, the syndicates then compared notes to see how they had all gone about solving it, before being put out of their misery and being given the 'DS solution'. Day Two was held at Kinnegar Station and Palace Barracks. The day consisted of a series of leaderless tasks followed by command tasks in which each member of the syndicate took a turn to be in command. The most challenging of the tasks was one that involved trying to cross a pool of water using a floating platform, grappling hook and various planks and ropes. The possibility of getting soaked was imminent, unless we used our heads to figure out how to stay dry. Once **Cpl Danny Pearson** had 'taken the plunge' though, we all took the attitude of 'one in all in'.

Not exactly staying dry!

The command tasks were varied, but seemed to involve quite a lot of climbing up poles and ropes, and entertaining 'acrobatics' by certain members of the syndicates, notably **Cpl** 'Mini-Me' **Smith.** Each member was given an opportunity to command one of these tasks, before the syndicates moved to Palace Barracks for the final race over the assault course. At the end of the second day everyone had enjoyed some aspect of the course even if they were a bit apprehensive on the first morning. It was a good learning experience and two days away from work!

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Definitely a team effort

Hanging in there

INTER-SQUADRON SQUASH COMPETITION - 21 MARCH 2001
by Capt Tam Malley, 225 Sig Sqn

A hard fought contest by all in the Inter-Squadron Squash Teams in this year's competition. Squash, is like fine wine. It is a game which improves with age. If the average age of the teams fielded is anything to go by. Clearly a game of wit and cunning, not agility! Victory was taken by 225 Sig Sqn, but the hardest fought match was between **WO2 (SSM) Neighbour**, HQ Sqn and **SSgt Heaton**, 233 Sig Sqn. Well done to all for their effort and determination.

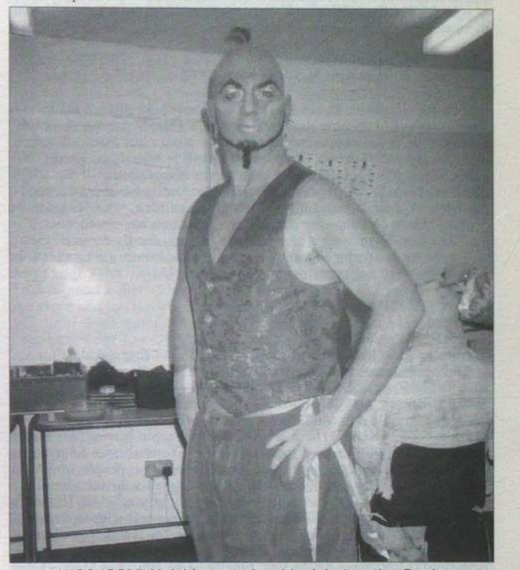
225 Sig Sqn hold on to victory in the Inter-Sqn Squash

CO'S CUP SWIMMING COMPETITION - 2 APRIL 2001
by Sgt Dave Milne, 225 Sig Sqn

The CO's Cup swimming competition was an easily won victory for 233 Sig Sqn. 225 Sig Sqn and HQ Sqn fielded somewhat dubious teams, unable to show their true talent due to manning difficulties. The 'Best Effort (Biggest Biff)' award goes to **WO2 (SSM) Thorne**. That said, all those who competed gave it their best and a good day was had by all.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj D. T. H. Wilson**
SSM **SSgt Gratrick**

Over the past few months, HQ Sqn has been through many changes on the management front. The 2IC Sqn, **Capt J. Howell-Walmsley** suffered a bad viral illness, and has taken a period of extended leave. He has thankfully recovered and now looks forward to taking up post as Trg Offr 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. As a result of this **WO2 (SSM) Neighbour** took over the posts of 2IC Sqn/OC COMMCEN Tp/ UWO and **SSgt** 'Icky'**Gratrick** moved up to SSM. More recently there has been a change at the helm, with the Squadron saying farewell and wishing all the best for the future to **Maj J. Mullender** and his wife **Lesley**. A warm welcome goes out to **Maj D. T. H. Wilson** and his wife **Colleen** for their tour in NI. Finally a welcome back to work for **Veronica** after her seven weeks in plaster!



WO2 (SSM) Neighbour makes his debut as the Genie
in the New Harp Players pantomime - Aladdin
'You command and I obey, Oh Master! ...'

COMMCEN TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 (SSM) Neighbour**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Ripley**

Everyone in the Troop says a big welcome to the following people; **LCpl Barrett, LCpl Broderick, LCpl McDiarmid, LCpl Smiejkowski.** A goodbye and all the best in the future, goes to the successful escape team; **Cpl Ritchie** 'Arthur Daly' **Evans** who is leaving to go to Germany, **Sig Dave** 'rudolph' **Green** moving to CAFTG, **Sig Nige** 'Tp morale' **Green** who leaves on promotion to 7 Sig Regt, **Sig Pippa** 'High Jump' **Henderson** who joins 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and finally **Sig Adam** 'Laura' **Ryan** who joins a previous escapee at 21 Sig Regt.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj M. J. Smith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Thorne**
ECHO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt F. A. W. Stewart**
Tp SSgt **SSgt (Supvr R) Jacklin**

Another busy period for Echo Tp with an unusually high turnover of personnel. **Cpl Aldred, Cpl Gutteridge** and **Cpl Carter** have now started their long awaited months of resettlement and termination leave, we wish them the best in their new chosen careers. The following personnel have also moved on; **Cpl Kirkwood** (39 RA), **Cpl Waites** (DSSS), **Cpl Bibby** (RSMPT), **Cpl Sly** (JSSU Oakley), **Cpl Scanlan** (14 Sig Regt (EW)), **Cpl Shaw** (RSS, Blandford) and **Cpl Poole** (DSL, Beaconsfield) – many thanks to all of them for their long suffering hours of hard work. **CPO Kavanagh, LCpl Stevenson, JT Clements** and **LCpl Scott** are also thanked for their hard work on roulement tours. We welcome **Cpl Bebbington, Cpl Flatman, Cpl Dale, LCpl Halliday, LCpl Smith** and **LCpl Fletcher**.

GOLF TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt R. J. Craig**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Wilson**

The month of March saw quite a few changes to the Tp. Firstly we say hello to **Cpl Debbie Whatmough** and **Cpl Gary Bond** and **Cpl Pete Hall** who have arrived fully refreshed after their T1 upgrading. Also welcome to **Cpl** 'Scotty' **Pearson** who has joined us from 8 Bde Sig Sqn. The Troop said goodbye to **Sgt Wayne Ballard** and **Sgt Stu Murray** who are off to pastures new in Balado Bridge. The Troop would also like to congratulate **Sgt Lyndon Box**, **Sgt Craig Brankin** and **Sgt John Hatch** on passing their FofS entrance exam, and **Sgt Dave Kilgallon**, **Sgt Lyndon Box** and **Sgt Stu Murray** on being selected for promotion. Finally the Troop would like to congratulate **SSgt Dave Wilson** and his wife **Lynne** on the birth of their daughter **Eleni**.

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt P. R. Griffiths**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Milne**

Welcome to **LCpl Fisher, LCpl McCrone**, his wife **Claire** and baby **Lennon** who have all joined us from 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. **Cpl Clayton** has also recently arrived from 34 Sig Regt. Newly promoted **Cpl Jo Quinn** has now moved to 7 Sig Regt – congratulations to Jo and Jim who are now expecting an addition to the family. **Cpl Pullen** has left to join 16 Sig Regt. We thank them for their hard work here and wish them all the very best in the future.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj A. N. Walker**
SSM **SSgt Allen**

First the Squadron would like to say a fond farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Rob Dunseith** who now moves to pastures greener having served the Squadron with dedication and loyalty. Best wishes are extended to both him and his wife **Tracey**. **Capt Lucy Thirsk** is warmly welcomed into SHQ, arriving from Aldershot to assume the responsibility of Sqn 2IC – good luck! Sqn Clk, **Cpl Steve Lucas** and his family are congratulated on the birth of their latest family addition, **Alexandra**, who seems to be causing plenty of sleep deprivation. The Squadron has excelled itself in the CO's Cup Swimming with a decisive victory, due by no small means to the strong support given from across the Squadron. Congratulations and may the winning continue for a long time yet.

INDIA TROOP - *by Sig Phil Brocken*
Tp Comd **Lt T. Grey**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Marlowe**

Another fun-filled few months in India Tp! But first a few hellos and goodbyes. Welcome to **Cpl Jason** 'Biff-Chit' **Nicholls** who has joined us from 2 Sig Regt and **Cpl Justin** 'BPFA' **Medcraft** who has joined us from EC Branch. **Cpl Jeff Ford** has also joined us from 30 Sig Regt and has some very old boots to fill in the shape of **Cpl Graham** 'Where's my pension book?' **Keith**! There are also a few people leaving this month that the Troop will be very sorry to see go. We start with **SSgt Craig** 'Ethos' **Marlowe** who has moved on to show those people in the TA what real soldiering is all about! Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to the Tp - what will we do without you? Also leaving is **Cpl Graham** 'Grandpa' **Keith** who not being content with two rows of medals has re-joined 30 Sig Regt to try and get a few more before his pending retirement! **Cpl Ian** 'PC Plod' **Wardle** has gone back to Blandford to undertake his T1 Cse. Finally **LCpl Jim** 'Iron Mike' **Quinn** has departed with his wife **Jo** to 7 Sig Regt to cause some chaos there! Good luck to you all in your new postings. A pat on the back is in order for **Lt Tim Grey** on convincingly beating everyone in the Troop Clay Pigeon Shooting organised by **Cpl Andy** 'Just one more course please' **Butterfield** - a good day was had by all involved.

And finally many congratulations to both **Sgt Ross Menzies** and his wife on the birth of their baby son which they have named **Sean** and to **LCpl Kev** 'Toff' **Lucas** and his wife on the birth of their son **Bradley**.

NETWORK CONTROL CENTER - *by LCpl 'Deano' Deans*
Tp Comd **Capt A. Haresign**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Johnson**

Welcome to all the new members of the Troop and goodbye to the lucky ones who have escaped! Firstly **WO2 (YofS) Rick Carley** from 280 Sig Sqn, who replaces **WO2 (YofS) Russ Darlington** who has gone to 30 Sig Regt. **WO2 (FofS) Rick Gorman** has moved across from TM Tp, **LCpl Paul Westerman** has arrived from 3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt, **Sgt Nigel Cathew** who has moved to us from R Tp, and **LCpl** 'Dinger' **Bell** from 14 Sig Regt (EW) via a re-trade at RSS, Blandford. So far this year it has been 'all systems go' in the fast moving world of the NCC. The new management team who have taken the wheel are hell-bent on reducing the Province fault status and with an ever changing sea of faces in the team. Outside of the NCC incident room itself, the Troop has been active on the sports field - the most notable event was the McKelvie Cup Inter-Sqn Swimming Competition, where the Troop showed their true sporting potential by coming in last! The Troop's young Techs have also been busy out on the ground with attachments to the Brigade FRT's getting hands-on experience with the comms kit in use in the Province. Teams of Techs also went down to 40 Sig Regt (V) to assist with their preparations for RSIT.

ROMEO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt R. A. Hamilton**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Bartleet**

A warm welcome to this months new arrivals, **Cpl** 'Stef' **Crouchman** and **Sgt Booth** who join the Ops Sect from 30 Sig Regt, and **Cpl Berry**, **LCpl Lohse** and **LCpl Springett** who join the workshop from TM Tp. As usual there was the annual last minute rush to squeeze all remaining leave in before the end of the financial year. That said, the Troop personnel did complete their quarterly training, with a special mention to **LCpl** 'Bigtime' **Hendrie** who enjoyed swanning around in his flying suit a little too much and to **Sgt** 'Mac' **McGibbon** who clearly didn't enjoy flying at all. On the sporting front, R Tp were presented with the coveted McKelvie Cup for 2000. The winning continued along this vein in the first match of 2001 with a victory in the swimming. A notable performance from **SSgt** 'Dave' **Mudway** who won the backstroke by a clear length. A good team effort in the relay events ensured that the Team Captain , **Cpl** 'Shaggy' **Ashurst** stepped forward to collect the trophy. R Tp are looking forward to a busy year with a few notable highlights on the agenda. A number of personnel will participate in the Cheviot 2000 Fell Race, raising money for the Rett Syndrome charity, followed in December with a skydiving expedition to Florida.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt E. L. McLellan**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jarvis**

TM Tp has had yet another manic month or two of goodbyes. **Cpl Andy Berry** has moved across to R Tp and is currently undergoing the necessary transformation from professional Tech into 'Cowboy'! **Sig Springett** gets a hello and goodbye, spending a record one-week with TM Tp prior to moving across in the same direction. **LCpl Michelle** 'Claire' **Rayner** has now left to join the Royal Signals Mobile Presentation Team and is wished the very best for her time there, whilst **Sig** 'Muggy' **Mugford** has shed his rank and moved on to civilian life. **SSgt Flo Jarvis** finally managed to escape to I Tp where it is hoped that he is enjoying practising his trade once more. He is given a very big thank you for all his hard work as Tp SSgt for TM Tp. Meanwhile there have been a few new faces including **LCpl Tanya Webb** who has returned to the Regiment following her re-trade - welcome back. **LCpl Stanham** also joins the Troop having completed his trade training. It is hoped that you both enjoy your time here. Congratulations must go to **Sgt Nick Goodwin** who was successful on the last promotion board and now awaits his promotion to Staff Sergeant. With personnel desperate to use up all their leave entitlement prior to April, March was a rather quiet month with numerous people away. Those who were in Province made the most of the various leaving functions and Troop members and their families, on the occasion of saying goodbye to **LCpl Rayner,** enjoyed a very good night out.

HQNI and 15 Sig Regt Hockey Team

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40th (ULSTER) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col A. P. R. Roberts MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) G. C. N. Keane**

The Regiment bids farewell to the Commanding Officer who leaves for the rigours of Abbey Wood. After what seems like an eternal farewell period involving many dining/lunching outs **Lt Col Tony Roberts** hands over command to **Lt Col Robert Kelly** on 20 April 2001. The CO enjoyed a salubrious dining out from the Officers' Mess at Clonaver Park TAC which was supported by the Pipes and Drums from 69 (North Irish Horse) Signal squadron (Volunteers), who provided an excellent demonstration of their ability and why it is that they are so much in demand. **Capt Carl Kinghan** is much relieved at the return of the Adjutant and is now safely enseonced within the realms of 66 (City of Belfast) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) once more. **Carl**, thank you for the sterling work you put in whilst I was away. **WOI (RSM) McGinley** leaves us for 14 Sig Regt (EW) where he will arrive as **Capt McGinley**. Congratulations, you are no longer required to work for your living! Welcome to **WOI (RSM) Keane**, and before you ask, yes he is, who has already set about the Regiment with vigour. As I write he is setting about the CO in the Sergeants' Mess during yet another lunching out. A long afternoon ensues I am sure, more of which in the next bulletin.

EXERCISE SCOTTIE FINN IV 21- 25 FEBRUARY 2001
by WO2 (SSM) L Whitley

Well, it is that time of year again. Support Sqn setting off to the Ski slopes of the Cairngorm and the Lechte in North Eastern Scotland. The Snow reports were more optimistic for good skiing for the first time in many a year. The advance party. consisting of the QM (V), **Capt Maurice Stanley, WO2 (RQMS) Derek Irvine. WO2 (FofS) Robert** 'Dixie' **Dixon, SSgt Steve** 'Franz Clammer' **Delaney, SSgt** 'Charlie' **Milligan** (Master Chef) and **Sig** 'Clive' **Dunn**, left in the early hours of 21 February 2001. They were there to take over the accommodation and recce the slopes before the main party arrived the following day.

The Team!
Yes! It does snow in Aviemore - (but not during RSIT weekend)!
Back Row (L-R): 2IC Capt Tom Dick, WO2 (FofS) Robert Dixon, LCpl Michael Ware,
Sgt Lizette Murdoch, SSgt (SQMS) Jim Clasper
Front Row (L-R): WO2 (RQMS) Derek Irvine LCpl Paul Calvert (Ski Instructor)

The Stopover Hostel in Grantown on Spey, near Aviemore was once again used as the base for all the activities. This hostel is central to the slopes that we intended to use for our weekend training. The main party under the control of **WO2 (SSM) Lynda Whitley** left Belfast to join the advance party on 22 February 2001. The group consisted of many men and women who had never skied with the Squadron before and they were looking forward to the weekend. All envisaged a good time. We held our now ritual dinner night, where all had a scary story to recollect. There were many who had defied the laws of gravity to stay on their feet, for most of the time anyway. We left for Belfast on Sunday morning with everyone looking forward to a good, long rest. Just as well as there were storms brewing over the North Channel across to Belfast Lough.

The weekend marks the end of my tour as SSM. I hand over control of the Squadron to **WO2 (SSM) Tom Johnston** at the end of March and move to the post of RQMS (V). I would like to thank all the members of the Squadron who have supported me during my two years in the post.

EXERCISE PRONTO FINN 17-19 FEBRUARY 2001

Some 20 soldiers from 69 Sig Sqn took part in the above Alpine Skiing Exercise held in the Cairngorm region of the Scottish Highlands. They were based at the Stopover Hostel in Grant own-on-Spey, Moravshire. The weekend started with a long journey with the main party leaving the Limavady TAC at 1930hrs on the Friday and arriving at the hostel at 0630hrs on the Saturday. The packet leaders, **OCdt Robert Owens** and **Sgt Keith Colhoun** made the journey slightly longer. They decided to take the scenic route around Glasgow. This others found strange, as sleeping in the back of their vehicle was **Lt John Black** a native of the city. Why did they not wake him for directions?

The main body was met by the advance party consisting of **SSgt (SQMS) Lloyd Cammack, SSgt Christine Williamson** and the Pipe Major, **Sgt John Taylor** who demonstrated throughout the weekend that he is as good a chef as he is a piper. Despite a meagre three hours sleep: the group was up, ready and enthusiastic for a day on the slopes. We were split into three groups those who could ski, beginners and absolute beginners. **SSgt Les Gamble** who could not grasp the point that he was meant to do up his boots claimed the main event of Day One. Several times, to the bemusement of onlookers, a set of ski's complete with boots would glide down the slopes. A frantic madman chasing after them in his army issue green socks. We ended the day feeling that we were at least getting somewhere and retired to the hostel to soak our tired limbs and partake in the 'Après Ski'.

Day Two started with a reshuffle of the groups. **LCpl Paul Cawery,** our instructor from 8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn. took charge of the absolute beginners. He quickly realised that his work was cut out for him. He asked the group to ski towards him to assess the standard. The group set off one by one, unfortunately not all in the direction intended. Some time later, on regrouping we tried again, and again, and again, until eventually we were ready to move on. **Sig Chris Usher,** who for the past two days had been complaining that he was not used to skiing and preferred snowboarding finally got his wish. Unfortunately he was on a 'T-Bar' and there was someone attached to the snowboard at the time. The result was **Chris,** a snowboarder and a lift operator. got to know each other as they were dragged along the ground. Not to be put off **Chris** had another go on the T-Bar. This time joined by that well-known downhill skier **Sig Jim McKee**. They did very well for about ten metres and were last seen gracefully moving downhill on their backs.

The weekend was a great success, made better by the abundance of snow and the fine weather. Our thanks go to our instructors **SSgt Pat Gannon, Sgt Mark Comerford** and **LCpl Paul Cawery** and. to the SQMS and his team for their efforts in organising the exercise.

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (213)

Sqn Comd **Maj A. R. Knott**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. M. Lockwood**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Our beloved Chief Clerk, **SSgt Stu Smart (AGC)** is to be commissioned. The Squadron would like to extend their hearty congratulations and wish you and your family every future success. Do not forget that you are now required to buy a Labrador and smart casual trousers!

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt S. Y. Richardson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt R. Atherton**

OPS SECTION

Arrivals and departures: The hello's this month are extended to **Sig Gary Weller** and **LCpl Gerard Tierney**, who join us in COMMCEN and Syscon respectively. We hope you will be very happy seconded to a room with few windows and no means of escape. The other new chap in

our midst receives a Rover Group style welcome, the name on the bottom lip is **LCpl Joe Rushbrook**. He is an appreciated relief as he is shortly to undertake his PTI course to replace **LCpl** 'Pritch' **Pritchard** as Squadron beaster. Unfortunately we have had to say goodbye to **Cpl Russ Craig**, infamous for his delightful shirts and his drinking ability, and also to **LCpl Vicky Moran**, renowned for her sporting prowess and roller coaster moods. Thank you for all your endeavours in the Crypto Cell and SYSCON during your time with the Brigade. We wish you every success. We also said a small farewell to **Sig** 'Penfold' **Andrews** who departed the Squadron believing Nirvana was awaiting him in Blandford. We hope your wishes and dreams come true in Bath!

Section News: Pte Keith Hardy has decided the time has come to switch his allegiance and has put in a transfer to become a Dvr Rad Op while **Cpl Mandy Smith** has been given an absence of leave, while she undertakes her Class 1 at the Royal School.

crew consolidate their experiences. On the third day we had, what appeared to be idyllic weather, an absolutely still sea and no wind. However, the rest of the crew grumbled as no wind meant using the engine, which somewhat defeats the objective. On arrival at Campletown, we visited many of the local public houses to experience the fine Scottish welcome, reserved for military personnel. It was during this time that the weather took a change for the worse, leaving the Moyle Maiden Crew 'stranded' at Campletown for three whole days. The famous five were forced to spend their time drinking in the local area, wondering what their associates were up to on the other side of the water. When the storm moved on, the crew made a speedy recovery back to Province under the threat of the RSM posting us AWOL, to prepare the ship for her next voyage.

The final stand of the Bde Comd's Rover Group

It is with much sadness that the section bid farewell to the Driver element of the Rover Group. What good the Rover Group will be without any drivers is beyond us. We give a big thank you and good luck to **LCpl Neil** 'Geordie' **Allinson, LCpl Andy Fleetwood, Pte Andy** 'Aitch' **Aitchison** and **Pte Hayley Andrews.** Things will not be the same around here without you, it will be quieter for one and hopefully we will get some work done. God speed and we hope you have every success in whatever you do.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION

Arrivals and departures: A new Tele Mech has arrived to help the Riggers reach maximum capacity. But wait, what is this, a female rigger. I have never heard of such a thing. All we can say is thank goodness **Sig Jason Ellam** has left and we look to **LCpl Lynsey Byrne** to put the Riggers firmly in their place. A thousand welcomes from the section, hurrah, another girl for the Lanyard Team! The section bids a sad farewell to **Cpl Emma Dignall**, who has finished her time here, and left with essay writing skills she did not know she possessed. Thank you for your excellent judgement calls and all your hard work, we wish you well. Congratulations to **Cpl Ian Burgon** on his recent promotion. Welcome back to our two intrepid riggers, **Sig Dean Roberts** and **Sig Andy Morrison**, from their epic adventures to the Falkland Islands. Lets hope your now have penguins out of your systems and can concentrate on the slightly warmer climbs of Province.

SAILING – *by LCpl Chris Lord*

The journey of a lifetime began at Bangor, on the East Coast of Northern Ireland with a select number of courageous sailors. The Ship's Captain, **SSgt Terry** 'Mad Dog' **McIntyre** and first mate **LCpl Steven** 'Musto' **Ireson**, commanded a rather inexperienced crew consisting of **Sgt Lee Rotherforth, LCpl Mick** 'Jenno knows' **Jennings** and **LCpl Chris** 'Sick Boy' **Lord**. First port of call was Troone, the pilgrimage across was by far the most stomach wrenching experience of **LCpl** 'sick as a dog' **Lord's** life. The second day entailed a journey up to Tarbot, which was an enjoyable day's sailing for all concerned and helped the

LCpl Lord sleeps off the excitement of his unscheduled holiday

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt G. Maddison** RLC
MTSNCO **Sgt Eley** RLC

Congratulations to **Capt Gail Maddison** on her recent acceptance for a transfer into the AGC(ETS). We hope a Reg C comes your way, the RLC's loss will be the AGC's gain.

RQMS DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to **Cpl John Davies** and his wife **Anna** on their recent marriage. Shame about the honeymoon, but at least **Anna** now knows just exactly what she is letting herself in for! We wish you a long and happy life together.

MOTOR TRANSPORT
A FAREWELL TO ARMS

Once upon a time, in a garage far, far, away 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn had an elite RLC Motor Transport Unit. Everybody loved the MT, as they

were at the beck and call of the Unit twenty-four hours a day, yet rarely complained. But the big bad Support Battalion came over the horizon and gobbled the Mt Dept up. The Unit were dismayed at the loss of their friends. The daddy of the MT Department was a big, bald headed SNCO called **Sgt Andy Eley**, who spent his entire posting to the Unit on resettlement or planning ways of leaving the community of Army to seek his fortune. He was occasionally deputised by **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Waterworth**, the 'Del Trotter' of the MT. These two intrepid warriors were helped in their capacity of providing movement around the village of Province by several little helpers. There was **Cpl** 'Faz' **Farrell**, who was leaving having spent two years at the Diving Club, **LCpl** 'Taff, the Magpie' **Lewis**, who strut his stuff on the rugby pitch and was so sad at leaving the girls behind, along with **LCpl** 'Brammers' **Bramwell**, currently undertaking his PTI course. These little Pixies were not the only fluffy bunnies to play in the MT Dept, there was also **Pte Mick Battle, Pte Steve Elford** and **Pte Chris** 'Speedy' **Wilkinson**. Such was their dismay at seeing the Sp Bn looming, they tried to re-capbadge, terminate their service or to get posted as quickly as possible. Others, such as **LCpl Dave Blower, Pte Shane Nobes, Pte** 'Pops' **Pople** and **Pte** 'Newboy' **Evetts** resigned themselves to the fact they were going to be consumed into the vast empire. **Pte Louise Craig**, on successful completion of her MPC course threw herself at the Sp Bn, with unbridled excitement, as she knew once inside there would be a fresh supply of male bunnies to entice into her web. And so 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, after trying to fight the Sp Bn, withdrew into the back ground to lick its wounds, and reminisced about the good times when they still had an MT. They sat and remembered the little fairies who picked them up and dropped them off so effortlessly. We hope they will all live happily ever after.

SQUADRON EVENTS
BRIGADE SAAM

The Competition started with a select number of 39 Bde's finest sharp shooters. The team consisted of **Cpl Rick** 'Dead Eye' **Sherriff** (Team Captain), **LCpl Chris** 'Pistol King' **Lord, Sig Gordon** 'Oops that was not me' **Wallace**, along with our more experienced shooters in the forms of **Pte Mark** 'Where are my trousers?' **O'Hare, Pte Val** 'Who messed with my sights?' **Hardy** and **Pte Danny** 'Where's the range?' **Blakey**. Most unusually we were privileged enough to include two riggers on the team in the form of **Sig Del** 'Pie Muncher' **Slowey** and **Sig Andy** 'Needs Glasses' **Morrison.** We started the competition with massive amounts of enthusiasm, which was quickly depleted, once we saw just how good the opposition was. The night shoot was the highlight of the whole competition, having just one member of the team hitting the target. Well done **Pte** 'Stretch' **O'Hare**. The final shoot was a knock out competition, which we took at its word and were knocked out. Still better luck next year lads, we cannot possibly get any worse!

EXERCISE FREEZING FINN - *by Cpl Kenny Purdie*

Once more, the brave and the stupid of 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn deployed to deepest, darkest Bavaria for a spot of suicidal training. The exercise began with a nightmare minibus journey of epic proportions, destination Krefeld with a stopover with 7 Sig Regt. However, due to unforeseen problems differentiating between diesel and petrol, the journey was punctuated by a brief halt in Wigan to have the tank drained. After a mammoth 26-hour trip, we arrived at Krefeld. This was then followed with a further seven hours before arriving at our Guesthouse. Next time, sod the extra expense, we are flying!

The skiing began with the normal admin nightmare of people whinging 'My boots don't fit', 'I've bought two left boots all the way from Northern Ireland and only just realised', coupled with ' my boots don't fit in my skis Staff!' But soon enough we were on the slopes looking good whilst static, but extremely dangerous whilst in motion. Memorable points of the week were **SSgt Rob** 'The Egg' **Atherton** and his 140m slide/fall down a slope called 'The Wall'. At the end, he moved from the sitting to the standing position, a manoeuvre for which he failed to slow down, resulting in the local populace asking him if he were James Bond. **Pte** 'Watch Out, Andy's about' **Aitchison** and his repeated attempts to wipe out anyone else on the slopes, will remain with us, much to the distress of his fiancée **Cpl Mandy 'I hate you Andy' Smith**. Of course my own spectacular lesson, instructing on how to use a certain delicate area of the body as a stoppage system, in conjunction with a large fir-tree. I still sing soprano and my eyes are watering even now as I think of that moment.

WO2 Kemp shows us how to pose with style.

Many Thanks go to the organiser of the event **SSgt Rob** 'Don't Panic' **Atherton** as well as the two instructors; **Sgt Dean** 'Show Form' **MacKenzie**, an expert on looking good and general posing. Also to the mysterious WO2 from the RLC know only as 'Ol Jon!' who took a group of novices and turned them into something resembling Japanese pilots at Pearl Harbour.

Mentions must also be made of the AO **Capt** 'Mad as a fish' **Maddison** for her efforts at teaching **LCpl** 'German for G is Gay' **Uppal** the cultural delights of Neil Diamond, nice harmonies Ma'am. Well dones also to **Cpl** 'Belly's gonna get you' **Dignall** for keeping the German chip industry afloat, **Cpl Brett** 'Bambi on ice' **Grist**, for sheer determination combined with a death wish, and lastly the OC Sqn, **Maj Andy Knott**; although he only joined us for a few days, he entered into the spirit of things. Sir, you really did suit the 'Mong of the Day' wig. (Although though did you **Cpl Purdie**!)

After another, more successful, stopover in Krefeld on the way back, sampling the hospitality of 232 Sig Sqn, it was back to Northern Ireland, with a look forward to next year's trip: don't forget, next time we fly!

Cpl Purdie looking as stylish as ever as 'Mong of the Day'

COMIC RELIEF

Well done to all participants in the Comic Relief 'Pants to Poverty' Day. The Squadron raised over £700 for the charity, so well done to all those who gave in the spirit of the occasion.

EXERCISE KATTERGAT BACKSTOP
28 FEBRUARY – 10 MARCH 2001

Ex Kattergat Backstop was an Adventurous Sail Training exercise co-ordinated by Adventurous Training Group (Germany) and British Kiel Yacht Club. The primary aim of the exercise was to safely deliver the new fleet of yachts for BKYC from the Najad boatyard in Henan, Sweden to Kiel. Four members of the Sqn volunteered to take part in this Offshore Sailing expedition. **SSgt** 'Seadog' **McIntyre** headed up the expedition ably assisted by **Sgt Lee Rotherforth, Cpl** 'Shippy' **Ship** and **LCpl** 'Musto Man' **Ireson**. After a marathon journey, via the North Sea and Hamburg, we arrived safely at BKYC for a brief by the Commandant. Upon arrival at the Najad boatyard in Henan, a look of disbelief on the crews' faces said it all. There was a good ten inches of snow underfoot and the new fleet of yachts was frozen into the freshwater fjord!

After recruiting the services of a steel-hulled boat to act as an icebreaker we finally set sail for Ellos. A rigging expert from Najad accompanied each boat individually and checked nothing was amiss and that the mast wasn't about to fall down on our 350-mile trip back to BKYC. There was a nice 10knot breeze as we meandered our way down the picturesque fjords to Ellos. Fully victualled we set sail for the Danish island of Anholt. Unfortunately the wind died on us but we did have the opportunity to hoist the spinnaker and manage a few broaches on a shy reach. The remainder of the journey was spent under engine until we arrived on this remote island in the Kattergat during nightfall. With a welcome change in the weather we set off on our merry way to Middlefart. After three days of strenuous sailing we were rewarded with a run ashore. After another cracking meal from our gourmet chef **Sgt Lee Rotherforth**, we explored the Danish town of Middlefart.

With ideal weather conditions for sailing and due to the fleet being well ahead of schedule, it was decided to hold a 50-mile inshore race. This gave all the crew opportunities to put their skills into practice. With long beats and plenty of chances to fly the kite, all crews were thoroughly tested in their drills. Despite nearly 50 miles and eight hours racing the boats were remarkably close at the finish at Damp marina in Germany. The sea was choppy for the final day as we beat back to Kiel. The aim had been achieved with all boats delivered safely to BKYC. A BBQ was held and a few beers sunk in the Yacht Club all accompanied by some salty sea-dog yarns! The four members of the Squadron all agreed that a lot had been learnt and an enjoyable if not arduous time was had by all. Finally I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff at BKYC for their organisation and professionalism throughout the exercise.

321 EOD SQN RLC
THE ROYAL SIGNALS ELEMENT

EOD Br Advisor **WO2 (Super R) Dave Watson**
Sqn ECM Advisor **SSgt (Super R)** 'Robbo' **Robson**

OMAGH DET - *by LCpl Roderick*

The last few months have been fairly quiet. However, we still have had enough to do with the day to day running of the detachment. As the ECM operator I am responsible to the team for all the communications and ECM equipment and due to the high state of readiness we are on, it all needs running up and testing daily.

LCpl Roderick
instructs members of the detachment on the art of communications

The recent foot and mouth crisis has added an interesting twist so that our task drills now include disinfecting and decontamination of equipment and ourselves. We have also been practicing various ways of getting our equipment and personnel to incidents.

LCpl Roderick keeps his weapon skills up to speed during a terrorist weapons range day

We can drive, however, if the incident is long distance we can also get the RAF to fly us there (weather dependant, and not after 1630hrs or weekends). Additionally, we have also been improving our public image by running stands at several KAPE events. These are organised by the resident battalion for local community groups such as the young farmers, boys brigade and scouts. They receive various presentations on the team equipment and gain an insight into what we do and what EOD is like. They also get to play with the Wheelbarrow, and if they're really lucky they get to try on a bomb suit or get a free ride on a Blackboard (a heli-portable go-kart).

The Air Cadets get to don the EOD suit and become ATO for the day

The main aim behind these visits is to reduce the chances of the individuals going home, seeing the EOD team on the streets and chucking bricks at us - especially after we have just re-painted the Tactica's.

ANTRIM DETACHMENT - *by Cpl Gillett*

Having been earmarked to move from Londonderry to Antrim, I was extremely happy because Antrim is currently the busiest EOD detachment in Province. Unfortunately, the goalposts were moved and Londonderry suddenly had an upsurge in tasking - with mortar attacks on camp, vehicle borne bombs and just to top things off pipebombs. Oh well, who wants to be on the receiving end of a mortar anyway? Suddenly, things started to calm down in Antrim, I think they realised my RBtR was coming up. With the amount of jobs reducing you would think I could sit back and relax a little. Not a chance - I do not think that it's possible to have more inspections and visits. Then there are **SSgt Robsons'** 'Little Projects', mine being to set up a presentation for the visit of the current Supervisor Radio Course. On returning from R&R I had my Presentation vetted by **SSgt Robson,** lets just say I made a few changes after this. Only nine weeks to go until I return to the mainland supposedly, I've not been told that I am extended yet but I'm confident I will be!

LONDONDERRY DETACHMENT - By Cpl Wishart

I arrived at probably the largest (and what I thought the quietest) EOD detachment in Province. However, this soon changed. Until this time Londonderry Det was known as the **SCAIRDYCAT DET,** as the team never seemed to want to leave the camp. On my first morning here the team was tasked to carry out traffic duties at a suspicious vehicle. After a really wet six hours we all retired to the detachment to get warm, or so we thought. Things soon changed that evening when the Boss got a rather large mortar bomb delivered to the Officers' Mess accommodation - how's that for service! Due to this the Boss managed to break all land speed records for the fastest thing on two legs as he hurtled into the detachment. So, once again we donned our good old combat 95 to play bomb heroes!

PUBLISH IT IN THE WIRE
The Editor is always pleased to receive interesting articles and action packed photos

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

2 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col I. Cameron-Mowat**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. Keilty**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj M. Bailes**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Hancock**

EXERCISE KEY LEADER - *by Sig Cleghorn*

Preparing for the Regimental Leadership Course started as early as November 2000 even though the course wasn't until February 2001. Briefs by the RSM and **WO2 (SSM) Gardner** made me feel nauseous over Christmas, so I thought I'd do something sensible and lose three stone to come down from a 42' waist to a 36' waist. To come top of the course was my ultimate goal, the top student would hopefully be promoted on the spot, so I was gearing myself up for the certain hardships and demands to come. The time before the course flew by and suddenly Monday 19 February, the dreaded H Hour was upon us. The first few days were spent in York and involved a shedload of drill, so before I knew what was happening I was marching up and down the main square ten to a dozen. Two days later we departed York and headed for the sunny climes of Otterburn Training Area. It was easy to identify the training area as it was covered by an ever-increasing snow cloud. Typical!

The course was pretty intense and I enjoyed it. We had several lessons on our arrival at Otterburn and learnt many 'green' things, ranging from keeping our feet clean in the field to the map symbol for a public house (a very useful one for the future). The weather deteriorated and the snow was now coming down in inches, however moral was still high and people were getting stuck in. Suddenly on Friday, just before the final exercise was due to start, the course was stopped due to the foot and mouth crisis. There was a collective sigh of relief as the course had been cancelled, but we were denied the chance to prove ourselves on the final exercise.

Overall it was a bit of a shame after all the work that was put in by everyone, however many lessons were learnt and stored away into my grey matter for the future. Now I must get my map out and seek out some Public House symbols.

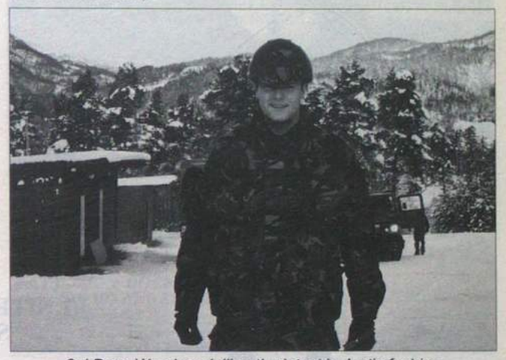
214 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. A. Compston MBE**
SSM **WO2 (SSM)** 'Dwarfism is not a crime' **Smith**

The frenetic pace of life in 214 continues unabated. Although we have been denied the chance to do any exercises or Adventurous Training due to the worsening foot and mouth crisis, there has been plenty to be getting on with. The lucky devils in SHQ have moved into their plush new building, unfortunately this has meant that **SSgt Colin** 'Equal Opportunities' **Dawson** has had to reduce the size of his 'love-me wall' in his rather more bijou new office, a real shame that...

EXERCISE HARDFALL 2001
by Cpl Dave 'Well hard for a Tech' Wood

Languishing in the garages, sweeping up and fixing wagons were beginning to take their toll. So when **SSM Smith** asked for volunteers to partake in a novice ski and survival course in Norway I jumped at the chance. Christmas, New Year and a few pounds later, five members of the illustrious 214 Sig Sqn, including **LCpl Andy** 'Tidiest man on the planet' **Williams, Sig Dave** 'Sexpest' **Sexton, Sig Martin** 'Ask a stupid question, Ski Biff' **Cassidy, Sig Paul** 'Not another rash! I've got a bad ankle honest' **Smith** and myself, landed in Bergen airport, finding ourselves part of 249 'We think we are Special Forces but we are not' Signal Squadron. We were taken by coach to Brandset Camp, our location for the next three weeks. After a hot meal and a good night's sleep we awoke to a typically freezing morning ready to begin the course. The first few days consisted of lectures, collecting stores and an introduction to skiing. The first week ended with three nights in the field on Exercise First Chill, learning and practising basic skiing techniques and surviving in the extreme cold temperatures of the arctic. On the last night we learnt how to fall over whilst skiing at high speed down a mountain. Apparently it was supposed to improve our skiing. The last training day of the first week was Saturday and the dreaded ICE BREAKING DRILLS. This consisted of launching yourself into a semi-frozen lake. Throwing your Bergen on the ice, shouting your name rank and number, plunging your head under the water, trying to reclaim your breath, claw out of the water using your poles and then a short run followed by a small cup of rum.

After a weekend of 'time off', most of which consisted of exchanging broken stores and turning around personal kit, we deployed on a round robin field exercise. This included survival, 10-man tent, British four-man tent and snow holes (although this was cancelled due to the inclement weather in the arctic).



Cpl Dave Wood modelling the latest in Arctic fashion

This week ended with the ski test, which was the final eliminator prior to deploying on the final exercise. Ex Arctic Fox consisted of a seventy two hour patrol competition, negotiating sixteen stands ranging from basic harbours to section attacks and a memory test, carrying full kit on skis over a thirty kilometre distance. We found the conditions very different from those we were used to on exercise and this meant the experience was very beneficial to improving our military skills. Overall we found 'Ex Hardfall' to be a challenging and interesting experience that on completion was a valuable and enjoyable insight into the difficulties of working in extreme conditions.

EXERCISE EAGLES FLIGHT - ***by LCpl 'Bulldog' Middleton***

On 28 January three Trunk Nodes from 214 Sig Sqn deployed on exercise to Salisbury Plain to provide SCRA(T) coverage over a two-week period for 16 Air Asslt Bde's main exercise for the year. The exercise was booked with the usual traditional weather for this time of year wind, rain, storms. It was going to be an interesting time as a selection of trunk node vehicles were equipped with road tyres instead of cross-country tyres. This was going to keep the REME more than busy enough over the period.

The exercise started on the wrong foot for Trunk Node 023's first location, as it had been double booked with the Irish Guards. This didn't please the Relay Operators within the Troop who were already setting up their detachments. **Sig** 'I love the Irish' **Penny** and **Sig** 'Emerald Isle' **Price** crossed the Irish off their Christmas card lists as they had fully set-up their detachment and weren't too pleased with a 35 year old Guardsman trying to tell them what to do. Trunk Node 021 had a quiet and easy exercise as they were located at Rollestone Camp for the duration of the exercise. It must have been really hard for them having to shower in warm water everyday and eat in a proper cookhouse. **Sgt Dave** 'Best Recce Sgt in the Royal Corps' **Pope** managed to bog in his Recce rover whilst looking for a new location for the Node. He refused point blank to be recovered by the REME so self recovered over a three-hour period. He must have been quite stressed after getting his rover out as he started to chain smoke his recce driver's packet of cigarettes. This is from a man who detests smoking at the best of times. Trunk Node 023's move into their hide location was going very well till **LCpl** 'I Know the Plain like the back of my hand' **Carter** bogged his vehicle in by sliding off the side of a soft verge. The REME couldn't work out how he had managed to get his vehicle in such a position that it would need not just one but two REME recovery vehicles to bring him back onto the track.

Beacon Hill was out of bounds to all military vehicles after the exercise due to the bad weather that we had coupled with the nice bit of informal landscaping done by Celtic Tp. SPTA were not too happy with this and informed Celtic Tp they would not be allowed to take their tracked vehicles up the hill again. A nice touch considering the whole Troop is wheeled! Overall Trunk Node 023 performed well considering the lack of experience within the troop due to the reshuffling round of the Squadron and the dodgy weather conditions. We won't mention anything about 16 Air Asslt Bde because they are great obviously.

'BIG BREW' IN AID OF THE INDIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

by Cpl Bom Gurung

The Gurkha wives at York successfully organised a ' Big Brew' coffee morning on 13 February 2001 in aid of the earthquake victims in Gujarat State, India. All military and civilian staff based at Imphal Barracks wholeheartedly supported the event by turning up for the coffee and generously contributed money towards this humanitarian relief. The raffle, with some excellent prizes, proved to be an excellent money-spinner, but there was some doubt about the 'fixing' of certain prizes. Overall the wives managed to raise £350, which was later deposited to the Earthquake Relief Fund Account at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

The CO, Lt Col I. Cameron-Mowat, appears determined to keep hold of a toaster won by Mrs Geeta Gurung
The MTO Capt (QGO) Rajendraman Gurung looks on

Military and Civilian staff based at Imphal Barracks queuing up for a brew

3(UNITED KINGDOM) DIVISONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col Phil Davies**
RSM **WO1 Chris Kidd**

VISIT OF HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL FRIDAY 30 MARCH 2001

The day dawned and the two people wholly responsible for the visit, Ex Commanding Officers **Lt Col (Retd) Graham Leach** and **Col Neil Couch** turned over and went back to sleep. Meanwhile in RHQ the Young Pretender to the throne **Lt Col Phil Davies** finally started to think about his brief as the Royal Flight hovered over Picton Square. The RSM deemed to show us his human frailty by losing it with the shrub deliveryman, and the Regiment realised it was a special day as the 2IC's Para smock had been surgically removed. The Devil's Adjutant remained cool as ever and sat unmoved practising his citations. It was a good job he had been posted in, as he appears to be the only one to have mastered both reading and writing. The sun shone from a blue sky, the daffodils swayed in the breeze of a perfect spring day and even Bulford looked hospitable. We all had a brilliant day. **The Princess Royal** enjoyed a tour of the Regiment culminating in the celebrations of the 3rd Divisional Signals 50th reunion. The Commanding Officer would like to thank **The Master of Signals**, the Reunion Club President and the Regimental Secretary for all their help with the visit. As they say in the Training Wing .....Happy Days! (See the inside of the front cover for a pictorial history of the Royal Visit).

222 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Bert Appleton**
SSM **WO1 Matt Nuttall**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Nicky James**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paula Matheson**

What a welcome to 222 Sig Sqn after a much deserved Christmas break. Two small scale exercises, First and Second line inspections and Regimental Boxing Championships and it's only the beginning of March. It's all change in SHQ Tp at the moment with many new faces and departures. Firstly, we would like to welcome back **Sig Onslow** from his tour of duty in the Guardroom as RP Staff, wish all the best to **SSgt Meek** who left us for sunny Naples and **LCpl Muir** in his new posting, just up the road at 1 Mech. Also, leaving us are **LCpl Hyde** who has left to become a civilian and **Cpls Walton** and **Pilmer** who are both at Blandford on their T1 courses, Good Luck.

On the arrivals side welcome to **SSgt Matheson** who joins us from Oman Tp, 222 Sqn, **Cpl Bielski, LCpls French, Fulton, Leckenby** and **Young** all from TM Troop, HQ Sqn and welcome back to 3 Div to **LCpl Taylor**, back from six months in Corsham. Congratulations to **LCpl White** and his wife on the birth of their new daughter. Congratulations also go to **SSgt (YofS) Rouse** on her recent promotion to WO2, **LCpl Perrin** who competed in the Snowboarding Championships and Cpl **Beck** and **LCpl Whitehead** who both fought in the Regimental Boxing Championships. A key concern of our new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Davies** is the need for continual training of troops and ensuring everybody has an appreciation of the role of the regiment and the different squadrons within it. As a result of this the whole Regiment has been involved in a week of trade training. This has been a major event and has involved virtually every department with the aim of refreshing skills to enhance the effectiveness of all those involved. Just over the horizon for SHQ Tp are the Regimental Military Skills Competition, Exercise Spring Foray and RSIT Inspections.

ADEN TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Steve Knight**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Shaun Littlefield**

The Troop has been kept in confinement due to the outbreak of foot and mouth but hopefully they will get over it soon. The regular humdrum of maintenance and inspections is keeping them on their toes. Since the end of February we have had a steady stream of rats leaving our glorious ship, most notable was **Sgt Jase Cook** who shall now be known as Mr Cook, whoever taught him about speeches needs shooting. In the past few days we have seen the departure to greater things of **Cpl Kev Fearns**, who is off to a popular phone company however, 'Would you buy a phone from that man?' A mention must go out to **2Lt Steve Knight** the Troop OC, for his sterling map reading on the exercises that we have been on since he arrived. If Aden is heard to be going on 'Knight Manoeuvres' we are not driving in the dark, we're lost! A welcome must also go out to the other new arrivals, **LCpl Fairbairn** and **Sigs Littlewood** and **Husband. SSgt Shaun Littlefield** has kept the pace of life at a gallop and the future holds excitement and unknowns for all, with various extraordinary exercises in out of the ordinary places. Aden Tp can look forward to an interesting few months ahead.

SHARJAH TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Simon Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Bru Baker**

Life in the great Sharjah Tp was going to busy for the next few months because first and second line inspections were here again. We had a couple of exercises, one was helping 16 Air Asslt Bde where **Sgt Howes** and **Sgt Meadows** were both playing Yeoman. They planned and ran the exercise, a job well done. The other was a Regimental Exercise (Arabian Freezer) where the weather was the usual, wind and rain, but the highlight of the exercise was when the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Davies** and the RSM, **WO1 Kidd** were temporarily immobilised after visiting our Node Home and Radio Relay sites when their rover became bogged in. Thanks to **Sgt Smith** for the mammy impression. The Troop would like to welcome **Sig Pheasey** who has come straight from the factory and we would like to say goodbye to **LCpl Vose** who has gone back to the factory and now is at Sys Ex 'Goodluck'. Congratulations to **2Lt Simon Smith**, the Troop Commander and to **LCpl Elcock** who both were awarded their Army Junior Colours for Hockey at the 2001 Inter-services. We had a visit from our Colonel in Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal**, which was a good experience for people who have never met Her Royal Highness before.

OMAN TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt Clash**

Oman Tp has had enormous changes in personalities over the last few months. We would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to all those having left us recently. **LCpl Chris Webster** has travelled a huge distance to join 12 Mech Bde in Aldershot, likewise **Cpl Lee Necrews** has traveled to the far off land of Blandford with his brood, joining the RSS Sys Ex training team. **Sig Andy Brewer** along with his family (and his Lance Corporal) is now part of 7 Armd Bde in Hohne the was last seen with his eyes bulging at the thought of all the extra money that he was going to get! Closer to home **Sig Payne** has gone to the sunny climate of SHQ Tp along with **SSgt Paula Matheson** to take over the reins, a short but sweet time with Oman. Finally, our very best wishes and genuine thanks to our two 'civilian-bound' likely lads, **Cpl Stu Manaton** and **Cpl Mark Catney**. Both have the tenacity and personality to make a success of whatever they choose to do, Good Luck and keep in touch! **Cpls Hoggart, Knapman** and **Milton** are currently on tour in the Balkans, sorely missed as that leaves our Troop with only one class 1 JNCO tradesman! Not everyone is leaving, we also have two new members to the Troop albeit from inter Squadron postings. So without further ado, welcome to **Sig Stacey Bargery** from Out Of Use Troop, and **Sig Brown** from SHQ Troop. Finally, hello again to **SSgt Daphne Clash**, back from her Skeleton Bobsleigh season and back in the hot seat.

EXERCISE ARABIAN FREEZER – *by Sig Bargery*

Oman Troop took part in Ex Arabian Freezer, 12 – 16 February 2001. The Exercise had originally been planned to be a 222 Sig Sqn 'shake the cobwebs out after Christmas' type of affair, but then somehow the whole Regiment seemed to get involved! Needless to say we duly proceeded in communicating like the professional Royal Signal Soldiers we are. One of the more notable occasions, however, was when the Troop carried out a move during the evening. On this occasion comms were proving a little tricky and it was well into the early hours before there was any shut-eye to be had. A rude awakening occurred nonetheless in the form of expletives and bellowing from **SSgt Clash** who was not overly impressed to find the Trunk Node asleep at 0730hrs. The OC and SSM who had happened to witness this sorry sight were also bemused to find **Cpl Lee Necrews** fast asleep with his eyes wide open in Node Command, upon being woken he then clutched his knee in agony as if that had been the real culprit –WHY? Many lessons were learned during this fairly straight forward exercise, and hopefully the results will be seen in the near future.

ARMY WINTER SPORTS CAMP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SKELETON BOBSLEIGH

by SSgt Daphne Clash

In October 1999 I was lucky enough to go on an Army Winter Sports Camp in Lillehammer in Norway. I did a week's novice course in the exciting sport of 'Skeleton Bobsleigh', (headfirst on a sled down a Bobsleigh track) see photograph. This progressed onto a further weeks training with the Federation of International Tobogganing in Austria, and finally becoming Army Female Champion and British Intermediate Champion 1999/2000.

SSgt Clash competing for Great Britain
in the Skeleton Bobsleigh World Championships

So, with all of three weeks sliding experience I was invited to attend British Team Selection in October 2000 in Lillehammer. During selection I gained the rank of GB female No. 3, which meant I would be competing for Great Britain on the Europa Cup circuit. I had been a bit naive to the consequences of being selected, and hadn't altogether realised that potentially I would be away competing for three months! Thankfully, I got the backing from my OC and the Unit to go and slide.

Before all the comments of 'swanning it' spring to your minds consider this: not only was I competing for the team, I had also been made Team Captain, which unusually for any TC meant I was responsible for much of the logistics of the team. This most importantly involved much of the accounting and financing of the team, the travel arrangements and training requirements along with the usual welfare/morale/discipline role. So there! I would hate to sound like I am complaining - I am not, but with the best will in the world having nine people from different backgrounds, ages and sexes travelling around in a minibus for much of three months is a recipe for disaster. I now feel like I qualify for a psychology degree!

Back to the sport, we competed in France, Austria and Germany travelling backwards and forwards to the different tracks and races. Amongst all this, there were further British Team selections to make sure the best people were competing at all times. The pressure was exciting and intense towards the end of the season, which for myself ended at the World Championships in Calgary, Canada. It was a great experience, and whilst not being a threat to the Worlds best, I was delighted with my result having been the only woman in her first competitive season. My final rankings are as follows:

Great Britain Female	3rd
Europa Cup Ranking	7th
World Ranking	22nd

Remember, next year it could be you! If you would like to try this sport or the sports of two-man Bobsleigh (yes, that is open for women too!) or Luge watch out for details of this years Ice Sports Winter Camp in Soldier Magazine. If you are one of those people who think they have done everything, try this, you will not regret the thrill!

5th DIVISION HOCKEY CUP FINALS 3(UK) DIV HQ AND SIG REGT VS 30 SIG REGT

by Sig McKelvie

After a lot of hard work, good commitment and an outstanding attitude towards teamwork and determination, 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt made it into the 5th Div Hockey Cup Final against 30 Sig Regt. The team managed to beat four teams in seven days including 32 RA 4-1, 43 RA 4-1, 22 Eng 6-0 and 11 Sig Regt 4-3 despite being down 3-0 at half time. This had the CO, **Lt Col Phil Davies**, biting his finger nails.

The final match showed a lot of good hockey and tremendous determination from both teams, each eager to win. Twenty minutes into the game 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt had a spell of superb hockey. **SSgt 'Bru' Baker** provided the ball for **SSgt Shaun Littlefield** to drive down the right wing, beating 3 players and forcing the goalkeeper into an error to put the ball into the back of the net, 1-0 to 3DSR. The battle went on until 5 minutes from half time when **Cpl 'Jas' Holcombe** split the opposition's defence in two with some silky skills, but was stopped from a definite goal by a brutal tackle from their keeper. This resulted in a penalty flick and the keeper being sent off. **Sig Mat Salmon**, one of the team's combined services players, took the flick comfortably, putting 3 (UK) Div up 2-0 at the end of the first half. It was much more of an even affair in the second half with 30 Sig Regt piling on the pressure and creating some good openings. This was rewarded with a goal 10 minutes from the end, but 3DSR held them off to win 2-1. **SSgt Littlefield** was voted man of the match.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

It has been suggested that the following is the shortest Sherlock Holmes story ever told:

Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine, they lay down, in their tent, for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later , Holmes awoke and nudged his friend. 'Watson look up at the sky and tell me what you see?' 'I see millions and millions of stars,' replied Watson. What does that tell you?' asked Holmes.

Watson pondered for a minute then finally he said, 'Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarterpast three in the morning. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.'

Yes,' said Holmes, 'but what does it tell you overall?' Watson was silent for a time, then Holmes spoke, 'Watson you imbecile, some scoundrel has stolen our tent!'

The team would like to thank **SSgt Baker**, the coach and captain of the team, for his commitment and effort in mentally and physically preparing them prior to, and throughout the tournament. His 'Battle of Britain' speech was well received when the team was 3-0 down to 11 Sig Regt and went on to win 4-3.

Sgt Steve Pickering
receives the 5th Div Hockey Championship Cup

IF YOU'VE LOST CONTACT WITH AN OLD FRIEND, WHY NOT SEND AN ENQUIRY TO

THE WIRE

YOU NEVER KNOW ONE OF OUR READERS MAY BE ABLE TO HELP PUT YOU IN CONTACT AGAIN

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt Hockey Team
Back (L-R): Maj Adrian Perry, Cpl Jas Holcombe, Lt Pete Simpson, WO1 (ASM) Colin England, Sig Richie Martin, Sgt Steve Pickering, SSgt Bru Baker
Middle (L-R): WO2 (RQMS) Kenny Scott, SSgt Shaun Littlefield, Sgt Chris Wilson, Sig Matthew McKelvie, Cpl Lee Necrews, Sgt Richie Bennett
Front: Cpl Mark Turner

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JOINT SERVICES SUPPORT UNIT (AYIOS NIKOLAOS)

CO **Lt Col R. A. Sharp MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Richardson**

The second anniversary of the formation of the Joint Service Signal Unit (Ayios Nikolaos) was celebrated on 2 April 2001 with a lavish celebration in the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess attended by all Unit Officers'and SNCO's. The Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment and the Akrotiri Band provided a beating the retreat presentation and the weather held off long enough as the raining season came to a close.

The Commanding Officer (R) and the Adjutant (L) toasting the anniversary of JSSU(AN)

SUPPORT SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj M. G. P. Bohanan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. Buxton**

HELLOS/GOOD-BYES/CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to the new Officer Commanding, **Maj Mick Bohanan** and wife **Jackie,** we hope you enjoy your tour in Cyprus re-living your youth as you were here many years ago. Welcome also to the new SSI, 'Muscles' **Jamie Dury** APTC and his wife **Deb.** Congratulations go to **Flt Lt Ian Cumming** RAF Regiment who has just been selected from his promotion board to Squadron Leader and will now be back to the RAF flying a desk complete with Brylcream and silk scarf. Congratulations also to **WO2 Steve White** on his selection for promotion to WO1, after several tours in the Mediterranean will he give some one else the chance to serve here. Also to **SSgt Gary Greaves** and **SSgt Gaz Steel** on their RD selection for promotion to WO2. Farewells go to **Sgt** 'Geordie' **Alsop, Sig Vicki Lewis** and **Pte Bridgid Ellis** who have departed to Civilian Division. Welcome in their places to **SSgt Gaz Greaves** and to **Sgt Mac Macintosh.** Finally congratulations to **LCpl Dave Collin** and his wife **Nic** on the birth of their son **Laine.**

QM'S DEPARTMENT
QM **Maj (QM) P. Whitehouse**
RQMS (Ops) **WO2 (RQMS) D. Thornton**
RQMS (Stn) **WO2 (RQMS) S. J. White**

LOGISTICS SUPPORT TROOP
SWIMATHON

Now that the summer was over **LCpl Simmons** decided to organise a 24-hour Swimathon to raise money for both a children's home in Famagusta and a special needs school in Larnaca. The event was a great success raising over £500. The aim was to swim the length of Cyprus from Cape Apostolos to Yeranisos in a 24 hour period which was completed easily following the amazing efforts from both **Cpl** 'Herbie' **Herbert, WO2** '**On leave again' Danny Thornton**, who each swam over 500 lengths. Amongst all the floats, snorkels and flippers lurked **Sgt** 'Geordie' **Alsop** taking underwater photographs - in his diving rig. Unfortunately none were fit to be published. All in all a total of 11,515 lengths/180 miles were completed.

MOUNTAIN TREK

As part of another Logistics Support Day-Out the Troop decided to take a well earned break (it must have been a Monday) and try a spot of hill walking in the Troodos mountains. The proceedings were organised by **Cpl** 'Griff' - the chain saw' **Griffiths** and started with the usual early departure along the corridor road and the two-hour drive up to the mountain. The plan, if there really was one, was to get the troops out of Ayios Nikolaos and spend some time walking in the hills whilst getting to know a bit more about each other ...bonding. The walkers departed Troodos Station for the hills watching in dismay as the safety wagon driven by **Sig** 'Pathfinder' **Bastow** departed in the opposite direction, complete with packed meals. A lot of km's and pain later, which included a walk down the mountain to the Platres Trout Farm to try and find our packed lunches. Then an even more interesting and an undemanding 'hike' up the Caledonian Falls, the walkers finished the day with a small bottle of Keo and a light snack since the lunches couldn't be found. Some time later the pathfinder, **Bastow** plus the packed meals arrived just as we were to set off for home. Cheers pathfinder!

SKIING TRIP

The Troop organized a well deserved day out skiing in the Troodos Mountains. We arrived at Troodos and those that could already ski bomb burst onto the slopes, which left most of us who didn't have a scooby. After about an hour most of us were getting the hang of things apart from **LCpl Dave** 'I should have stayed in work' **Collin** who spent more of the day on his backside than he did on his ski's. The instruction was given by **SSgt John** 'I look great in pink boots' **Driver** who also managed to wangle the rest of the week off work to stay for the NEFSKI championship, admittedly competing in the Inter Services Competition and winning the trophy with the Army Team. Thanks must go to **LCpl Andy Kinnaird,** the new CO's driver for organizing the day.

GOLF COMPETITION

March saw the inaugural Log Sp Tp Golf Competition played at the infamous Ay Nik Golf Club. 18 members of the Troop, of various standards, took part in what proved to be both an enjoyable and eventful day, with more Roy Wood performances than Tiger. Noticeable efforts which must be mentioned were those of **Sgt Steve Moses** who almost hit two different cars with consecutive tee shots and to **WO2 Steve** 'H&S' **White** who managed to spawn the nearest the pin prize. Thanks go to **SSgt Scott Cain** who put the day together and still didn't manage to square away a prize for himself.

TRAINING SUPPORT TROOP

While Log Sp are away on field training, the Training Wing have continued in their quest to come to terms with the Joint Approach to Military Training. Learning that when the Navy say that they haven't touched a weapon in 30 years they actually mean it, and that the RAF would really prefer to be called by their first names, 'If you don't mind Sarge'. Members of the Wing have also been allowed out of the 'Black Hole' to take part in various courses and activities away from the norm. **Sgt Steve Hills** has recently returned from the ITC Wales on successful completion of his UTO course and is busy looking for field firing to organize. **Sgt Dave Churchward** who has just completed his map reading instructors course on the island and is now pointing out to anyone who will listen that the odd pile of rocks strewn around are actually old churches and can be used as reference points. **SSgt Gaz Steel** has recently returned from leave and is taking it easy in the SSI post as usual making the odd brew and organizing shopping trips - no change there then!

MT/LAD
MT SNCO **SSgt J. Driver**

The MT continues to support the Tri-Service personnel of Ayios Nikolaos. A turn-around in manpower has seen **SSgt John Driver, Janet** and their children arriving from across the island to replace **SSgt Mark Fitzpatrick.** We wish **Mark** good luck in his new posting in BFG and hope **SSgt Driver** has another enjoyable tour in sunny Cyprus. We would like to wish a warm welcome to **Cpl Neil Fraser** and family from 11Sig Regt. He has already found the pressures of life on the island easy to live with and has wasted no time purchasing anything that is tax-free, but volunteering to help organise the Squadron's summer party on his first day at work was a good move. The Squadron have been busy on the playing field most notably on the football pitch where the Squadron Team has just fought it's way through to the semi-finals of the ESBA Minor Units Trophy beating 62 Cyprus Sp Sqn RE by 5 goals to 0. Also during the annual NEFSKI championships on Troodos **SSgt John** 'I may have

put some weight on' **Driver** skied away with several top prizes (yes we do have snow as well as sun)! The Station Orienteering team has also had a run of success recently and is now leading the opposition on island and is looking forward to the Island Championships on 20 April hosted by ourselves.

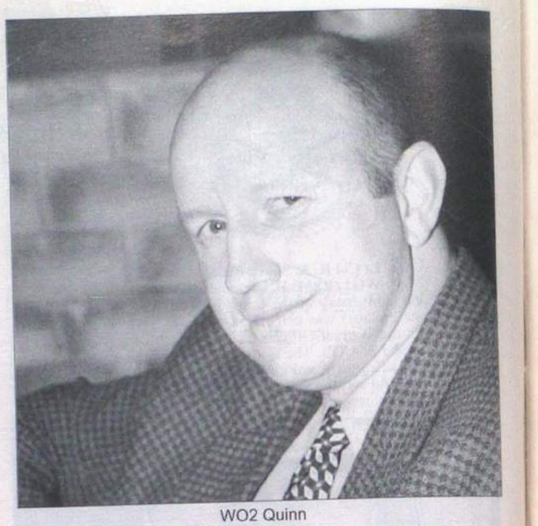
234 SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj A. Urwin**
SSM **WO2 (Supvr R) S. Smith**

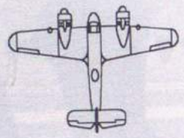
Not a lot to report from the Squadron. While Log Sp play away, 234 Sqn get on and do the business in the office. The Squadron now holds it own Cyprus Champion, not football, rugby or cricket but the 'Cyprus Slimmer of the Year'. After being ridiculed and chastised for more than gaining the 'Cyprus Stone', **WO2 Tony Quinn** decided enough was enough and entered the On-Island Slimming Competition. After two months of puffing and panting at the cardio-vascular centre, and having to forgo extra helpings of tzatziki **Tony** lost 2'/2 stone and raised £500 for charity.

Next stop is to sort out all the IT problems in the Unit. In the next edition of *The WIRE* look out for more pictures of **Capt Carolyn Woodbridge,** a report from **Capt Forbes Guthrie** on his journey to the centre of the World, **Maj** 'The Galloping Major' **Tony Urwin** on his two wheeled trek around the island. Also **FofSs Mick Solomon** and **Colin Hamilton** on their weekend boating regattas to Turkish controlled Northern Cyprus.

840 SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Sqn Ldr M. Edwards** RAF
WO Eng **WO Dave Watson**

A quiet period at the Trenchard Site with congratulations to our Royal Signals representative, **Sgt Kev Cooney** on selection for promotion.


WO2 Quinn



21 SIGNAL REGIMENT (AIR SUPPORT)

CO **Lt Col Peter Gillespie**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Al Jenkins**

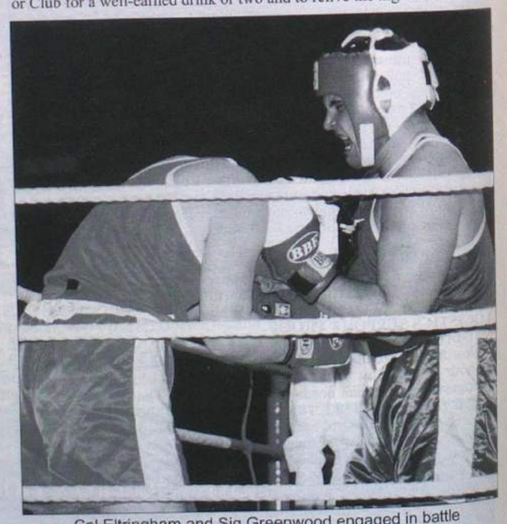
REGIMENTAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS
by WO1 (RSM) A. Jenkins

From the very outset it was apparent that the Regimental Inter-Squadron Boxing Championship was going to be a very special event. Seldom have I seen a unit so galvanised and an air of anticipation quickly spread throughout the Regiment. After three months of grueling and intensive training all three Squadrons were in a position to submit a team and it became apparent that a preliminary event would be needed. This was meant to be a relatively low-key affair with the boxers fighting for a place in the final on the main night. The soldiers however, had other ideas. There was virtually a full Regiment watching the preliminaries. Squadron pride was at stake and the cheers echoed to the rafters as each bout concluded. Standing on the sidelines I could see the fervor and excitement generated in the gymnasium and I knew full well that the finals would be memorable.

The finals took place on the evening of Thursday 29 March in full view of a packed crowd. The Regiment was delighted to host guests from the Joint Helicopter Command and the local community. Principal amongst these was **Brig N. C. Jackson MBE** who had kindly agreed to present the prizes. Nine bouts were scheduled along with five walkovers. 244 Sig Sqn started the night in a commanding position after their success in the preliminary bouts, however, it was still very much all to play for. As the thumping music of Robbie Williams' 'Let me Entertain You' died away and stage smoke flooded the arena, the first boxer, **Sig Campbell** 220 Sig Sqn, emerged to the martial accompaniment of a Highland drummer. His opponent, **Sig Parsons** 244 Sig Sqn, quickly followed this time escorted by a piper from the Queens' Gurkha Signals. The gymnasium erupted into a cacophony of sound as each Squadron attempted to drive their fighter on to success.

Sig Campbell and Sig Parsons trade blows in the opening bout

It would be unfair to dissect each bout as in many ways every boxer who entered the ring was a winner. However, worthy of particular note are **Sig Reeve** of 220 Sig Sqn who stopped the unfortunate **Sig Whitton**, 244 Sig Sqn, with a spectacular knock – out and **Cpl Eltringham** of 244 Sig Sqn who beat **Sig Greenwood** of 220 Sig Sqn in a real battle. Similarly, **Cpl Conley** of HQ Sqn defeated **Sig Perks** of 220 Sig Sqn in a bout that displayed skill, bravery and tenacity and led to the fighters being awarded the prizes for best boxer and most gallant loser. Perhaps the only disappointed people on the night were those who were awarded a walk over victory. Each was fully prepared, both physically and mentally, to fight and it was only the lack of an opponent in the correct weight category that stopped them doing so. Nonetheless they all stepped forward when called and had their moment in the ring. Congratulations must go to 244 Sig Sqn who emerged as the overall victors. The boxing finished, prizes were awarded and everyone retired to either their Messes or Club for a well-earned drink or two and to relive the night's events.


Cpl Eltringham and Sig Greenwood engaged in battle

The commitment to such a rigorous training schedule, the sacrifice of personal time and the sheer courage of each fighter who volunteered are beyond question. Right from the outset it was determined that this contest would not impinge on the operational effectiveness of the Regiment. This placed a huge burden on the boxers and trainers to prepare themselves in the time available. The skill and ability shown in the ring demonstrated that they undoubtedly achieved this. It only remains for me to thank the Squadron coaches, the QMSI and most importantly the boxers for a truly superb evening. I look forward with anticipation to the next one!

The Regimental Boxers

The victorious 244 Signal Squadron Squad

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col N. A. W. Pope**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Pye**
SUPPORT SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj R. H. Gladwin**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Young**
REGIMENTAL TRAINING WING

The last few months have seen a good deal of change in the Training Wing personalities. Farewells go to **Sgt Dan** 'Awesome' **Burdus** to Lightning Troop Blandford, **Cpl Bri** 'Mine's a Salad' **Rawlings** to 7 Armd Bde via 256 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Gore** 'Tex' to 280 Sig Sqn and **Cpl Mick Pegg** to the Chelsea Pensioners after completing his 22. A welcome to **Sgt** 'Military Training' **Mitchell** from ATR Bassingbourn, **Sgt** 'Col 'KFC' **Bentley** and **Cpl Dean** 'Guru' **Buckley** both from TM Troop, **Cpl Helen** 'Helga' **Nolan** and **Cpl Willy** 'Wheel Spin' **Wilcox** both from 256 Sig Sqn. It has been a busy start to 2001 for the Training Wing. Course fever has hit the Regiment this year with 'The Wing' being more in demand than ever before. The publishable highlights to date include; the civilian sponsors visit, which went off without a hitch as they admired **Cpl** 'Eddie' **Edwards** DIY skills in our new look Training Wing, **Cpl Lee** 'thal' **Starr** returning in victory from his Other Arms Skill at Arms course, having never run around so much in his life. **Cpl Helen Nolan** flying out to Sierra Leone to move a tent and **LCpl** 'GET MASSIVE' **Mason** going on his RSJCC followed by a posting on promotion to ATR Scotland. Looking to the future we are now bearing down on the new course schedule. This will see some of the instructors tasked with 15 weeks of back to back courses. On the Mil Skills side, the prep for Exercise Arduous Cygnet, the CO's Cadre course, is going well with **Sgt** 'Military Training' **Mitchell** and his planning team bringing the exercise together. The future of the annual battle camp looks much in doubt with the Foot & Mouth crisis .The inside is that, now Sennybridge is out, the exercise will be held in Florida - only joking! More likely the venue will be Hangar 2 as for Exercise Cobb Ring earlier this year.

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. W. Cooper**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Keen**
A TROOP
Tp Comd **Flt Lt Paul** 'RAF' **Pearce**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul** 'The Maggot' **Storey**
EXERCISE GINGER RAM – *by Cpl Rawlins*

Since Christmas A Tp have been off task, with the other two Troops taking the lead in operations. We have used this time to train for our forthcoming deployment to Sierra Leone. The first main event on the calendar was Ex Ginger Ram, the Troops' CNR week held in the Nottingham area in January. For many it was the first time they had seen, let alone used, Clansman since training, as our primary role is Satcom. We had four detachments sharing three locations. There were lots of moves, crash outs and loads of voice procedure. **Sig John** 'Jar Jar' **Roberts** was moved from det to det to fill the gap left by **LCpl Wayne** 'Aged 13 /' **Carr** who was removed from the exercise to play Regimental football. Then to another det to fill the gap left by **Sig Stu** ' Of course I know better I was in the TA' **Hemming's** teddy that was left in the first location! six Techs joined us from TM Tp, thanks for all your help guys, but what exactly did you do? The next main event was a force on force military training exercise held in Tidworth designed to improve infantry skills within the Troop with the very kind help of the 1 Mech Bde training wing. Ex Ram Atallinn was excellent training opportunity for Sierra Leone, So why were we issued Arctic rations? We had every thing from Harbour drills to vehicle contact and even hide and seek with **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clarke** and the rest of his comedy section. In a cunning ploy to deceive not only the enemy but also the DS he decided not to defend his vehicle but park it to one side and hide up for the rest of the week. Despite **Sgt Mark** 'Please can I fire all the pyro now?' **Ebdon** and **Cpl Bri** 'The Daddy' **Rawlings** shouting 'come out, come out where ever you are.' the section decided to remain silent even after they were contacted by the other section. Nice one lads. During a visit from the Squadron Commander and the **SSM WO2 (SSM)** 'Can I be civpop?' **Keen** the training was in full swing, there was a little surprise for the exercising troops. Up until now we had only practised contact front or side this time we had contact front, side, top, middle and bottom, but not from the enemy but just civpop children wanting sweets. **Sig Stu** 'RoE' **Hemming** decided that begging was a crime punishable by death so he ordered one of the section to 'shoot him!' When we returned to camp the troop, were fed up with training and all decided a posting was in order, however the Moscow State Circus is fully manned and they have no need for extra clowns, perhaps the Corps band have a few vacancies for trombone players!

THE FUTURE, HELLOS AND GOODBYES

As always we have a big turn over of personnel in the troop with **LCpl** 'Mel' **Jones** cutting his ties with the Army and joining Civvy Street, and **Cpl** 'Annie' **McIntosh** doing the next best thing after signing back on a 3-month posting to HMS Collingwood. We also offer a big welcome and a hearty handshake to the following. **Cpl Matt Whitfield** and **Cpl Holly Glen** both from N.I. **LCpls Benjamin Williams** from 21 Sig Regt and **Chris** 'figure 12' **Haddrell** from 7 Sig Regt. And finally we have our fair share of FNGs, including **Sig** 'Geezer' **Finnigan, Sig** Luke 'What? When? Why? Who? Did I say what? ?' **Watson** and **Sig** 'But Cpl Rawlings told me to' **Edwards.** Welcome to you all and we hope you enjoy your time with the Troop.

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Steve** 'Chocolate Frog' **Pritchard**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Heather** 'Mrs Graham' **McNair**
HELLOS AND GOODBYES

2Lt Steve 'New boy' **Pritchard** fresh from the factory- good luck on the troop commanders course, hurry back Staff can't work the kettle without you, **Sgt** 'Keith' **Langan** and family, posted in from sunny Aldershot. **Cpl Rob** 'Wiggy' **Wiggins** from 7 Sig Regt, it's good to get another RR Op in to show them what to do! **LCpl Wes** 'Veg' **Vegh, LCpl** 'Matt' **Mills, LCpl** 'Don' **Donaldson** all from the 264 selection course. **LCpl** 'Jamie' **Goulty** from 12 Mech Bde, **LCpl Mackay** from 2 Sig Regt. Goodbyes to **Capt John** 'cirus the virus' **Dagless** posted to officer recruiting Blandford, **Cpl Neil Coils** off to Civ Div, **Cpl John** 'cowboy' **McCone** off to 21 Sig Regt, **Sig Tom** 'ant head' **Beerling** off to 101 Log Bde- congratulations on your promotion. **Sig Dan** 'I ain't signing for it' **Shore** off to the glorious life in Civ Div.

CHARLIE TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Lucy Pim**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Phil Joyce**
HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Hello to the sprogs from Blandford: **Sigs Hanes** and **Livesey**, and to **Sig Freear** from 1 Div in Germany. Goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Matt**

Booth who has gone to 15 Sig Regt; and to **LCpl Tracey Fairbairn** who has gone to the glorious 3 Div. Good luck to those leaving us for Civvy Street: **LCpl Gray Fields, Sig Jo Wood** and **Sig Brian Martin**.

OPERATION AGRICOLA - KOSOVO *by Sig Shaun Marsden*

On 11 January this year ten members of Charlie Tp left Gamecock Barracks to set off for Slim Lines, Pristina, Kosovo. For four of us, **Sigs** 'Chiggs' **Chignell**, **Andy** 'Riz' **Risley**, **Richie** 'Shovel Hands' **Hancox** and **Shaun** 'The Body' **Marsden**, it was our first operational tour. Although the tour was only lasting for about six weeks and we would be COMMCEN crew, all of us were immensely looking forward to deploying. It would make a refreshing change from normal daily life in the Regiment. At Brize Norton, I was a bit surprised walking towards the plane to see that it had 'AIRTOURS' and not Royal Air Force written down the side of it! The flight lasted three and a half hours and I must admit that it felt like I was on a plane to Tenerife. However, on the descent into Pristina airport it definitely looked different. Once off the plane we were shipped through the TDC very quickly as the flight had landed earlier than expected (bonus!). On the other side we were greeted by our advance party, **Sgt** 'Waggy' **Wagstaff** and **LCpl** 'Rosie' **Rose**. The drive to Slim Lines gave me a chance to take in some of the scenery - honest opinion was 'What a dump'. I think they employed one man to build half a house then take the money and run. That's pretty much all there was to see - that and a load of lunatic drivers on a death wish. Also on arrival in Kosovo the sun was shining which I had not expected, but that would change two days later as 4 – 5 inches of snow fell in 48 hours.

I had not done COMMCEN work since Phase 2 training in Blandford so I was worried that I would look like a useless sprog who was no good for anything but making the brews (which I was pretty good at by the end of the tour). We shadowed the people who we were replacing and it all soon came flooding back to me. We were soon ready to take over the shifts and just wanted to start getting into routine and get things underway. During the first few rotations, the days off were nothing but shopping trips, with most people going to Bondsteel Camp, the US camp, or to KFOR MAIN to get their duty free. The facilities on Slim Lines were excellent. An Internet café always killed a couple of hours, then there was the Echos, the gym, a good running track on the perimeter of the camp (if you don't mind breathing in all that smog) and probably the most important place of all - the bar.

The weeks went by pretty quickly, too quickly some might say. Some of the lads got the opportunity to spend a week in Macedonia adventure training. Every thing ran pretty smoothly throughout the tour with no major mistakes or dramas to talk about. Into the last week, there were mixed feelings, some people didn't want to leave having just settled in and others couldn't wait to get home.

SUPPORT TROOP - *by LCpl 'Phil T' Dransfield*

There have been a few changes since the last lot of wire notes, Op AGRICOLA saw the departure of **LCpl** 'Phil T' **Dransfield** and **Sig** 'Ritchie' **Hancox** to Kosovo, who after setting up and doing the hard work were replaced by **LCpl Tony** 'The Mouth From The South' **Comery**. Op Silkman saw **Cpl Daz** 'B The Funky Ed' **Brown** on yet another sun drenched tour in Sierra Leone. **Sig Lila** QGS got away onto some well-deserved long leave in Nepal, the arduous time spent in Canada with the Army shooting team had obviously taken its toll!! **Cpl Willy** 'Back Door' **Wilcox** has sadly departed us to greener pastures, and obviously a bigger biscuit barrel, to go and work in the Regimental Training Wing, all the best **Willy**. We've also had a few new arrivals into the fold, **Sig Wally** 'You'll Soon Find Out Why' **Wallis** is already pushing for his first, (charge that is). Whilst the cherry on the icing is the arrival of the new MT boss, **Sgt Phil** 'The Groper' **Graham** from ATR Bassingbourn. The lads are in uproar after finding out he's an ex FAG OP, he will soon be remoulded into a proper tradesman with the help of the Operator adjusting tool! And **Sgt Mark Ebdon** has finally been given an empire to run with the arrivals of Tele Mechs within the Squadron. Lubrication all round please sir.

258 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj P. Deans**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Forrester**

SQUADRON HQ NEWS

The Ops Team have been busy recently. After the 'arduous' recce by the Ops O, **Capt Preston** and **Y of S Goodliff,** the plan eventually produced an enjoyable and beneficial CPX in Oman. This was the Squadron's first chance to work with the Sultan's Armed Forces and proved to be an excellent recce for the 'Migration' of the British Army to the Middle East this summer. Whilst a full account of the events can be found below we learnt a great deal about our hosts and the country which brought out the best and sometime the worst in all of us. Almost without exception the Omanis are friendly and helpful, but often the technology we imported had not yet reached the middle of the desert. Our Omani counterparts had not seen some of the systems we brought into theatre and used the exercise as a learning experience. In additional they do not posses the sense of urgency expected by some of us and we were left without life support for the initial stages. Fortunately by the time the staff arrived the Squadron personalities had moved mountains and provided a sustainable headquarters and flawless communications infrastructure.

No sooner has we landed back in the UK than the Squadron sent two individuals off to Guyana to help observe the elections. This was not in Africa, as one officer thought, but the North-East coast of South America and a former British colony. As usual the Regt were ready long before the political agreement had arrived and **LCpl Thwaites** and **Sig King** started the roller-coaster ride of go / no go. Eventually they deployed to Northwood to join the staff and eventually set off to the airport. All of us were slightly jealous of the twenty-four hour delay in Paris and Barbados on the way out and showed very little concern as to the difficulty of finding a room with a view for the satellite shot out of the four-star hotel in Guyana. Congratulations to both individuals for showing initiative throughout the trip and well done to **Sig** 'Arfur Daley' **King** for scrounging three new comms systems on arrival. Finally thanks to **Cpl McDonald** for all his help over the past weeks and hope he will be just as happy back in the Troop. The Ops Team look forward to returning to Oman for Saif Sareea II and the biggest thing since Ben Hur.

DELTA TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Chris Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jim Lyons**

The month of February began with five lucky Signallers being attached to Foxtrot Tp on Ex Boron Mercury in Oman for three weeks. Based in the desert, we were tasked with installing the JTFHQ complex providing communications by VSC 501 and 522 HF in the main HQ supporting the staff from Northwood, with the forward element some 800km away. In between shifts, we enjoyed the use of the Oman Army's swimming pool and facilities also visiting the local town of Nizwah. We had time for 24 hours in Muscat to experience the sights and sounds of the capital before returning to England. On arrival we were greeted by a blanket of snow, a stark contrast to the weather in Oman. The Troop would like to say goodbye to **LCpl Andy** 'Foxes' **Wright** and **Sig Jamie Cassells** and to say hello to **LCpl Andy** 'The Old Faithful' **Pennock** and **Sig Phil** 'Dinger' **Bell.** After our Spearhead callout to South Cerney on Ex First Flight the troop demonstrated its readiness to deploy at short notice as part of the lead element working with the current Spearhead Battalion being 40 Commando. The Troop is now clocking five and a half months on Spearhead. This has left us all looking forward to a well-earned leave period over Easter before taking over the role of JTFHQ.

ECHO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Karl Jeeves**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Al Combe**

Once again Echo Top strike fear into timid hearts as they prepare to assume the Spearhead Lead Element tasking for the Regiment. Congratulations to now **LCpl Dion Fotheringham** and **LCpl Lee Simmons**, for well earned promotions. Hello's to **LCpl Chris Dunn, Sig Al Dyde, Sig Littlehales** and the two **Smudgers** who are to be known hence as 740 and 442. A cheerio to **Sig Andy Doherty**, who leaves us for 16 Sig Regt and a posting to the same Troop as his brother. Apparently they are very close. Once again the emphasis has been on training as we ready ourselves for the R1 role. Ex Cobb Ring took place over the month of March, however, Hangar 3 in Bramcote looks nothing like Tampa, Florida. Some you win, some you lose! On the sporting field the Troop continue to prop up the Regt Rugby team and have drafted in the assistance of **SSgt Al Combe**. Who is alleged to have retorted upon questioning, 'I don't know what position it's called; you know the one that sticks out the back of the scrum thing.' The Troop also played a convincing role in the Squadron's recent victory in the Regimental Endurance competition. The Troop have a number of challenges facing them, such as playing rugby in the Army Rugby League Nine's competition. Also the Troop looks towards the R1 role and hopefully an operational tour in the near future.

FOXTROT TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Mogs Southern**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Stu Fidler**

HELLOS AND GOOD-BYES

The Troop warmly welcomes **Sigs Mark Lawrence, David Brown** and **Rory Masters** straight from The School, ready and willing to get stuck into what is going to be a busy year for the Troop.

EXERCISE BORON MERCURY

On 9 February the first lucky people from the JTFHQ Signal Squadron set off for our exercise location in sunny Oman. Shafa camp, less than two hours drive from the Capital Muscat, was to be our home for the next three weeks. The following week saw several flights arriving with the rest of the Squadron, and laden with the re-packed, re-manifested and re-loaded freight, via Greece and Cyprus for the start of Ex Boron Mercury. Comms were soon established, the bar opened and the pool recced (and guarded daily by **Cpl Andy** 'I'm not an LSE' **Moffat**). The exercise was a prelude to the up and coming Ex Saif Sareea running later on in the year. It gave delegates from the Omani Army a chance to walk round and see a JTFHQ setup and to talk with the members of the Squadron. It also gave the Staff Officers a chance to work with the Squadron prior to Ex Saif Sareea. Once the work routine was in place there was plenty of time to enjoy the splendors of the Sultanate with 24hr R and R packages into Muscat. Every man and his camel enjoyed the chance of cheap gold, cheap clothes and expensive beer, with an overnighter in one of Oman's smarter hotels. Delayed flights were a bonus when several members found delight in the new improved five pint jugs, although it only ended being a three pint jug by the time **Cpl Neil** 'I'm always working' **Harrison** finally learnt how to pull a pint.

Secure Comms were kept constant by **Cpl Lucy** 'Who's got the key?' **Mason**, who didn't think guarding the crypto was secure enough and so locked herself in the office. She found the key in her pocket within half an hour, so all was well and faith was restored. The forward HQ was led by our illustrious leader, the Troop OC, 600 miles further south, giving all involved a nice little earner in their back pockets. All in all the whole exercise ran very smoothly and a good rapport was achieved with the Omani Army and a good working relationship built up with the JTFHQ Staff Officers. Special thanks goes to **Cpl** 'Reg' **Perrins** and **LCpl** 'I'm just waiting for my skiing holiday' **Barnwell** who ran the bar and kept the boredom down to a minimum. Unfortunately **LCpl Barnwell**, the Squadron VE forgot his trade and managed to blow up the 501(E) Satellite Detachment whilst removing the batteries. Finally one last mention to **Cpl Lucy** 'Crypto God' **Mason**, who when asked by the aircrew if the crypto was secure in the plane, replied 'Yes I've tied it down with some rope'!

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Emma Rae**
Tp SSgt **SSgt (SQMS) Browitt**

Welcome to the newest Troop on camp, formed within 258 Sig Sqn it's called Support Tp, and is headed by **SSgt Mark** 'Brewkit' **Browitt**, the SQMS and is an amalgamation of the SQMS Dept, MT, Tele Mechs, Installation Techs and soon to be introduced Techs! The first task given to this Troop was to go to Oman on exercise with the rest of the Squadron. Meanwhile those left behind had a leisurely three weeks in the almost deserted Hanger. I was one of those left behind with the task of turning a bleak room assigned to the Technical Workshop into something resembling just that! With polyfilla and two layers of paint the room looked halfway there, and with two workbenches organised and electrical power points fitted to them, the benches were then earthed. What with a bit of furniture and stores the place started looking a little more professional. Then the leisurely pace changed to frantic when everyone came back from Oman, and I had to organise the first Troop event for a Wednesday afternoon. Well what choice did I have? Bowling it was! Fifteen people turned up for two games in the Lakeside Bowling Alley. They included **Capt Emma Rae**, who lost even to **SSgt Browitt** at least his excuse was a crook elbow (which we tried to even out by playing with left arms only and then using the metal bench to send the bowls down the alley). The Troop is looking forward to some more Wednesday afternoons with trips to Bass Breweries in Stoke and Laser Quest in Coventry, such a hard Troop life we lead! Congratulations to **SSgt Browitt** for his recent promotion to WO2, hope it doesn't change things too much! Not much is forecast for Sp Tp except for the three month exercise in Oman called Saif Sareea, Exercise 2nd run and 3rd run; 1st line, 2nd line, PRE and RSIT inspections in between the exercises; monthly JTFHQ plug-ups and anything else that pops-up! A busy year ahead.

EXERCISE BORON MERCURY FEBRUARY 2001

Ex Boron Mercury was a three-week deployment to Oman, to prove the effectiveness of JTFHQ. Support Troop's role in this exercise was very diverse. Responsibilities ranged from Technical support and Cabling infrastructure for the Comms, power for the exercise courtesy of the Driver Electricians, logistical support under **SSgt Browitt** and life support from the Medics and Chefs. Life on the exercise was pretty grim for the first few days and chefs worked extremely hard to spice up the rations packs. Meanwhile the rest of us worked like Trojans to get the Comms up and running, but things soon settled down and morale was raised with the introduction of food and beer (Cheers REME). All in all, it was a very worthwhile exercise, everyone got a good tan and the LSSA and LOA always helps!

250 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. J. Cole**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Chandrabahadur Gurung**

OC 250 and his team

DEPLOYMENT ON OPERATION BASILICA/SILKMAN
by Sig Bharat Ghale

All are aware of the past and current situation of Sierra Leone and the involvement of the British Forces, who have been playing a vital role for the Government of Sierra Leone in assisting in the keeping of peace and security. Shortly after the British hostages were rescued from the 'West Side Boys' rebels, 14 personnel from 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron were deployed to theatre at short notice.

We flew to Sierra Leone from RAF Lyneham in a Hercules via Tenerife, a very beautiful island belonging to Spain where we 'unfortunately' had to spend the night. When we arrived in Sierra Leone (Lungi Airport), the weather was extremely hot and humid. The people of Sierra Leone seemed to be very dis-organised largely due to the prevailing situation. Not only that but driving around Freetown is very slow, with the roads amongst the busiest we have ever experienced.

We deployed to three different locations, with one to RFA Sir Percivale, 4 to Benguema Training Centre (BTC) where the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) were undergoing training by the Resident British Infantry Battalion. The remainder deployed to Defence Headquarters (DHQ) at Cockerille Barracks where the Joint Task Force Headquarters (JTFHQ) is currently based. During the tour we had the opportunity to work both at DHQ and BTC and with soldiers from many different units such as 1 R IRISH, 1 PWO and 2 RGR. Our main task throughout was to provide civilian satellite communication, WOTAN and HF for the HQ's in theatre.

After spending almost three months in theatre, it was time to return to UK and we departed Sierra Leone on 6 January 2001, full of good memories. We would like to thank all members of 1 Mech Bde, RFA Sir Percivale and the training Battalions for making our tour enjoyable and worthwhile. We look forward to serving there again in the future.

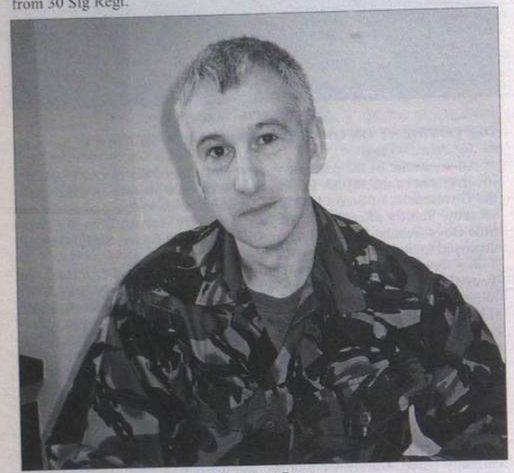
The one working heli in theatre

31st (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col P. D. Wenlock TD**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) YOUNG**

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS - ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

Since our last *WIRE* notes the Regiment has under gone a considerable amount of change in the RHQ hierarchy. We have said a sad farewell to our CO of two and a half years, **Lt Col Linda Harrison TD**, and to **WO1 (RSM) Gibson** and his wife **Kay**. **Col Linda** departed for the HQ LAND Staff Pool and **RSM Gibson** has taken up a 'Granville' role in his wife's Post Office. We wish them both all the best for the future. Both are remembered for their hard work, sense of humour and above all professionalism. We were delighted to welcome our new CO, **Lt Col P. D. Wenlock TD**, back into the fold after a stint as a Staff Officer in HQ LAND. We wish **Col Paul** and his wife, **Ann**, a happy and successful tour. Additionaly we welcome **WO1 (RSM) Young** who has joined us from 30 Sig Regt.

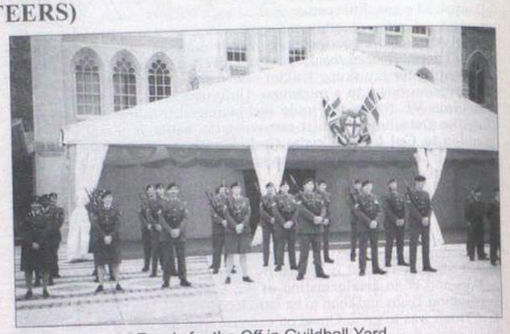


The New Boss

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW AND ARMISTICE PARADE 2000 – CITY OF LONDON

This year the Regiment was bestowed the privilege of being the Guard of Honour for the Armistice Parade and Lord Mayor's Show in London on 11 November 2000. After several rehearsals in both Coulsdon and White City TA Centres, the big day finally came. The Guard consisted of a contingent of approximately 40 Royal Marine Cadets, 45 Soldiers & Officers of the Regiment and 40 Veterans. The CO, **Lt Col Linda Harrison**, commanded the parade on her birthday (no, we didn't ask!). On arrival at Mansion House the contingent demonstrated its ability to shuffle for Britain and awaited the arrival of the Lord Mayor's State Coach and then the eleventh hour. The 'Last Post' sounded and the City of London became silent. This was followed by a fly past by a 'Hercules' at the sounding of 'Reveille' and the general salute to the Lord Mayor as he inspected the Guard. A cracking day for everyone on parade and we didn't get wet (quite). However we did take part in one of the biggest parades in London and we got the rare opportunity for the TA to show what it can do for Ceremonial duites.

L-R, LCpls Allott, Burne, Kelly, Eastwood-Bell and Sethna



Ready for the Off in Guildhall Yard

41 (PLK) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Lankester**
SSM **WO2 Watson**

PLK REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 5 NOVEMBER 2000

Squadron members attended the PLK Remembrance service at a new location this year. The wall plaques listing PLK soldiers who died during the two Great Wars were moved last year from their home in Mercury House, The Duke of York's Barracks, to be re-housed elsewhere within the Borough of Kensington. The two plaques were blessed and dedicated by the Regimental Padre, **Maj David Crawley**, in their new location, the children's library. **SSgt Dave Holman** proved to be an excellent bugler, a hidden talent not many in the squadron realised he had! The Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea attended the service, as well as many past members and friends from the PLK. After the service we moved to Kensington Town Hall for drinks and a curry lunch as well as a chance to catch up with members of the PLK Association, and remember old friends.

COULSDON REMEMBRANCE PARADE 12 NOVEMBER 2000

The Squadron marched from the TA centre on Marlpit Lane to Old Coulsdon church to participate in the local Remembrance Day service there. This service was taken by **Canon Stephen Maslin** and attended by members of the local community. **Capt Steven Ong** laid the 41 (PLK) Signal Squadron wreath.

CHRISTMAS BALL 2 DECEMBER 2000

What a night! Yet another excellent Christmas Ball, superbly organised by **Cpl Julia May, LCpl Maria Traynor** and **LCpl Pearl Sethna**. Christmas Balls at the Squadron seem to improve each year, and this was one of the best yet.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to **Sig Michelle Critcher** who successfully passed her fast track recruit training, to become the newest member of the Squadron, and **Sig Russell Banks** who recently completed his Recruits Course at Blandford. Congratulations must also go to **LCpl Alison Kelly**, who gained her first stripe in October, and **Capt Beth Pollard**, who was awarded her third pip by **Lt Col Linda Harrison** in October.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

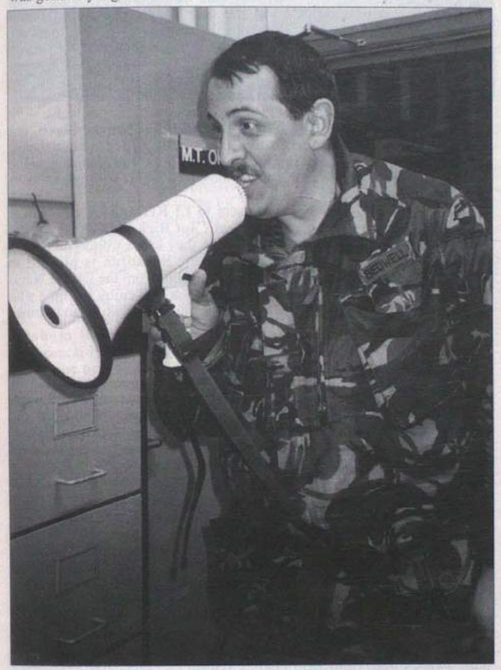
The Squadron has had much upheaval of late, not least with the departure of **Capt John** 'I love London Transport' **Symmonds** and **Capt Beth** 'Pretty Polly' **Pollard**, both of whom have moved on to the sunny pastures of Southfields. **Capt Symmonds** has become the new Regimental Ops Officer, whilst **Capt Pollard** is to work with the Regimental Recruiting Team. I'm sure we'll see them back at 41 soon! In their place, we welcome **Lt Susie Sidwell**, who is the new Troop Commander of N Troop, and **Lt Paul Ukpai**, who comes to take over the running of the Squadron Recruiting Cell. **Lt Debs Speakman** has moved from the Squadron Recruiting Cell to become the new Troop Commander of K Troop. It is always sad to see a member of the Squadron leave, and we must mention **Sgt Amy McAuliffe** who decided to hang up her boots. Recently married, **Sgt McAuliffe** decided to call it a day, and we wish her all the best in her new civilian life.

FOOT AND MOUTH

Foot and Mouth Disease has seen us all confined to barracks, so training has been rather scaled down recently. Still, a chance to catch up some of our basic theory, and to get into those garages, and working on our vehicles. We did however get the chance to enjoy a couple of weekends out and about before the crisis started...

SQUADRON RANGE WEEKEND

The Squadron deployed to wet and windy Napier Barracks for a weekend on the Hythe Ranges (and boy was it windy!). **LCpl Mark** 'H' **Hornibrook** and **Pte Guy** 'SD' **Scott-Douglas** demonstrated great initiative by diving into the nearest fire trench each time brass was to be collected. Its a pity no one told **Pte Scott-Douglas** he could get out of the fire trench when he had finished – he might have gone very hungry, whilst the rest of the Squadron were enjoying their lunch! The Padre, **Maj David Crawley**, popped down for a chat on integrity. All, it would seem, with the exception of **Cpl Julia** 'Little Miss Honesty' **May**, have yet to work out what the word means, or even how to spell it! The weekend was run by **SSgts Dave** 'BT' **Holman**, **Steve** 'Ring my' **Bell** and **Cpl Kevin** 'Beddy' **Bedwell**. They organised a mammoth shoot on the Saturday involving GMPGs and LSWs, (more ammunition than **Sig Leigh** 'Bomber' **Harris** could even dream about...), and a great morning's shoot on the SAT Range on the Sunday. (Who says you can't shoot at an APC with 5.56mm? – **Lt Debs** 'Take on anything' **Speakman**'). Although we did have a few teething problems getting out of bed and down to breakfast on time on the Sunday morning, and we had to wait behind 400 hungry cadets trying to beat us into the cookhouse, it was generally a good weekend.



Cpl Bedwell - CAN YOU HEAR ME?

OFFICER TRAINING

The Officers of 31 Sig Regt (V) roughing it at their country retreat

All Officers from the Regiment attended a weekend's officer training in Surrey in February. We worked hard on the Saturday and then got to 'play' on the Sunday. **Lt Susie** 'Annika Rice' **Sidwell** proved she had what it took to unravel 'The Secret of the Camellias', whilst **Lt Paul** 'Rainman' **Ukpai** demonstrated that paras just don't care about getting wet. **Capt Steven** 'Mine's a whisky' **Ong** proved the most important skill an officer needs is lashing, and an ability to construct a cantilever, whilst our OC, **Maj Toby Lankester**, proved once again, that you really can wear army issue trainers...

Lt Paul Ukpai proving that he is more than a match (in weight) for four Subalterns and a Squadron Commander

COURSES

We're been very busy getting ourselves taught and trained over the past couple of months. **Lt Debs Speakman** attended her Radio Techniques Course at Blandford in February. **LCpl Alan Bryan** achieved 'Best Endeavourer' on his Corporals' Course at Blandford in February. ('Best Student' went to **LCpl Tia Snell** at 83 Sqn, so well done 31 Sigs!). **Sig Scott Fisher** achieved 'Best Student' on his ED course at Blandford in March, and **Pte Guy** 'SD' **Scott-Douglas** passed his recruit's course at Grantham in January. **Sig Kris Todd** also gained his class 2 Tele Op (TG) so well done to him as well.

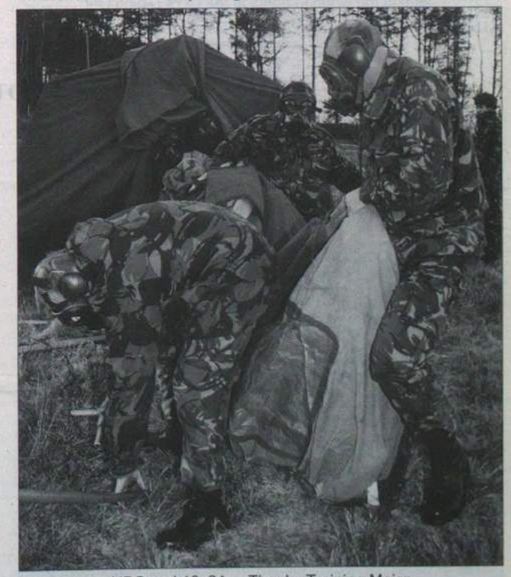
56 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Sarah Streete**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Kevin Godden**

HELLO'S AND GOODBYES

We greeted back **Lt Kieron Francis** from his tour of duty in Bosnia at our Christmas party and enjoyed sitting through all his war stories. He then went straight off to spend his money travelling around Australia and will be back when it runs out! We said 'goodbye' to **SSgt Chris Maginnis** who has decided that having spent the last six months working with the 2 (SE) Bde Trg Team, he would rather be one of them and so is transferring from us. I am sure they will benefit greatly from his experience and skills.

REGIMENTAL MILLENIUM WEEKEND

The New Year weekend was judged to be a great event by all who attended. It gave us our first opportunity to meet our new CO, **LtCol Paul Wenlock** and tested us all on a variety of skills required by members of the Royal Signals. The day ended with the inevitable assault course run where everyone was urged on (most firmly – no-one dares to take a breath, let alone stop!) by PTI **Cpl Jo Reader**. Evening entertainment was provided in the form of Squadron sketches which managed to humiliate a number of key personnel and in particular, the Permanent Staff featured quite high in this!



NBC and 18x24s - Thanks Training Major

83 SIGNAL SQUADRON(V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Julian Carmichael**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Bob Stephens**

CO's DINING OUT

On 18 November, **Lt Col Linda Harrison TD**, Commanding Officer of 31 Sig Regt (V) was dined out by the Officers and Sergeants at a combined mess function in RHQ, Southfields, London. Prior to dinner the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes had the honour to present former mess members with gifts for their service. These included **Maj Steve Baker**, ex OC of 41 (PLK) Sig Sqn(V), **Capt Tim Winterson**, former MTO and newly promoted **Maj Anandin**, the RMO who was presented with his commissioning certificate! **Sgts Ali** 'Egon Ronay' **Matabbin** and **Bruce** 'Ronny Briggs'**Casburn** were also given presents for their loyal service. The recipients were then piped into dinner by the Regimental Piper, **SSgt King**. A superb dinner then followed and **Col Linda Harrison** was presented with a sword as a gift from the Regiment. She in turn presented a beautiful framed painting of the Presentation of Colours to the PLK in 1799. The **Honourary Colonel** gave an amusing speech and **Col Linda Harrison** was piped out by the Regimental piper who played a tune specially written for the occasion. The framed, printed pipe tune was then presented to **Col Linda Harrison** in return for **SSgt King's** quaich. A rather unique tribute!

There then followed a regimental 'rave' where Officers and Sergeants demonstrated their qualifications at the All Arms Disco Dancing School. First and second class rosettes were awarded to **Capt Paul** 'Chardonnay' **Samways** and **SSgt Baz** 'Tiger' **Roberts**, the organisers of the event on behalf of the PMCs **Maj Julian Carmichael** and **WO2 Andre** 'FFR' **Scrivener**. The band played on and several members of the messes were late for church the next day. Mr Vice, the brand new squeaky clean **2Lt** 'Chippy' **Woods**, carried out his duties faultlessly and, much to **Maj Julian Carmichael's** annoyance, failed to incur any fines.

Lt Col Linda Harrison will be missed by all ranks. Her final day was Thursday 30th November when **Lt Col Paul Wenlock TD** assumed command.

The Adjt and the Honorary Colonel, Maj Gen W. J. P. Robins CB OBE, setting the world to rights at the CO's Dining Out

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT PRESENTATION

The Squadron were honoured to be part of the medal presentation which took place at their TAC on Tuesday 7 November. The Brigade Commander, **Brig N. C. Jackson MBE** presented **SSgt Craig** 'String Fellows' **Bruce MBE** and **WO2 (FofS) Jamie** 'Danny Boy' **Harper BSc** with their LS & GC medals. Congratulations to them and their families.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES!

The Squadron has bid a fond farewell to its PSI, **SSgt Dez** 'Two Can' **Eldridge,** who has left us for the sunnier climates of 16 Air Asslt Bde Sig Sqn at Colchester. We wish both him and his family all the best and extend a big thank-you for all the support they gave the Squadron during their time with us. A huge hello is sent to **SSgt Tony Wringe,** 83 Sig Sqn (V)'s new PSI. We hope that your time with us will be as enjoyable, as it will be challenging! A warm welcome is extended to **2Lt David Grant,** who joins the Squadron from the depths of HQ. We hope he enjoys his time with us and that he manages to last longer than **Lt Andy Lowther**, who is abandoning us after just a few months in post. We hear he is of to sunnier climates having secured a 3-year contract to work in Australia. Good luck to both **David** and **Andy** in their respective comings and goings.

A big Hello is sent across the seas to **Lt Linda** 'Skippy' **Davis**, our Australian Troop commander. **Linda** is currently filling a regular post whilst her colleagues are out in East Timor. We hope you are managing to get in loads of adventure training and look forward to your return to 83 Squadron (by the way, we've moved!)

Hello and congratulations is also sent to **Lt Keriana** 'Kiwi' **McKee** (previously **Houia**) who has recently wed **Capt Rick McKee** of the New Zealand Army Intelligence Corps. We hope they had a wonderful day. In keeping with our International flavour, the Squadron is pleased to welcome in to our ranks **Miss Kristensen,** a sailor from the Danish Naval Home Guard. We are sure that **Miss Kristensen** will enjoy her time with us whilst we in turn hope to gain an insight into her culture and Armed Forces.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl Tia Snell** on her recent promotion following completion of her RSCC. **Cpl Tia Snell** excelled achieving Top Student and was recently identified as a potential TA Yeomen. Well done and keep up the good work. Congratulations are also sent to **Cpl Laurel Allott** who was recently promoted. **Cpl Laurel Allott** has worked hard this year becoming a unit first aid instructor where she is known to perform a mean trick or two with a string of sausages! Well done.

LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Congratulations to **SSgt Matt Cahill** on receiving The Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service. The presentation was made by **Field Marshal Sir John Chapple GCB CBE DL**, at The Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea on 7 March 2001. It was awarded in recognition of **SSgt Matt Cahill's** contribution to the Territorial Army and in particular his commitment and tireless work for 83 Sig Sqn (V). The award ceremony was followed by light refreshments and the chance for other award winners and their families to meet.

32nd (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col J. K. McKee MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Hilborn**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Cammy Payn**
SSM **WO1 McVey**

EXERCISE SNOW LION 2001

Well done to the Regimental Skiing Team on Ex Snow Lion. It was trophies galore (again) at the LAND and AWSA Alpine Ski Championships in Inverness in early March. HQ Sqn made up the backbone of a strong Regimental team that performed in excess of its own high expectations. The LAD walked away with the TA Minor Units Slalom and Giant Slalom, the 'A' Team, which included **Lt Col McKee**, **Maj Payn** and **AQMS Davidson** came away clutching first in the TA Major Unit Slalom, the TA Major Team Combination, the TA Royal Signals Unit Champions and runners –up in the TA Giant Slalom. The OC also won the individual TA Royal Signals Unit Individual Prize. The whole event was undoubtedly helped by some of the best ever snow in Inverness and the excellent admin assistance from 51 Highland Bde support staff.

TRAINING

The Squadron completed the last of this training year's Regimental Training Weekends in Edinburgh in the second weekend of March. It was a busy weekend for all concerned with leadership training, drill, pistol firing, assault course competition, and command tasks for the soldiers and JOTES training for the Squadron Officers. The REME have been kept busy with trials of the new Boughton RB 44 vehicle, which has been introduced for trials in conjunction with the new NCRS equipment. The new training year will be providing fresh challenges for the Squadron, especially with the impending arrival of the new Command Troop at the Squadron location. Command Troop will be a welcome asset to the Squadron and will provide a much-needed focus for signals training which has been previously lacking at Jardine Street.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Maj Dudding** and **WO2 Joe Butler** who were awarded the Joint Commanders Commendation and GOC's Commendation respectively. The awards were presented during a visit by **Maj Gen Gordon**, GOC 2 Div, on 14 February 2001. Well done to **Cpls Norwood** and **Addines, LCpl Boyce** and **Cfn Henry** who have completed the HAZMAT course at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh? Congratulations go out to **Cpls Sliman, McInally**, and **Gibbs** who recently completed their REME Senior Military Cadre Course. Well-done to **2Lt Ian Davidson**, who can now exchange his white epaulettes for pips after passing his commissioning course at Sandhurst in February. **2Lt Davidson** is now on his way to 52 Sig Sqn to take up as Troop Commander and we wish him well.

Maj Gen Gordon presents Maj Dudding and WO2 Butler with their awards

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

With the disappearance of **Maj** 'Roddy' **Sutherland** to Kosovo (allegedly to add to his impressive medal collection) the path has been cleared for a new broom at the OC's desk. The new broom in question is **Maj** 'Cammy' **Payn**, who brings with him 30 years of TA experience to the job. **Maj Payn** has also decided to bring with him a new Squadron 2IC in the shape of **Lt Phil Donegan**, who has now been fully re-integrated into the Glasgow lifestyle following his lengthy sojourn with the Edinburgh communicators. We wish them well in their new posts. The Sqn would also like to say goodbye to the QM, **Maj Ian Dudding**, and wish him well at 81 Sig Sqn. His departure has made way for **Capt Graham Reith**, the new QM. Those of us familiar with recent Regimental history will remember **Mr Reith** in his former capacity as RSM. The new QM has insisted that his arrival (along with his football boots) in Glasgow is in no way connected with the recent poor fortunes of a well-known south-side Glasgow football club. The Regiment is set to say a fond farewell (for the second time!) To **WO1 (RSM) Angie Hilborn**, who has been picked up for her commission and will be departing for 3 Div. The RSM joined the Regiment in January 1999, having previously served as a Staff Sergeant PSI in the training wing from 1994 to 1997. Place your bets now for the completion of a 'hat-trick' of appearances with the Regiment some time in the future! Also on her way is **Cpl Liz Leitch**, who departs for an S-Type Engagement in Northern Ireland.

51 SIG SQN (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Morna Strachan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Bertram**

TAJ MAHAL CHALLENGE NOVEMBER 2000

by Sig Grant, 51 Sig Sqn (V)

On arrival at Heathrow airport my thoughts were of excitement and trepidation. What had I let myself in for! I decided to travel to India after I saw an advert in the Scotsman in May 2000 for enthusiastic volunteers to take part in the 'Whizz Kidz Taj Mahal Challenge November 2000'. Cycling through Rajasthan, taking in the beautiful countryside and marvelling at a way of life so rich in customs and traditions – What could possibly be challenging about that? Like all those taking part, I was set the target of raising £2500 by January 2001, with the first instalment of £1500 due in September. Raising the money was quite a task and there were times when I wondered if I would make the target. In the months leading up to my trip, I organised various events in Aberdeen to reach my goal. The first was a Fun Day held in the car park of my local Safeway supermarket. Together with the Customer Services Manager of Safeway, we organised a pipe band, highland dancers, car boot sale, bouncy castle and various other stalls. This event had the added bonus of taking place the day after I got back from annual camp in Ripon, so I believe I was still functioning on NCRS Det time! Another event I arranged was a Horse Race Night that was held in The Highland Arms, Gordon Barracks. Judging by the sore heads the day after, and the amount of money raised, I presume a good night was had by all! The last event was an Aerobathon held in the Warehouse Health Club. I was pleased when I reached my target of £2774.90, but all of a sudden the truth hit me. 3 December was only days away and I was actually going to take part in a 341km cycle across Northern India with another 15 unsuspecting people.

The trip itself was fantastic, the people so friendly and the food brilliant. I was in India for nine days and the cycling part lasted five days, Monday – Friday. I couldn't believe when it started raining on our first day – considering the weather we had been having at home in the run up to my trip. Fortunately, it didn't last and the rest of the time was glorious sunshine, hot, but not too hot for cycling in eight hours a day. Accommodation during the cycling stage was camping and the other three nights in hotels. Although on two of the camping nights we stayed in the grounds of tourist complexes to allow us access to toilets and showers, which I'm sure pleased my camping buddy **Pippa**! The terrain for our mammoth journey was generally flat with a couple of hills thrown in for good measure. The state of the roads themselves was another matter entirely, let's just say we regularly took part in the game of 'dodge the pot-holes'. Travelling with us at all times was a group of men from Nepal, each with their own role to play in making our trip even more enjoyable. The cycling team comprised two guides and a mechanic and behind us throughout the journey was a bus with a couple of helpers. One group we all found amazing and really kept spirits high (not that they were ever low) and made everything all the more worthwhile was the advance party. Every day they would wake us up at 0600hrs with a hot drink and a bowl of hot water for washing, probably having been up two hours prior to this to boil it! Once we had finished our fabulous breakfasts, they would then dismantle everything and move on to the stop that was designated for lunch, where again we would sit down to a feast. On arrival at our evening campsite, our tents were already erected, we were given hot water for washing before sitting down to a thoroughly delicious dinner. They did this every day, were accommodating in every way possible and always seemed so happy to see us. They had the most basic of amenities yet were able to make life so comfortable for those five days – they were an amazing bunch of people who I can't thank enough!

Sig Grant — Whizz Kidz

Every day was an eye-opener and a fascinating insight into rural Indian life. Along the route I took an elephant ride up the Amber Fort in Jaipur, met some of the smiley children from the remote village schools and also a visit to the ghost-city of Fatephur Sikri, built at the height of the Mogul Empire. One of the highlights of the Challenge was the homestretch mile into Agra ending at the Taj Mahal – the world's most enduring monument to love. It was a wonderful moment when we arrived at the Taj Mahal. All the bruises, sore bottoms and aching muscles seemed to disappear in an instant!

Whizz Kidz was one of the first charities to pioneer overseas events and seeing its fundraisers push themselves physically to the limits in a bid to help disabled children seems a fitting gesture. Whizz Kidz is all about empowering disabled children by providing them with 'tailor-made' mobility aids such as wheelchairs, tricycles and walking frames to give them a sense of independence and their first real taste of freedom. Future Whizz Kidz overseas events for 2001 include the Inca Challenge to Peru and the Killimanjaro Challenge in Africa, and for 2002 the Vietnam Cycle Challenge, Everest Challenge and China Wall Challenge. If you would like to spice up your life and take part in any of these exciting events (I would thoroughly recommend it), call **Jane Atkinson** on 0207 233 6600 or visit *http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk*. On a final note, I would like to extend a warm thanks to all my sponsors for their support, including the individual members of 51 Sig Sqn (V) and to the Squadron itself and 32 Sig Regt (V) for their generous donations!

CONGRATULATIONS

Firstly congratulations and a warm welcome go to **WO2 (SSM) Lynn Bertram**, on her return to the Squadron, and her appointment as SSM. **SSM Bertram** has recently returned from a tour of duty in Kosovo, and prior to that spent a year on an FTRS posting at Cetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, training and testing personnel in preparation for deployment to the Balkans.

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52 SIG SQN (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Donny Gordon**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Swan**

After the hectic festive period, the squadron has experienced a more relaxed start to the year – mainly due to the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. March started with Ex Snow Lion with **2Lt Davidson** and **L/Cpl MacDonald** representing 52 Sig Sqn as part of the ski team, and **Sig McGilvary** as part of the fatigue team. After initial teething problems the week ended extremely well with medals galore, but although it was snowy- we didn't see any lions.

Cpl 'Billy' McPherson shows a future (distant) Squadron Member how Comms can be fun, while Sgt Sam Wilkie makes sure that the set is switched on

The Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, Mr G. K. Cox MBE, JP is welcomed by the Squadron OC, Maj Donald Gordon

This was closely followed by the Regimental Trade training week where we provided students for all courses, where **Cpl Phil** 'I'm not angry' **Brown** attained the top student on the NCRS instructors course, and one of the Squadron minibuses managed to clock up 100+ miles whilst sitting in the car park. After a couple of weeks rest we had the Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire present **Cpl Val Bowden**, **Sgt** 'Hamish' **Graham**, **WO2 (YofS) Helen Jephcote**, with their Lord Lieutenants Certificates, **Cpl Craig Douglas** with the Territorial Efficiency Medal and **WO2 (YofS) Helen Jephcote** with the first bar to her Territorial Efficiency Medal. **Sgts Jackie Main** and **Sam Wilkie** were presented with the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal.

Then due to the restrictions caused by the Foot and Mouth epidemic we had to cancel the Squadron Inter-Troop Mil-skills competition, and instead had to rough it at Faslane where a varied programme of sporting and arduous physical and mental activities were pulled together at short notice, culminating in an evenings bowling at the 'Swally Alley'. To round off the month the TA Centre was open to the public for the National TA day event, which saw a number of near and long term potential recruits, and former servicemen and women. This period has also seen the departure of **SPSI WO2** 'Sam' **Shaw** and **PSI Tech Sgt Chris Kelly** both on leaving the Army for pastures new – welcome to the real world chaps. Welcome to the new **SPSI SSgt John Leach** who has managed to spend the first 20 days of his appointment out of the office on Op Slubber.

TA TEACHES REGULARS TO SKI

by Cpl Stuart (Cabbie) Henderson

After completing my Novice Ski & Survival Course, while attached to 249 Sig Sqn (AMF (L)) in Norway last year, I was recommended for Military Ski Instructor. I returned to Norway to complete the course in November. It was an intensive 5-week course, run by The Royal Marines under the watchful eye of experienced local ski instructors. We learned everything we could about skiing, including downhill and cross country techniques, ski history and the different instructional techniques, while all the time perfecting our own skiing techniques. After the course it was home for X-Mass and New Year, before returning to Norway in January to teach my first course. My students for the Novice Ski and Survival course came from all over, ranging from Royal Ghurkha Rifles and Light Dragoons, through to Royal Signals and RLC. For many of them it was the most arduous and challenging course they have completed. Extremely cold temperatures and lack of snow made this course even harder for students and instructors alike. Over the first few weeks I was their first point of contact and a source of knowledge for everything they needed to know, to survive and work in a cold weather environment.

Cpl 'Cabbie' Henderson — The easy life

Skiing day and night, steadily increasing the amount of equipment carried and distances travelled, the students soon progressed from complete novices, many of whom had never skied before, to being trained soldiers capable of skiing miles, carrying all the equipment needed to be self sufficient, to work and survive in this environment.

Cpl Henderson — Where did my BBQ go?

In the final week, the students went off to complete Arctic Warfare Training, while I was lucky enough to help with filming Blue Peter, who were doing a program on what we do in Norway. We were filmed building and living in a snow hole, Ski Jarring, which is getting towed by a vehicle while on ski's, and performing Ice Breaking Drills, all with the presenter, Simon, taking part. The programme was due to be broadcast at the end of February, and we all received a Blue Peter badge for our efforts. This rounded off my trip to Norway.

61ST (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

The last couple of months have been extremely busy for Edinburgh's Signal Squadron. March madness gripped the Squadron as not only was training happening in abundance with trade camp but the relocation of TA Centres was also on the cards. The Squadron has moved from Chesser Crescent to newly refurbished facilities on Lanark Road. The new centre will provide better training facilities and working environments for both the permanent staff and the troops when they train in the evenings and weekends.

An initiative weekend saw **LCpl Alex Cook** and **Sig Graeme Tait** blag their way to York in an attempt to ring the York Minister Bell. Unfortunately renovation work prevented them completing their task and left them pondering how they might get back to Edinburgh in time to claim their bounty. Other members of the Squadron managed to slide down the banister at the Sheraton Hotel, meet someone famous, get on television and **LCpl** 'Victor' **Robertson** even flew a helicopter!

The recent foot and mouth outbreak led to weekend training being relocated to TA Centres, resulting in what was to be an NBC weekend at Otterburn being held in and around the TA Centre. With the local press in tow the weekend went with a splash. **Cpl Paula** 'Laminator' **MacLean** and **LCpl Ilona Borland** excelled themselves again with their innovative and fun lessons. Congratulations to **SSgt Rowena Clarke** on becoming acting Sergeant Major and **LCpl Donna Davanna** on her recent promotion.

EXERCISE MAPLE SALTIRE

In March eight members of 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) travelled to Alberta, Canada in order to put the SKANTI radio through its paces in extreme weather conditions. Two long-range phases were conducted with the team communicating back to Scotland using voice and Morse. In between these phases the team carried out local training around BATUS, which involved off road driving, helicopter marshalling and short-range comms using the UK/PRC 320 around the prairie. After the comms phases the team took a well earned break in the Rocky Mountains staying at the Army's lodge in Canmore. The team was able to enjoy dog sledding and snowboarding before the seventeen-hour flight home on a C-130. Many thanks to **WO2(YofS) G Moody** for his help during our stay at BATUS and everyone else the team managed to rope in.

The Secret seven arrive at Edmonton Airport to be met by an unexpected heat wave

It's behind you! The new 15m mast gets put through its paces at Wainwright

Testing the SKANTI in the Ops Room ...

... in an MFO Box

Alternative Comms on the prairie at BATUS

Cpl Davidson using the UK/PRC 320 during the short haul phase of the exercise

Sgt Webb with his dog-sledge team on a frozen lake in the Rocky Mountains

SSgt Harvey going flat out on the slopes at Nakiska

33 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
CO **Lt Col Elton Davis**
RSM **WO1 Dos Day**

OPERATION PENINSULAR - *by WO2 (RQMS) Forshaw*

WO2 (RQMS) Forshaw spent two weeks as a Military Liaison Officer (LO) in Cumbria. 42 (NW) Bde had established a Headquarters in Carlisle to combat FMD in Cumbria and prevent its spread into neighbouring counties. The Regiment answered the call for personnel by despatching myself, **SSgts Faulds** and **Martin** at very short notice to Carlisle.

Confusion reigned on the first day. Sets of maps, a short brief and we were on our way to the first task. I was to be an LO, whose job it was to provide the Headquarters with as much information as possible, in order that after slaughter, the most efficient means of disposal was found for the animals and then co-ordinate that disposal through to completion.

Having served for 21 years with numerous operational tours under my belt I thought that I had seen most things. My people skills were about to be put severely to the test. How do you comfort a farmer and his wife whose life's work has to be destroyed and now lies rotting in front of them? How do you convince the young farmer with small children that the cattle and sheep lying dead for seven days are a high priority and will be moved soon? Inevitably, there was a short honeymoon period; the army had arrived and everything was going to be all right. As the days went by it became increasingly difficult to meet those expectations.

The Headquarters was growing by the hour and more agencies were coming on line. All the stops were being pulled out to combat this virulent disease. It seemed that we were running to stand still as the number of outbreaks grew daily. Sixteen days on, our short tour of duty ended. I left feeling that we had made a contribution but I was frustrated that we had not yet beaten the disease. It was humbling to see field after field bereft of livestock. It is not a task I would like to repeat, but it was worth being involved in the national effort.

LIGHT AID DETACHMENT

Since the last entry there has been a few minor changes. Firstly **Capt Atkinson** has taken up an FTRS post recruiting for the Regular Army in Liverpool. He was officially said goodbye to from the LAD on the eve of the TA Open Day and a good night was had by all that attended, but **Capt Atkinson** still managed to talk most of them under the table. **Capt Furber** who joins us from 206 Regt RLC is his replacement, a very warm welcome! **Sean Tran** has been promoted to Sergeant and is currently on tour in Bosnia with 2 Bn REME. **SSgt Mal Pool** has been promoted to WO2 (AQMS) to replace **WO2 (AQMS) Don Siddorns**, who for 12 months, has been studying for an HNC in Management for his new position in his civilian career. At the end of March the LAD took part in the TA Open Day and the spirit of the occasion was not dampened by the weather. We thought we had invented a new sport of barrel chucking when some of the visitors were a little too enthusiastic when sluing the Foden crane to negotiate the obstacle course, which had been set up. Well this brings as up to date from the LAD front but watch this space for the next entry by the LAD on what training they have been carrying out.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

The Regiment would like to bid a fond farewell to the RSM - **WO1 (RSM) Rod Cowan,** who is posted to sunny Blandford as the 2IC of 4 (Mil Trg) Sqn, many congratulations on your commissioning and good luck for the future. We would like to wish a warm welcome to the new Training Major – **Maj Gary Hailstone** and the new RSM – **WO1 (RSM) Dos Day,** have a very happy and successful tour with the Regiment.

FOCUS ON 55 (HEADQUARTERS) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj W. Wyper**
SSM **WO2 M. Robertson**

There have been a couple of changes in personalities within SHQ. Congratulations to **SSgt (SQMS) Mick Robertson** on promotion to WO2 and his appointment as SSM of the Squadron, also congratulations to **Sgt Alan Stowers** on promotion to Staff Sergeant and his appointment as SQMS (V). The SQMS (NRPS), **SSgt George Whittfield** continues to beaver away in his stores in between games of squash. (Still playing high standard squash at his advanced years).

MEDAL PARADE

CO presents Bosnia medal to Capt Shoaib

CO presents KOSOVO medal to Lt Knight

On 24 March the Regiment held a medal parade, where the Commanding Officer presented TA Efficiency Medals to a number of members of the Regiment. The CO also presented the RMO **Capt Amir Shoaib** with his medal for service in Bosnia and presented **Lt Paul Knight** with his medal for service in Kosovo.

35 (SOUTH MIDLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

XXXV

CO **Lt Col S. J. Potter TD**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. T. Cauldwell**

STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS

While the present Foot and Mouth crisis continues to provide a constant flow of human-interest stories for the national and regional press, it has obviously had the opposite effect on our Corps magazine contributions. We are now all too well aware that the knock on effect to our training programmes has reduced the number of activities where most of our stories are drawn from. Consequently some of our most promising weekends that included Comms exercises, bounty weekends and participation in sporting competitions (in particular orienteering) have had to be cancelled or redesigned. This caused great disappointment throughout the Regiment especially to those who still had bounty obligations to fulfil. Fortunately during any crisis there always appears to be a saviour who comes to the rescue. In the case of those who could not fulfil their full bounty commitment, it came in the shape of the CO, **Lt Col Stephen Potter** who used his discretionary powers to good effect and certified those deserving cases efficient. Interestingly we have it on good authority that the CO decided to make his announcement on Friday 16 March. This came as something of a relief to at least 15% of the Regiment who, up until that point, had watched the prospect of receiving their increased bounty on time fade on a daily basis. This thoughtful and charitable initiative had the immediate effect of improving morale at the stroke of a pen. Now all we have to do is to use our deftness and resourcefulness to generate some interesting activities and adapt to the interruption to our training cycle, which is likely to continue for the next few months at least. We do take consolation in the knowledge however, that although our opportunities to train outside of barracks are temporarily restricted, spirits throughout the Regiment remain high and at least we are still open for business!

EXERCISE SPRING EAGLE

Although bad news generally comes in threes more good news followed the CO's bounty decision. Only this time it came courtesy of HQ 143 Brigade who granted the Regiment a dispensation that allowed a limited deployment of comms assets to RAF Stafford for Ex Spring Eagle during the weekend 24/25 March. Considering that this was likely to be the only field commex before our Annual Camp in June it took on a greater level of importance, as far as the development of comms skills was concerned. Thankfully, RAF Stafford provided the real estate that would accommodate a Regimental Concentration, which allowed some useful comms training, SOP procedural training and equipment testing to take place, culminating in a plug up exercise.

The RAO planning his next move with Cpl Tony Blakemore

The weekend also offered an opportunity to see what the other half gets up to with a useful cross trade training programme designed and executed by the Regimental YofS, **WO2 Phil Tonks**. This included a presentation by the LAD on the difficulties they face cm a daily basis both in barracks and in the field, which proved to be one of the highlights of the weekend. Our fortunate CFT exemptions were also expecting a run round the airfield but much to their relief the area proved unsuitable as a CFT circuit - but at least they showed willing. The Regimental support elements were also out in force. **WO2 Mick Kearney** and his team did not disappoint with their unique skills at turning compo into compost -joking apart we all fed well during the weekend and the Pizza made by **SSgt Paul Holland**, ably assisted by **Cpl Steph Gibbons** was excellent. It was also good to see the RAO, **Capt John Middler** and his small team composed of **Cpl Tony Blakemore** and **Avril Forsyth**.

Cpl Sian Taylor ready to start the plug up exercise

They were busy trying to put the RAO BSV together to make it operational, but quite literally lacked the power to do so because the Regimental Technical element got their first! Teamwork throughout the exercise was quite apparent as **Sig Cezarina Riley** of 58 Sqn would not deny.

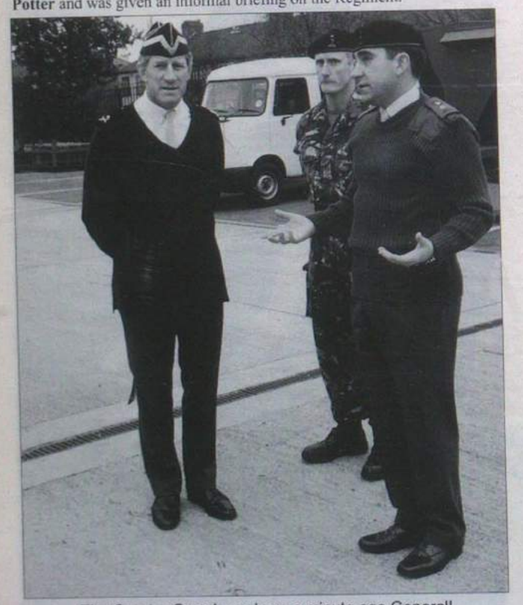
Reversal of Fortunes - Sig Cezarina Riley with mug of tea watching Sgt John Scott doing all the work!

She spent most of Saturday being mesmerised by **Sgt John Scott** also of 58 doing all the work, but in consolation she did offer him a sip of her tea! Altogether it was a successful weekend that achieved a number of useful continuation training objectives, not least getting us out of barracks against all odds. It has to be said that attendance was relatively high despite the fact that the weekend coincided with Mothers Day and some obscure International. The prospect of losing an hours sleep with the arrival of British Time also did not put many off attending the weekend, but it did leave **WO2 Kev Robinson** somewhat perplexed with his Guard Roster, especially as three bright sparks insisted on leaving their stag an hour early!

The smile that says it all!

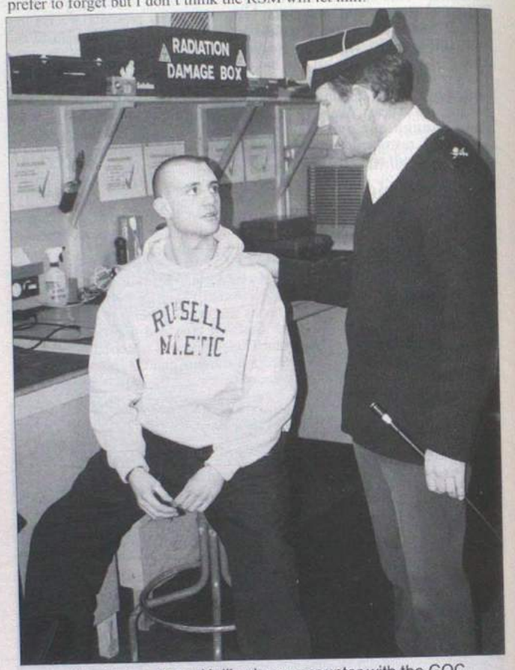
VISIT OF GOC 5 DIVISION

On Tuesday 21 February the Regiment was delighted to receive the inaugural visit of GOC 5 Div, **Maj Gen A. G. Denaro CBE** accompanied by his ADC. The GOC was met by the CO, **Lt Col Stephen Potter** and was given an informal briefing on the Regiment.



The Quarter Guard was here a minute ago General!

Following the briefing, the GOC was given a grand tour around all facilities in Canley. Here he was introduced to all departments and freely chatted to the Chief Clerk, **WO2 John Watson** and his civilian Admin Asst, **Miss Lindsay Cain**. In the QM Dept he had a humorous encounter with **SSgt Mike Nixon** who, if my memory serves me right, declared himself to the oldest surviving NRPS! Following a brief discussion with the QM and after sharing one or two war stories the GOC moved on to Mike Troop Comd where he was met and escorted by **SSgt (FofS) Steve Brown**. Another memorable encounter occurred during this stage of the visit that **Sig** 'I was super-glued to my chair' **Parry-Hall** would probably prefer to forget but I don't think the RSM will let him!



Sig Simon Parry-Hall's close encounter with the GOC

The Grand tour of the facilities ended with a visit to the LAD and MT where the GOC was met and escorted by the MTWO, **WO1 Mick Doherty** who took the opportunity to reinforce the CO's message that the lack of space at Canley was a major problem. After a short break, the GOC then joined all available Permanent Staff in the Sergeants' Mess. Here he presented the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military) to a very proud **Cpl Wayne Hunt** who is to be congratulated on receiving this distinctive award for completing more than 15 years irreproachable service.

The GOC pictured with Cpl Wayne Hunt

The GOC then presented the 5 Div Sports Trophy in recognition of the Regiments outstanding sporting achievements and successes to a delighted **Capt John Middler**. This successful and notable visit drew to an end with the GOC joining all ranks for lunch before returning to Shrewsbury.

The GOC presents Capt John Middler with the 5 Div Sports Trophy

TERRITORIAL ARMY DAY

The need to engage in effective recruiting because it is vital to our future as well as our ability to remain operational remains a constant but achievable objective. We are also conscious and recognise that increasing public awareness of the TA is a vital step to recruiting new blood. It was therefore refreshing to see key messages being reinforced for the Spring Recruiting campaign as well as the TA Day, which took place on Saturday 31 March. The new Regimental Directive also gave us a timely reminder of our responsibilities towards effective recruiting and the importance of maintaining an inflow as well as encouraging retention by remaining active. It was with these convictions that we viewed this year's TA Open Day with a mixture of confident expectation and foreboding. While we were confident that our initiatives this year would be more successful than last year when attendance was low, our natural fear was that we would fail to entice our target age group to come along and see us. So far, our fears appear to be unfounded, as a fairly hopeful turnaround seems to have occurred. As well as opening our doors to the public, we were also active in many town centres right amongst the population. Subsequently by adopting a more active and robust approach outside the confines of the TA Centre (short of press-gangs you understand) we attracted scores of inquiries and genuine interest.

Out and about amongst the local community

Having said that, on reflection, our excursions into one or two local pubs during lunchtime was not such a good idea, as **Sig Phillipa Holt** would testify! The early indications are however, promising, and judging by the number of potential recruits appearing on Training Nights, we are beginning to reap the dividends of a more enterprising approach to recruiting. We are now quietly confident of reaching the CO's recruiting targets - now I just need to brush up on the attestation process.

The kids are all right
The RSM with his children in Rugby's town centre

NEWS IN BRIEF

As usual, one or two changes have taken place and we have recently welcomed to the Regiment, **SSgt Terry Davies** to 95 Sqn and **Cpl Jason Craddock** to 58 Sqn. We wish them both a pleasant and rewarding tour with the Regiment and their respective Squadrons. Sadly we have also said farewell to the OC LAD, **Maj Jim Taylor** but happily have welcomed him back immediately as PSAO of HQ Sqn. Many congratulations **Jim** on your recent selection for the post. Finally, special congratulations are extended to **Sgt 'DB' De burgh** on his selection to Staff Sergeant.

36th (EASTERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col W. D. L. Brown TD**
RSM **WO1 Dougie Eaglesham**

SNCO CADRE COURSE
(17 – 18 FEBRUARY/17 – 18 MARCH 2001)

Scribed By Cpl Price, 45 Sqn (Top Student)

It is a cold, wet February night at West Tofts Camp, STANTA Training Area. Twelve potential SNCO's, the 'elite' of the Regiment, stand in a car park wondering what fiendish, devilish tasks ahead of them. Not allowing time for a Dry Martini the RSM, **WO1 Eaglesham**, summoned us to our first briefing. On completion of the brief the RSM asked the question 'Is anyone nervous or unsure of what is expected of them on this course?' A wry smile appeared on his face as 12 shaky hands were gingerly raised in the air. It was now time for the dreaded entrance exam and, expecting the comforting warmth of a classroom, we were then led as a course into an area reminiscent of a pathology lab (minus the corpses and surgical equipment). Vacant expressions were the order of the day when we were presented with the test papers. The second phase shortly followed, elbows on desk, head in hands and total concentration. For some this lasted for the duration of the whole test! Following a comfortable nights sleep we were then tutored on the requirements and responsibilities of SNCO's within the

Regiment. All were obviously happy with their expectations of the course as no bags were packed and no one absconded during the night! On the Saturday morning we began the BCFT (TA). Under the watchful eye of PTI **LCpl McKintosh** and all the Cadre DS, we embarked on a precision timed exercise to coincide with the visit of the Commander 11 Sig Bde, **Brig Le Gallais**. The Brigadier was to be in position at the finish line just prior to the squad's arrival. Although this was carried out with the subtlety of an inner city train in a shunting yard, eventually perfect timing prevailed. Full of confidence and fixing war faces, we rounded the final bend verbally encouraged by the DS and reached the 6km mark. Instead of the Bde Comd however, we were met by **SSgt** 'Jim' **Pollitt** and his mobile tuck shop, touting for business! All was not lost as the Brigadier soon arrived on the scene and had a relaxed, informal chat whist we carried out our warm down exercises. Evening entertainment consisted of a night navigation exercise in vehicles. After plotting our route from a map and writing a 'detailed' route card we were stunned to have our maps taken away from us. This meant that we would have to cover the full 25km course (some of it off road) relying completely on our own written route cards. Some groups were crying as we left the start point! The exercise turned out to be success with most groups' getting back within the allotted time. Unfortunately a search and rescue team had to be sent out to retrieve **Cpl** 'Pathfinder' **Roberts**. We were all very sympathetic to his defective compass story! Following further various tests, we bid our farewells and retreated to the comforts of our own homes.

Weekend Two started familiarly with an equally cold and wet March Friday night. Due Foot and Mouth our supposed field exercise at STANTA was substituted with a weekend at Colchester TAC. Unfortunately the best-laid plans of **SSgt** 'Hopalong' **McGachy** and **Sgt** 'Tosh' **Hodgskins** had fallen apart. The two PSI's were both obviously disappointed that their 'World War 2' re-enactment exercise had had to be binned and had been replaced with Leadership, Initiative and Management Training. We were rudely woken at 0330hrs, given a full cooked breakfast and had our wallets removed for 'safe keeping'. We were then herded into the TAC bar and the need for a £10 note, notebook, watch, ID Card and mobile phone became apparent. The course was broken down into groups of 2 or 3 and loaded onto a minibus before being dropped off at various points around the M25 by **Cpl Martin Woollard** and **LCpl** 'JR Hartley' **Hazleton.** Exercise Great Escape had begun…(More reports of this exercise in the next issue of *The WIRE*). Sixteen hours later we were all seated in a classroom awaiting the start of our next task. Under the watchful eye of the course DS we needed to produce a written appreciation of survival at sea in a life raft, with limitations! Familiar posture followed i.e. elbows on tables, head in hands and total concentration. This continued for the next 2 hours. On completion the summary was interrupted by **Cpl** 'Darren' **Wilson** and **Sgt** 'Tosh' **Hodgskins** fervently championing the virtues of navigation by sextant and the possible evolution of a transistor radio to a transmitter. Sunday saw the start of the final exam, usual posture adopted but surprisingly good results achieved by all.

Sig Robinson, Top Student on the Junior Cadre Course, is presented with his certificate and first tape by the CO

The CO, **Lt Col Brown,** presented our well-earned course certificates and this treasured moment was (hopefully) captured on film. Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Tex' **Bennett** who started the course as a Lance Corporal and endured friendly ribbing from the rest of us for both weekends. Unfortunately, modesty prevents me from congratulating the Course Top Student!

ORGANISING A FUND RAISING EVENT?
WHY NOT PUBLICISE IT IN THE WIRE?
WRITE AND LET US KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING

'Ooooooooohhh don't sir, it tickle's — LCpl Bennett receives his Corporal's stripes from the CO

A big shout from all the SNCO Cadre students to **SSgt** 'Gerry' **McGachy** and **Sgt** 'Tosh' **Hodgskins** for organising a superb, constructive weekend at such short notice, and for providing dynamic, interesting training throughout the entire course.

Cpl Rob Price recieves his richly deserved Top Student award from the CO. A pensive looking SVWO, WO1 Les Scott, looks on and wonders if Rob has been practicing that very special smile

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON - ILFORD

Sqn Comd **Maj Pete Minshall TD**
SSM **WO2 Terry Butler BBC**

The Regiment, and HQ Squadron in particular, has been especially busy since our last entry in *The WIRE*. We entered the New Year and Exercise season in good heart - the Squadron has come a long way in the last two years, and continues to make progress. We have had an extremely hectic time of late, and it seems that every weekend revolves around some form of training; Comms Exercises, Regimental Centralised Trade Training, Squadron ITD's or recruiting activities, you name it we've done it. We are now into the throes of PRE preparation, and the QM, **Maj Phil Daisey,** has found his usual large stock of paint, brushes and rags to keep the troops fully employed.

Our recruiting has been going very well - we are now a regular feature in local town centres during weekends, and have recently participated in a very successful Job Fair at a local Further Education College. This visit prompted 24 firm enquiries, of which three are now well into the documentation and selection process, with a number of others hard on their heels. We are, however, never complacent and our next major effort will be the TA Open Day on 31 March, when we will be hosting a targetted audience of local MP's, Councillors and major local employers, in addition to the normal displays in the Town Centre and TA Centre – more news about this in the next issue. The Squadron has had one or two departures; **Sgt John Kelly** leaves us for 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt where he intends to be the best damn PSI in their Training Wing (sorry for stitching you up, John, but you deserve it!!). **Sig E Hall** has left the TA for the delights of the regular RAF, and has been well briefed on marching sideways.

Op Pennywort has impacted on Squadronn Training over the last few weeks, and because we have been confined to the TA Centre there has been no chance to improve the 2IC's navigation skills (which may not be a bad thing). The MTWO, **WO2 Steve Kentish**, has also been pining for the great outdoors – he thoroughly enjoys 'terrorising' our young drivers on his notorious, and exhilarating, cross country driving weekends. The last weekend of this ilk provided excellent training opportunities for the REME Recovery Mechanics, whilst at the same time demonstrating the excellent off road, off track, (and then into holes) driving skills of the majority of our team – or perhaps not! We look forward to more of the same, and are now trying to devise new and innovative training which makes the most of the limited resources in Ilford TAC. 'Appreciation' takes on a whole new meaning when the Ground consists of the Sports field and back gardens of our neighbours; we now *appreciate* STANTA that little bit more.

The Squadron has had recent cause to be extremely proud of two of its soldiers. The Lord Lieutenant's Certificate, which was awarded to **WO2 (SSM) Terry Butler**, is bestowed to exceptional individuals whose long and meritorious service and personal contribution to the Reserve Forces is of major significance and deserving of recognition. The Burberry Trophy, which was awarded to **Cpl Micheal Egonjobi**, recognises an individuals outstanding achievement over a 12 month period, or one particular event which has not already been recognised by any military or civilian award. **Field Marshall Sir John Chapple GCB CBE DL, The Lord Lieutenant of London**, presented the awards at a reception held at the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea on Wednesday 7 March 2001, and the paragraphs and pictures that follow outline the soldiers' achievements in detail.

LORD LIEUTENANT OF LONDON'S CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

WO2 (SSM) Terry Butler joined the Territorial Army in 1979, initially serving with the 10th Battalion the Parachute Regiment before moving to HQ Squadron, 36 Signal Regiment, in 1998. Employed by Fords at Dagenham, he has been a successful leader and mentor for his contemporaries and juniors, and instrumental in building up a new troop at the Ilford TA Centre. **Mr Butler** is a mature, experienced soldier who epitomises all the best qualities of a Volunteer. Reliable, punctual and an excellent SNCO he displays all of the military qualities of leadership, example, tolerance and management expected, though rarely demonstrated, of an individual of his advanced years and experience. He has made the transition from an infantry, parachute orientated, background to a more technical environment with ease, and has fitted into the Squadron and the Regiment extremely well. The Squadrons recent surprise success in the Mountvoy Trophy was due, in no small part, to **WO2 Butlers** motivational powers and training skills, and he continues to lead from the front as the new Squadron Sergeant Major.

WO2 (SSM) Terry Butler receiving his certificate from Field Marshall Sir John Chapple GCB CBE DL

THE BURBERRY TROPHY WINNER
CPL MICHAEL EGONJOBI

An Electrician Driver, **Cpl Michael Egonjobi** has been with the TA in Ilford since 1994, and is an Information Technology Engineer in a Further Education College in North London in civilian life. **Cpl Egonjobi** has had an outstanding year during which time he has been tested to his limits and beyond, and has not been found wanting in any respect. The last twelve months has seen him coming top of his upgrading course at Blandford, and he has recently passed the Regimental SNCO cadre course. He is an inspiration to others and has performed to the highest tenets of the Volunteer ethos.

Cpl Egonjobi recieves the Burberry Trophy and commemorative cup from Field Marshall Sir John Chapple GCB CBE DL

(L-R): Cpl Egonjobi, Maj Pete Minshall TD (who always makes the picture), Lord Lieutenant and WO2 (SSM) Butler
Question:
Is it just me, or do the FM and SSM share the same gene pool??

Continuing on the personal development theme, **Sig Jamie Pemberton** achieved an A Grading on his MT Accounts Course and **LCpl Sarah Hall** shocked the Squadron and herself by not only passing her Corporals Course, but actually doing rather well and gaining a B Grade – congratulations to both soldiers on achieving excellent results on external courses. Other praiseworthy achievements are **Pte Johnnie Walker** (the oldest, but newest, clerk in the world) passing his TA Recruits Course and Class 3/2 Mil Clerks Course in succesive months and **Sig Kim Mann**, having taken her Radio Systems Op Class 3 at Annual Camp, decided to top it up and pass her Recruits Course.

The Squadron heirarchy stumbles on. **Maj Peter** 'Dashing Major' **Minshall TD** still thinks that he is a Sergeant Major rather than the OC, and booms and b*****cks with equal vigour. **Capt Gordon** (QM(V)) 'I'm the Messing Officer' **Shelley** is currently learning how to use a knife and fork on his Squadron Commanders Course - perhaps they will show him how to navigate on Weekend Exercises as well! The QM, **Maj Phil Daisey** is due to retire from the Army in August after many years of undetected crime, and he will be succeeded by **Capt Geoff Woodcock** (of Corps RSM fame); little does he know what he is letting himself in for. The RQMS (R), **WO2 Steve Russell** has pulled 'The Badge' and is due to move on promotion to RSM of 32 Sig Regt (V) in April - just as we were getting used to him. He is obviously the first Yorkshire Scottish RSM! Our congratulations go with him. The SSM, **WO2 Tony Wells**, is to retire from the TA in April after reaching his sell-by-date. **Tony**, who has served with 39 Sig Regt as well as this Regiment, is now angling for a post with the London District Recruiting Team in order to stay in uniform - we wish him luck. He is to be succeeded as SSM by **WO2 Terry Butler** - oh dear, 'The Blue Wings of Glory' will really be flying the Squadron now! Our long serving (he says long suffering) SQMS, **SSgt Bill King** is due to retire in May 2001, after 20 glorious years in post, which followed two years as a PSI with the Squadron, and a full Regular career. You can tell that he is reaching retirement age, he is going grey, his figure has filled out, he is slowing down in speech and has to be helped on and off the badminton court after each game. **Bill** is to start a third career at age 60 with a Watch and Clock maker near his home; we are all wondering what sort of time piece he used during his Regular and NRPS career, it was obviously faulty, as he was always on time. **Bill** has been a stalwart of the Squadron since the PSAO was in short trousers (he's still young) and has seen generations of Volunteers (and QM's) come and go, and after providing such an excellent 'Q' service to the Sqn and the Regiment he will be a hard act to follow.

REGIMENTAL GOLFING SOCIETY

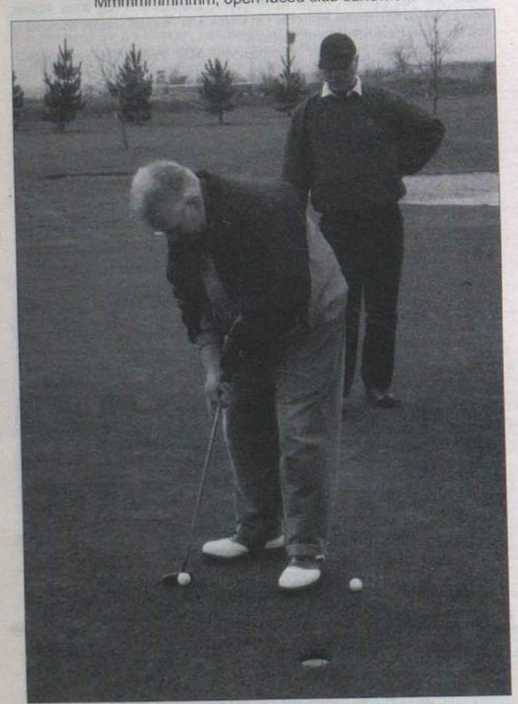
It's the first outing of the year, it's Brett Vale GC near Colchester, and it's crazy Golf again! **Maj Phil** 'I've got new clubs' **Daisey** scores a nett one on the Par 4 fifth hole; what a star - but there's better to come. **Maj Dave** 'You can't cut me' **Watson** drives a full inch off the ninth and still scores a point – 'Oh, but we can cut you, Bandito.'

Fast greens and good fairways saw some very good scores, with **Capt Rod Allen** taking the category 1 with 38 points and **Capt Len Carr** sneaking off with category 2 after scoring 35 points. The two nearest the pin winners were **SSgt** (now WO2) **Martin Wright** and **Maj Dave Watson**.

IF DIGITAL PHOTOS ARE SENT THEY MUST BE SAVED AT A MINIMUM OF 400dpi COLOUR PHOTOS. IF THEY ARE ANYTHING LESS THAN THIS THEY WILL NOT BE USED. SENDING A PRINT OF A DIGITAL PHOTO IS NO GOOD!

The RSM, **WO1 Dougie Eaglesham**, spent some time taking photographs around the eighteenth green, bringing shouts of slow play as, yes, you've guessed it, **Maj Dave Watson** struggled hard to put himself into posing mode. All in all, this was a very good start to the season, and we continue to lay down the single leather gauntlet to all comers (Training Programme permitting, of course).

SSgt Ron Russell (in the background)
I suggest you use an open faced club. A sand wedge perhaps?
Maj Dave Watson (foreground)
Mmmmmmmm, open-faced club sandwich!



Maj(QM)Phil Daisey, the wily old dog, uses all his experience as he magically produces a second ball from his trouser leg at the final hole

44 (CINQUE PORTS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
SOUTHEND & GREYS

Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Baker**
SSM **WO2 Neal Fawsett**

It has been a busy time for the Squadron, with PRE on the horizon and the introduction of RPIT, the PSAO attending an early learning course on computers and farewells and goodbyes, and, more importantly, nobody putting themselves up to write the Wire Notes. I therefore find myself jiffed to put pen to paper, so to that end……..

Farewells and Goodbyes - The Squadron sadly says goodbye to our old SPSI, **SSgt Anita Smith**, who leaves for the more exotic posting of 30 Signal Regiment – we wish her well and hope she manages to get on all the sailing courses she desires (although there can't be many more that she needs before being qualified to drive the QE2). We also say bye, for a short time, to **LCpl Keirsty Shaw** who goes on yet another FTRS deployment, this time to BATUS (Don't forget the postcards, **Keirsty**). We welcome **SSgt Craig Marlowe** who joins the Squadron from 15 Signal Regiment and assumes the role of SPSI; we wish him well for his tour. We also welcome back from her FTRS 'Job' **Sgt Sally Hewson** – back to the real world now, **Sally**! That's all from the Squadron for this issue, but I am sure that next time around there will be a huge contribution, as the task has been delegated to some young officers (Basically, don't hold your breath). The last comment is directed towards HQ Squadron – start polishing that trophy, because the Mountvoy is ours this year!

45 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) – COLCHESTER & WARLEY
Scribed by Sig 'Jim' Crouch

Sqn Comd **Maj Mike White**
SSM **WO2 Louise Walker**

Time and tide stops for no man, and it is with great regret that we say farewell and adieu to the old Officer Commanding, **Maj Bill Shirley**, who leaves us on a free transfer to RHQ. It is fair to say that throughout the Squadrons long and distinguised history, we have seen nothing like his razor sharp wit, immaculate dress sense and dutiful sense of punctuality. Hang on, that last sentence needs to be rephrased…….. Our sincere best wishes go out to him. The king is dead, long live the king, and so it is that we welcome the new OC, **Maj Mike White**, after his long exile to RHQ as Ops Officer. One of the new and exciting changes that the OC is advocating is for port and champagne to be available on tap during the consolidated training weekends - a radical idea from a radical man, I'm sure you'd all agree.

GENERAL

Warley TAC is 45 Sig Sqn's poor and often forgotten cousin, and now consists of one EAN, which of course is the fantastic 551. The centre commander is **WO2 Groves**, known affectionately as **Kev**, **Grumps**, **Boss**, and very occasionally **Sir**. We were recently joined by a new SPSI, **SSgt Gerry McGachy**. A fine and outstanding soldier with a great career behind him (Gorbals, Bosnia and Gulf, to name but a few, we've all seen the paper cuttings)!!. In charge of recruiting is **SSgt Stu Bancroft,** another seasoned veteran who must have had a hard paper round. We do have some younger members, honest. Next on the roll of honour is troop SNCO **Sgt Andy Gladman**, our own semi- tame traffic cop. Stores are administered by our own mafiosi **Cpl Benito Cook**, and keeping the Mux running like a well oiled machine are **LCpl Justine Putnam** (and 'Lucas' her Siamese twin), and **Sigs Alison Oddy, Lorna Scotch Stuart** (Get a round in !) and **Shirley Andrews**. **Shirley** also makes sure that our resident Liney, **Lee**, dries behind his ears at all times as he is her little brother. On a power trip at Warley are **LCpl Debbie Harrigan**, who braved sniper alley in Basildon and walked the slightly safer ones in Sarajevo as well, and **LCpl Kev Urand** our second copper. Head of Relay is the sylph like **LCpl** 'Titch' **Titchmarsh**, Det Commanders are **LCpl Matt Joyce**, and **Sig Crouch.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **SSgt Dacre Barwick**, mmm nice shiny new crown, and **Sgt Kev Elliott** on his third – it was the only way we could get rid of him, only joking **Kev**, well done guys!

EXERCISE SPRING EAGLE

Now to Exercise Spring Eagle, or Spring Roll, Spring Onion, Spring Chicken, we heard them all. Those valiant battlers braved another fine spring weekend (Yeah right !) to do the signalling thing. In spite of floods, cold weather, Op Pennywort, and Dets full of regular Technicians, comms were established regardless. This was mainly due to para-cording **LCpl** 'Titch' **Titchmarsh** to the free standing mast (Is that why it fell over ?), preventing that all encompassing 'With all due respect Sergeant……'.

RECRUITING

SSgt Stu Bancroft is looking forward to getting his hands on lots of new recruits on the national T.A. day - he's good at that (with all due respect Stu)!!. We also aim to deploy our cordon bleu sloppy, **LCpl Ian Molineaux;** compo aux naturel can be fun, a first aid team will be standing by ! If all else fails, is press ganging still legal?

PRESENTATION OF THE VOLUNTEER RESERVES SERVICE MEDAL

The Squadron had the honour of being visited by **Col Davenport** (Deputy Commander 11 Sig Bde) on 22 February, and he kindly accepted our invitation to present the VRSM to **Sgt Rosemary Prince**, who joined the TA in september 1989. A technician by trade, **Sgt Prince** is a keen and successful sportswoman who has been a member of the winning team in the Divisional Orienteering championships on no less than four separate occasions. Dedicated and committed, **Sgt Prince** is a classic example of the archetypal TA soldier, and the award that **Col Davenport** presented to her was richly deserved.

The registered Domain Name for the Beverley Boys' Archive - beverleyboysarchive.co.uk

Sgt Prince with Colonel Davenport, immediately after the presentation

REGIMENTAL SENIOR CADRE COURSE
A PSI'S PERSPECTIVE
Scribed by Sgt 'Tosh' Hodgskins (Senior Instructor)

Having been a military training instructor for some six years now, I wasn't unusually bothered when **SSgt** 'Gerry' **McGachy** breezed into my office some time last November to inform me that we had been selected to run a Regimental Cadre Course. Over the next few months I came to realise just how easy it is at the 'sharp' end. Standing in front of a class of students imparting the information is the easy bit of being an instructor. The real skill is in the preparation of a course, making sure that all of the T.O.'s are met, finding instructors and equipment and generally tying it all together. In the months that followed we planned, replanned and then planned it all again until finally we had a workable programme, all the equipment we required, and a handful of instructors to play with. All we needed now were the students! After an initially slow start names started to come in and the course was finally loaded with seven senior Corporals (and one Lance Corporal) selected from within the Regiment. In addition to a number of mandatory entrance tests (including a written exam, BCFT (TA), and Weapon Handling Tests), the first weekend of training consisted of a number of 'theory' lessons designed to increase awareness of the responsibilities of a SNCO within the Regiment. **WO2 SSM Louise Walker** conducted the first lesson in 'The Sgts Mess', which was met with a great deal of enthusiasm (someone's obviously been telling stories)!

Sgt Hodgskins in full flow; Cpl Egonjobi and Sig Himsworth look on, obviously enthralled

The first weekend seemed to go really fast (which is more than can be said for **Cpls Roberts** and **Wilson** on the night navigation) and before I knew it the students were giving presentations themselves and we were packing up to come home. Weekend 2 was my territory! The idea was to combine the SNCO's and JNCO's Cadre Courses' and take them out for 48hrs in a field environment assessing the students in an infantry environment. Plans and recce's were conducted, enemy troops briefed and an exercise the likes of which hasn't been seen since the Dunkirk landings was ready to go…….

I got out of bed to the news that there had been an outbreak of something called 'Foot & Mouth'. As my parents hadn't even thought of having me back in 1967 the full implications of the disease weren't apparent to me until later that week when a slightly 'older' member of the staff (name withheld to protect the aged) pointed out to me that STANTA was likely to be closed down for the foreseeable future. Range control at the time would not even let me book a SAT range for fear of spreading the disease! So now I had a total of 17 students and nowhere to take them! Once again I shuffled paper, rang the RSM a lot and generally cried when no one else was looking until I hit upon Plan B. Bearing in mind that Training Area's were now closing daily, it was obvious that we would not be able to test the students in a field environment and therefore Weekend 2 was designed to support the overall Cadre Aim. Namely, 'to develop our JNCO's in order to prepare them for their future roles as SNCO's (& JNCO's) within the Regiment'. Weekend 2 took the form of Leadership and Management Training. After an initial insight into Written Appreciations the students were packed off to bed for the night (all 3 1/2 hours of it)! At 0330hrs I was met by 17 bleary eyed, bad tempered NCO's who, by now, were demanding to be told what was going on. Tempers didn't improve as we took their wallets away, split them into pairs, and thrust a task sheet into their shaking hands. The groups were then led outside in the pouring rain and loaded into minibuses. Exercise Great Escape had begun!

Cfn Nichols demonstrates the Immediate Action Drill adopted by the REME when no NAAFI breaks have been forthcoming for some time
'All together now' I'm a little teapot, short and stout ...'

12 hours later, with all groups safely back at Colchester, it was time to look back on what had been achieved. All the groups had done well with the majority of the tasks being completed in some way or form. Special mention must go to **L/Cpl** 'Tex' **Bennett** and his partner **Sig Everitt** who walked for three miles in the pouring rain from their drop off point before being picked up by the tailor to the House of Commons and taken for tea and cakes! **Cpl 'Cookie' Cook** spent the morning sitting at the studios of Channel 4 filling his face with free cakes, waiting for the arrival of a celebrity. Although he didn't manage to complete as many tasks as some of the other groups he reckons he had a much better day than most. That night the students attempted a 2-hour written appreciation; all appeared to be going well until an hour and a quarter into the exam **Cpl Roberts** sighed, shook his head and ripped up his work. Apparently he'd talked himself into a plan that couldn't possibly work! Later that night as I sat marking 17 written papers, I have to admit I was stunned by the standard of work that had been produced by the students. I lost count of the number of A grades I was forced to award!

The final morning consisted of more written exams, and a lesson on patrol harbours. The arrival of the CO indicated the end of training for the day and the Cadre paraded in the drill hall to receive the CO's address and collect a well-earned certificate of course completion. After two promotions, **LCpl** 'Tex' **Bennet** to Corporal, and **Sig** 'Robbo' **Robinson** to Lance Corporal after coming top on the Junior cadre course, the award for Top Student on the SNCO's Cadre was awarded to **Cpl** 'Rob' **Price** and the course then dispersed to their respective TACs. In summary, we managed to achieve the original aim set to us by the RSM and this was evident in the results of the final written examination. All that remains to be seen now is if the NCO's concerned can take what they have learnt and apply it in the workplace. It has to be said that the pre-conceived idea held by many regular soldiers that the TA is a waste of time could not be more wrong. Every soldier who attended the cadre was enthusiastic, confident, and a pleasure to instruct. I am in no doubt in my mind that those who passed the 36 Signal Regiment Cadre Courses' are equal to their peers in the regular Army.

DON'T BE DISSAPPOINTED
COPY FOR
THE AUGUST ISSUE
MUST
REACH THIS OFFICE BY
15 JUNE 2001

The combined cadre course
Back Row (L-R): LCpl Bennett, Sig Himsworth, Cpl Price, Cpl Roberts, Sig Goodger, Sig Sladden, Cpl Wilson, Cfn Nichols, Sig Scholten
Centre Row (L-R): Sig Robinson, Cpl Cook, Sig Sinclair, ig Szabo, Cpl Griffiths, Cpl Monk, Cpl Egonjobi, Sig Everitt
Front Row (L-R): Sgt Parkinson, SSgt Smith, WO1 (SVWO) Scott, Lt Col Brown TD, SSgt McGachy, Sgt Hodgskins

54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
CAMBRIDGE, BEDFORD & NORWICH
Sqn Comd **Maj Dennis Prince**
SSM **WO2 Martin Wright**

EXERCISE FINAL CHANCE – 02/04 MARCH 2001

Yet another successful weekend was completed by the glorious 54th designed to clear all outstanding ITD's for the current training year and to carry out some much needed maintenance. After the initial welcoming brief and orientation of Cambridge TAC was conducted by **SSgt** 'Gazza' **Sullivan**, the two training modules began, headed up by **Lt Glenn Baker** (maintenance) and **Sgt** 'Del' **Parkinson** (military training). First on the agenda was the range package, and after an impressive mornings shooting it turned out to be **OCdt** 'Rick' **Morley** who came out as top dog with an excellent group size of 35 mm (although he still maintains it was closer to 33 mm) – well done **Ricky**. Battlefield First Aid, conducted under the expert instruction of **Sgt** 'Jo' **Outlaw** and **Cpl** 'Daz' **Wilson,** was the first activity of the afternoon, and this was closely followed by the TACFT under the direction of our resident PTI, **Sgt Kev King** was ably assisted by his two beautiful assistants, **Gaz** and **Del**. On Saturday evening a combined Officers and WO's & Sgts Mess function was held to dine in our OC Squadron, **Maj Dennis Prince** (only a year late, but hey, better late than never sir), and to say farewell to our old Squadron Scarey Monster, **WO1 (SVWO) Les Scott** who is leaving us on promotion, and will be greatly missed. A good night was had by all. Finally, congratulations go to **Davey** 'Get Some' **Dewart** on his well deserved promotion to Lance Corporal.

KILIMANJARO – 'It's attitude, not altitude, that's the problem!'
by our roving travel correspondent, SSgt Gaz Sullivan

As the SPSI of 54 (EA) Sig Sqn (V), I was delighted to receive an invitation from **Cpl Eddie Allen** (a member of the Squadron) to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in Eastern Africa. After toying with the idea for at least five minutes, I found myself on a plane, at the start of February, heading for Johannesburg. On arrival in Jo'burg we finalised preparations on our equipment, and on 2 February our small team of three (the other participant being **Luis Chin**, a work friend of **Cpl Allen)** flew to Tanzania. At Kilimanjaro International Airport we all boarded a bus for the one hour drive to our hotel. Some locals call this 'the drive from hell' and we soon found out why – Tanzania has a definite lack of tarmac in many places. Shaken but not stirred, we finally arrived at the Keys Hotel. After settling into our mud huts everyone received a briefing in broken English (which was handy, because I can only think in broken English) as to what would happen over the next few days. We then had supper and a few local beers to toast the mountain and finally, after a long day, hit the sack.

At approximately 0230 hrs I was awoken by 633 Mosquito Squadron who had decided to launch an attack on my head. After a fierce and bloody battle around the mud hut, I admitted defeat and just got used to the idea of being 'chomped'. At 0530hrs we all received an early call and, after breakfast, set off to the Machame checkpoint, where we booked on to the mountain and logged all our details. We then met our head guide and admin team; six porters had been assigned to us, along with one chef, **Roman** our assistant guide and **Peter**, our head guide. All this manpower for an expedition team of only three may seem wasteful, but as time went by their experience and knowledge of the mountain became invaluable, and essential to the success of our venture. There are many ways to ascend the 19,340 ft of Kilimanjaro, which is technically undemanding but physically gruelling, but with the advice of our head guide we opted for the Machame route. This would take five days to ascend and two days to descend, allowing us plenty of time to acclimatise to the increasing altitude.

SSgt Gaz Sullivan and his team working their way to the peak — and this is Africa?

After five days of tabbing over hard terrain whilst the elements conspired against us, we were woken at 0015hrs on 8 February to start the final ascent to the summit of the mountain. We left Barafu Camp (4550mt) and once again headed upwards for what seemed like an eternity. The altitude was affecting all of us, although **Luis** in particular was suffering. **Cpl Eddie Allen** and I decided to continue the ascent with our assistant guide, which gave **Luis** the opportunity to ascend at a much slower rate with **Peter**. We were faced with a 1 in 3 slope that consisted of snow and ice impacted on to scree and which seemed to go on for ever. The higher we went, the harder it became to fill your lungs full of air. As a result this slowed us down and gave us the impression of being drunk, and believe me, readers, I recognise the symptons! At 0530hrs we reached Stella Point (Gillman's Peak) at 5685mt. The sense of relief was enormous, and we stood for a short while gazing across a glacier that was framed, in relief, by the full moon.

Roman, our guide, advised us that sunrise was in one hour and we slowly pushed on to the Uhuru Peak at 5896mt. The temperature was extremely low and we were later advised that, given the severe wind chill, it was recorded at 42 Degrees below freezing. At 0631 hrs we arrived at Uhuru Peak and, in doing so, had reached the summit of the tallest freestanding mountain in the world (two thirds the height of Everest). We stopped and contemplated the view across to Kenya from the rooftop of Africa.

CORPS
DINNER CLUB

IMPORTANT DATES
FOR 2001

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2001
Corps Luncheon North - Catterick

FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2001
Scottish Dinner - Glasgow

For further information contact:
Miss Jo Hewitt
RHQ Royal Signals
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Dorset DT11 8RH
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E-Mail: rhq-rsignals@army.mod.uk
Fax: 01258 482084

A tired but happy SSgt Gaz Sullivan (left) and Cpl Eddie Allen (right) hoist the Squadron standard atop Uhuru Peak

After remaining at the summit for approximately 30 minutes we started our descent back to the camp. This proved to be worse than the climb up in many ways, as the sun was causing the snow and ice to be treacherous. On our 'slide down' we passed **Luis** making a balls out effort to reach Stella Point, and seeing us put him in good spirits. We managed about two hours sleep prior to the next leg of the descent, and soon after we woke were told the bad news that Luis had not reached the summit, though he did manage to get to Stella Point. After about three hours we reached Mweka Camp, and there were a few 'Kilimanjaro' beers drunk in celebration. After supper we bedded down in the tent for our last night on the mountain. After a two and a half hour slog through a mud bath the following morning, we eventually reached our Hotel in style after hi-jacking a lift in a passing Land Cruiser, only to be told that there was no hot water. In true squaddie fashion, this did not deter us from quickly turning ourselves and our kit around, and we were soon in the bar having a final drink with our new found friends that we had met along the way. This was a once in a lifetime trip, and was throroughly enjoyed by all concerned. Unfortunately, **SSgt Gaz Sullivan** never found **Pauline** (Regimental Joke!)

SSgt Gaz Sullivan — Read the book, bought the T shirt, got the certificate and, undoubtedly - Done The Business, oh yes!

37 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col P. J. Grogan**
RSM **WO1 M. Fisher**

67 SQUADRON – *by WO2 Monty Walker*
Sqn Comd **Maj Mal Cooper**
SSM **WO2 Monty Walker**

Firstly my congratulations to **Maj Mal Cooper** on his promotion and taking over as OC Squadron. So, what have we been up to this last two months? 13 January was our belated Christmas Draw. The timing proved popular with a high attendance and an extremely enjoyable night. The following weekend we were out on exercise 'Vixens Outing'. Freezing conditions with snow over the Saturday night tested our endurance somewhat, welcome to 2001! February brought Ex 'Rickshaw Ramble', testing our driving and map reading skills with command tasks thrown in. All good training for our SFOR commitment later in the year. Ex 'Shape Up' was a little more laid back, practising the drill needed for The Freedom of Dudley Parade, Management training and ITD's. A lot of work was put into the weekend. At the end of the month we had a number of Squadron members attending a concentrated trade-training week at Fremington with a good number either attaining or increasing their trade qualifications.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. Riley**
SSM **WO2 G. Frazer**

EXERCISE VIXENS OUTING

After a long Christmas break it was time to blow away the cobwebs and practise field and detachments skills. The Squadron deployed to Nescliffe Training Area for a Regimental Communications exercise with the aim of teaching new members of the Squadron how to be effective in filed conditions. With the saying 'anyone can be uncomfortable' it was decided to set up the eats and sleeps in the derelict ammo bunkers. However, no one took into account that when the temperature drops these bunkers become large freezers. Well the temperature did drop, dramatically and the amount of electric heaters that suddenly appeared tested the output of the generators. The temperature on the Friday evening was recorded at -13 , a tad on the chilly side and everyone was becoming to resemble Michellen Man with the amount of clothing being worn.

Along with the usual admin support it was a great opportunity to carryout on the job training with the NFQ (not fully qualified) members of the squadron under the direction of **Sgt Matt**, 'Have you felt how warm it is in my Landrover?' **Bellamy** and **Sgt Twanny** 'I know nothing' **Borg**. The REME were left to their own devices, re-fitting the winch wagon, they said it was so that it would convert into a workshop, it was becoming to look like a mobile sauna with the amount of heat being extracted. It was a pleasant surprise to wake up to snow covered ground, perhaps to those who stayed in the bunkers, however, **Maj John** 'Where's the wine waiter?' **Duggan** may have disagreed as he decide it was warmer to Bivi out. On End Ex, **LCpl Steve** 'I know the way out of these woods' **Martin** was seen disappearing in the opposite direction to the packet only to reappear a few feet from the line up. The problem was that he was on the other side of the fence at a dead end. Needless to say the Squadron were very supportive and encouraged his task of taking the trailer off to manoeuvre. His co-driver, **Cpl Claire Brain** made a statement that you wouldn't have found a female driver doing something so stupid made no impression at all.

Once again an excellent weekend of constructive training took place to enhance the skills of the squadron, the only problem is that they keep going on FTRS.

The REME adding extra insulation to the Winch Wagon
You wouldn 't believe that it was so cold judging by the lack of clothing, mind there was a lot of 'hot air ' around at the time
(L-R): LCpl Lee Carol. LCpl Steve Walsh, Sgt Glen Draper

A brief moment of sunlight during trade training with the ED s fitting new heads to cables
(L-R): LCpl Mac Mackay, Cpl Claire 'It keeps my head warm' Brain and Sig 'Stu' Swinnerton

LCpl Steve 'Of course I can map read' Martin with Cpl Claire Brain at a dead end of the track. 'How am I going to get out of this,' LCpl Martin wonders?'

FAREWELL TO THE REME PSI

The Squadron said farewell to **SSgt Phill Oliver** who left on promotion to Warrant Officer. His sense of humour and commitment will be missed and he was an excellent ambassador for the REME whilst serving in a Royal Signals Unit.

The CO, Lt Col Grogan (Left) presents SSgt Phil Oliver with a farewell gift

96 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj R. J. Bowden**
SSM **WO2 J. Convery**

EXERCISE FAST MOVER

LCpl John Ryan's lifetime ambition was achieved when an invitation was received to fly with FRADU, who conduct training for interception using Naval ground observers. A day of training started with a weather brief, followed by a video and training session on cockpit drills and safety, with particular attention paid to the ejector (injection **John**?) seat procedures. Then came the flying suit fitting and a helmet check to ensure correct fit and function. Finally another walk through – talk through the ejector seat procedures in a classroom mock up. Unfortunately, storms were hitting the area throughout the day, with very high wind speeds, so flying was out of the question. Luckily, the following day was calm, bright and clear. At 0830hrs two Seahawks took off into a clear blue sky, with **LCpl Ryan** in the second. Then followed a training exercise consisting of one Seahawk being directed in behind the second by orders from ground observers. **LCpl Ryan** stated that the best moments were when he was offered control of his Seahawk at 22500ft and asked to keep the jet in level flight. This he described as 'interesting' and the whole experience as 'Awesome, because other words just can't describe the feelings'. Many thanks go to FRADU and the pilots (especially **Roger**) for a superb experience and realising one soldier's dream of a lifetime. **LCpl John Ryan** is currently serving six months FTRS in Kosovo and has been selected for 97 (SFOR) Signal Squadron (V) who will deploy to Banja Luka in Bosnia late in 2001.

EXPEDITION TO BELIZE

The Squadron was contacted by **Jan Clemons** of Rugby High School for assistance in outfitting members of an expedition to Belize. The expedition was to conduct a survey of wildlife, concentrating on reptiles and amphibians. The Squadron was happy to assist where we could and supplied equipment including wet weather clothing, camping equipment and basic survival supplies.

The expedition travelled to Las Cuevas Research Station in the Cayo district of Belize, until Guatemalan incursionists raided the camp. They then moved to a Forestry Station in the Mountain Pine Ridge called Douglas D'Silva. Here the project work could begin in earnest, and consisted mainly of surveying for lizards and snakes during the day and wading through ponds at night doing amphibian work. Several colonies of Vampire bats and False Vampire bats were also discovered and several surveys were conducted at different times of the day and night. There was also the chance to do a bit of sightseeing. This included a day trip to Caracol, the largest Mayan site in Belize, a visit to Belize City, including the zoo, which is unique in that it houses only animals native to Belize and an overnight stay at Orange Walk.

The final phase of the expedition was the Reef Phase. A water taxi was taken to an island called Caye Caulker, situated in the coral reef off the coast. This reef is the second largest in the world (the Great Barrier Reef in Australia being the biggest) but is also the longest continuous reef in the world. Several trips to different areas of the reef were undertaken, including shark ray alley where there was an opportunity to swim with sharks and stingrays.

EXERCISE LITTLE WARRIOR

Unfortunately, the outbreak of Foot and Mouth resulted in a last minute adjustment of the plans for this weekend. Once a year, the OC, **Maj** 'Badger' **Bowden**, organises an OBUA weekend which is generally open for all members of the Regiment. Due to the Foot and Mouth crisis, the exercise planned for Cellini Village at SENTA was relocated to the TA Centre in Coventry. A number of ITDs had been planned into the scenario for the Exercise, so these were extracted and conducted within the TAC. These included Fitness training, First Aid, Shooting skills and NBCD. Of particular note was the NBCD training conducted by **Cpl** 'Shirley' **Temple** and **Cpl Ade Hillyer.** The Squadron was placed into a scenario based on operations in the vicinity of a chemical processing plant, such as the one in Bohpal, which led to the death of thousands. With this in mind, the Immediate Action and Decontamination drills were carried out with a little more attention to detail, the lessons learned from the NBC Battle Run at Thetford coming to the fore. Of note was **2Lt Mathew Longcake**, who consumed as much Fullers Earth as he applied. The raised levels of skill are the reward of the instructors' imagination in making the subject relevant, interesting and fun – even in a respirator!

38 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNALS REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

SENDING A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD

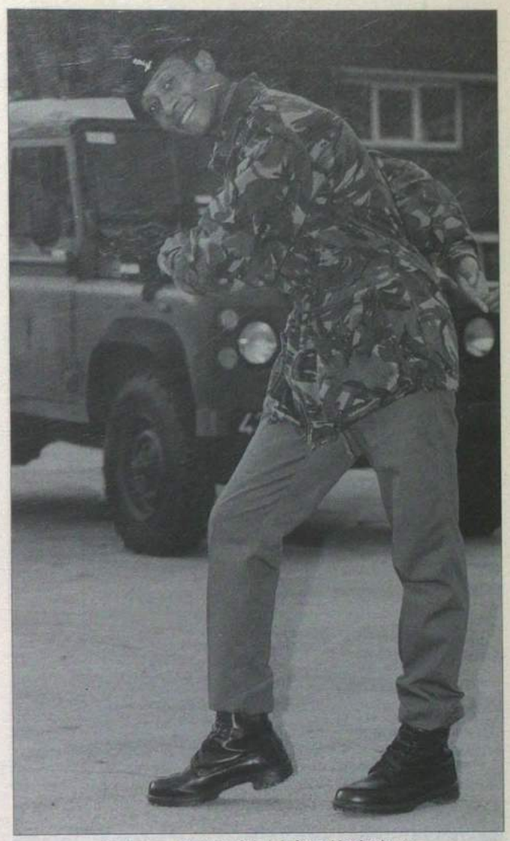
Leicestershire **Sig Jackie Bailey** and her team will be plugging NATO into Europe-wide maneuvers, next month. Top military brass from every nation in the treaty organisation will be waiting to see if 46 Signal Squadron can prove the British Territorial Army's worth. The South Wigston-based part-time soldiers will set up radio links right across Germany, Holland and the UK during the ten-day exercise. Their job will be to help complete the network that will keep soldiers in touch from 11 army divisions drawn from seven countries including the US, Italy and Greece. **Cpl Bailey**, a professional chef, from East Hamilton said, 'This is our regiment's most important deployment in 60 years. We're now an essential part of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) communications system. We must be ready to send fully formed squadrons anywhere in the world in support of NATO operations. We'll be under the microscope on Exercise Arrcade Guard. We aim to put out the message loud and clear that the Territorial Army is ready for action.'

Cpl Bailey said that teams of Signallers would be sailing from Hull and flying out from East Midlands Airport to join the maneuvers, which begin on 17 March. She said that the troops would take 38 Signal Regiment's fleet of 33 lorries and support vehicles. She added that her Regiment were the world leaders in the military use of high frequency computer controlled long distance radio equipment. Because the soldiers' radio system is completely self contained it is more reliable and far less vulnerable to attack than those relying on other infrastructures such as satellite links.

Radio Link Up - Cpl Jackie Bailey

LOOKING FOR AN EDGE

Nottingham's entrepreneurial song and dance man is getting into step with the Territorial Army. Twenty-one-year-old **Challan Sinclair** is already one of Britain's busiest young people. On top of a burgeoning stage career, he owns his own internet company and holds down a high-flying information technology consultancy job. However, he said that there was still one more string he simply had to add to his bow. Today he swapped his sharp business suits and stage clothes for combat green and a rifle. For the next two weeks Triumph Road-based 87 Signal Squadron's newest recruit will be under orders as he learns the soldier's basic skills. **Challan's** career began when he was only 13 years old when he set up his own leaflet distribution business. Before he was 14 he had half his school class on the payroll. By 16 he was making money from market research too. Then his dancing feet led him on stage and at 18 he choreographed and performed in his first show at Caesar's Palace, London. Before long he had also set up his own internet provider firm. His abilities were spotted by Midlands information technology company boss, **Graham Beastall**, who 'head-hunted' **Challan**. The young part-time soldier is now key to his plans to turn his £3 million organisation, Soutron, into a £25 million firm within five years. **Mr Beastall** said: '**Challan** couldn't do better at this stage of his career than to join the Territorial Army (TA). They will help turn him into something exceptional. I need people with the sort of leadership and management skills the army will teach him.' **Challan**, from Nottingham city centre said, 'A lot of young people won't join up because they have a stereotyped view of what the TA is about. Anyone who wants to expand their horizons and get something out of life should try it - it will give them an edge.'



In step — Challan Sinclair from Nottingham

DEADLY ARMS
HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR MORE TROOPS

Guns that caused carnage in Kosovo have added vital urgency to **Sarah Alsop's** drive to recruit more Territorials in Leicestershire. The two Kalashnikov AK47s were among a haul of automatic weapons confiscated in the Balkans by British soldiers. **Sarah** said that the most shocking thing was that many of the lethal automatic rifles were taken from gun-toting children, some as young as ten years old. **Sgt Alsop**, from Loughborough, who serves with the Leicester-based troop of 46 Signal Squadron said, 'We're in the middle of the Territorial Army's (TA) biggest ever recruiting drive. It's climax will be TA Day, on 31March. There will be displays in towns and city centres across the UK, including Leicester. Ten per cent of our troops in the Balkans are part-time soldiers like me on short voluntary tours of duty. Seeing the arms cache really brought home to me the urgent need for us to bring in more recruits. The Balkans is awash with arms. Without NATO'S peace support operations the vicious inter-ethnic killing would quickly flare up again. Without a fully recruited TA, Britain could not keep up her life-saving work in places like Kosovo.' The Russian-made assault rifles were on display at the recently opened East Midlands-based national Reserve Mobilisation Centre. One of the weapons was found hidden in a rubbish skip in the centre of the busy Kosovan capital, Pristina, loaded and ready for action. Another was abandoned in the street by a group of small children who scattered as a British patrol approached. The weapons are part of a growing haul still being recovered from people's homes and hidden stores across the country. All part-time troops bound for operations overseas go through preparations at the centre, in Nottingham, before flying out. Dozens of soldiers from the Leicestershire's five TA bases have already been through the system. Leicester's TA Day display will take place in the Haymarket shopping centre on Saturday, 31 March, between 10am and 4pm. The TA's bases in Brentwood Road, Ulverscroft Road, and in Tigers Road, South Wigston, will also be open .

PLEASE SEND ORIGINAL PHOTOS ONLY

Guns of Kosovo — Sgt Sarah Alsop from Loughborough

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
CO **Lt Col Nigel Harrison MBE**
RSM **WOl (RSM) Colin Milne**
HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Bill Evans TD**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) CliveHowland**

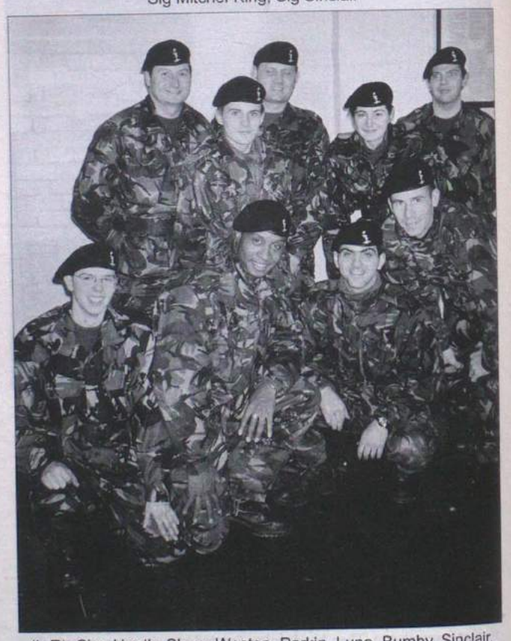
Current members and ex members of Headquarter Squadron were presented with their well deserved medals by the Regimental Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle CB**, on Saturday 10 March 2001 at Manor Top TAC, Sheffield. The presentation was followed by a buffet in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, which was enjoyed by the recipients and their families.

Back Row (L-R): Lt Col N. P. Harrison MBE (CO), Mr A. Austin, Cpl P. Allan, Mr A. Thwaites, Maj Gen A. H. Boyle CB (Hon Col), WO 1 (RSM) C. Milne
Front Row (L-R): Mr E. Hurt, Maj W. F. Evans TD, Mr G. Findlay, Maj J. Ahern TD, Mr L. Tidy
Mr Len Tidy, Mr Grant Findlay and Mr Ted Hurt were awarded the Imperial Service Medal for a combined total of over 96 years Civil Service

87TH (CITY OF NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)
Sqn Comd **Maj David Tomlinson TD**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Vicky Hardy**

The Squadron has now well recovered from the New Year festivities and some are now quietly panicking to ensure that all ITD's are complete. We are entering the BOUNTY zone! Recruiting remains buoyant within the Squadron, we are bringing in some very talented people. The current group is gelling together and enjoying the training! Despite being out in the elements all weekend they were still enthusiastic and full of smiles when they returned to the TA Centre on Sunday night. The mixture of talents within the group is wide, with three students, a teacher, a dancer, an engineer, a cook and last but not least a natural comedian; Sig **Mitchel-King** an ex-regular member of the Parachute Regiment, but it does help if you are mad enough to jump out of serviceable aircraft.

Sig Mitchel-King, Sig Sinclair



(L-R): Sigs Heath, Shaw, Weston, Parkin, Lune, Bumby, Sinclair, Matto, Mitchel-King

To blow away the cobwebs the JRC organised an all ranks function to cheer people up. **Cpls James** 'Baby' **Paton** and **Cpl Kev** 'I'll make that' **Bedford** and the rest of the JRC committee conspired to lay on a Hawaiian evening to brush away the winter blues. In charge of the bar was **SSgt Pete** 'Trust me I'm a Medic' **Wand** who displayed a hidden talent concocting a wide variety of salubrious cocktails! Some required a knife and fork to eat as they had so much fruit in them! He even managed to produce some nonalcoholic cocktails. Large quantity leftovers, free to a good home! The theme for the evening was definitely relaxed as can be seen below, with everyone enjoying dressing up! The OC Squadron, **Maj David Tomlinson**, was dared to wear a hula skirt, however, no photographic evidence has yet come to light. The search goes on.

(L-R): SSgt Newman, George! SSgt Dye, Cpl Bedford, LCpl Magas Kneeling (L-R): Cpl Keay, Cpl Brittain

A first appearance was recently made by our youngest recruit, six month old **Jodie Toft**, with her mother **Helen**, a Corporal CMT RAMC with the Squadron. **Jodie** has close ties with 87 Sig Sqn as her father is **Sgt Craig Toft** the MT Sergeant and her grandfather is **Maj (Ret'd) Ron Toft** a past OC of the Squadron. Only another 17 years to wait. Perhaps we will all have Number 8 dress by then!

EXERCISE ARRCADE GUARD 2001

March 2001 - a Squadron under the command of **Maj David Tomlinson** was trained and ready to deploy in support of 1 Signal Brigade on Ex Arrcade Guard Trialing NCRS + (WAN over HF radio links). Then the Foot and Mouth outbreaks hit Europe the day the troops were due to deploy. At short notice the exercise was cancelled. Contingency plans swung into action and the trials were transferred to all points of the UK -inside training areas belonging to 14 Signal Regiment, 30 Signal Regiment, and 32 Signal Regiment. The advance party, which left these shores before the borders closed were stranded in Holland at Maastricht with **SSgt** 'Daddy' **Burton** and **Capt Bev** 'Snapper' **Swift**. Although not sure when they would get back – they set up two Dets on the sports-field at AFNORTH and communicated back to the 'HUB' based in Sheffield then Brawdy in South Wales. ADAPTABILITY IS THE NAME OF THE GAME - and the Regiment showed that it could adapt as the scenario changed -almost hour by hour! **Cpl Heather Blair** shows NATO members of 1 Company AFNORTH based at Maastricht, Holland how easily she can erect a 15m pneumatic mast with a couple of team mates. 'They were very keen to see how easily the masts were put up -, as their masts need 8 Men to put them up!' said **Cpl Blair**.

38 Signal Regiment (V) demonstrates the 'new ' pneumatic mast to NATO Troops at Maastricht

HOUSE HUSBAND TO COMPUTER GURU

Sgt Barry Baldwin (HQ Squadron) left the domestic chores and child care worries behind when he deployed to Maastricht as the Network Administrator for the two Dets based there on the NCRS+ trials. **Sgt Baldwin** who also works as a storeman in HQ Sqn was propelled into this important role because of his civilian qualifications. He looked after the NT server and engineered the system before handing over to the Signals Operators. Although he has a Computer Science degree - when his son **Jack** came along he agreed to be the 'house husband' while his partner does the nine to five job. 'It's very rewarding looking after my son - and it allows me to put extra time in with the TA'

CORPORAL SWIFT-A REAL HIGH FLYER!

Cpl Swift - 64 Squadron was the only exercise casualty when she was literally blown away by the high winds at Brawdy. 'I stepped out of the vehicle and the next thing I was carried away like Mary Poppins!' she said. She got patched up by the medics and carried on typing - but using the remaining six fingers! Some of her colleagues found it amusing and she had to endure being called 'Fingers' for the rest of the exercise.

DON'T SEND US DIGITAL PHOTOS
as most of them are only saved at 72dpi, for publication they must be a minimum of 300-400dpi

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

2 (CITY OF DUNDEE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

Sqn Comd **Maj Eric Blyth**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Lance Thornton-Granville**

PROJECT SUNFLOWER UPDATE - *by Capt Bob Davidson*

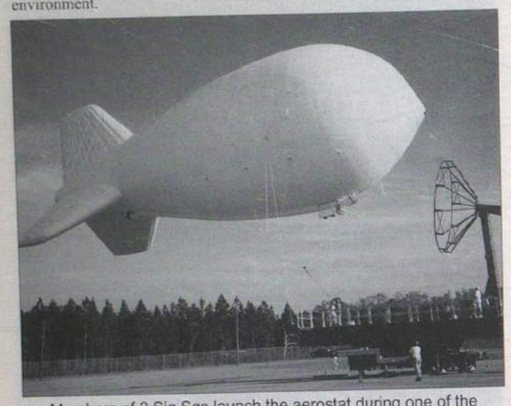
The Christmas and New Year festivities were barely over when 12 members of the Squadron deployed, kicking and screaming, to the USAF base near Horseshoe Beach in West Central Florida. The purpose of the trip was to carry out training in the deployment of an aerostat, which is a major component in the Sunflower System and will soon be in service with the Squadron.

On arriving at the base on day one of the course, the team was greeted with the sight of the aerostat already inflated and secured to the mooring platform. This resulted in a number of comments; 'My it's chuffin' big!' (lots of people), 'Will you look at the hydraulics on that?' (**Sgt Dave** 'Let me show you my toolbox' **Heap**), 'Oh Shit!' (**Capt Bob Davidson**, Sqn Ops Officer).

The theory of 'Lighter Than Air' flight, pressure systems, hydraulics and rope splicing were just a few of the items in the programme. After a few days intensive training, working at strange hours of the day and night because of the dependency on the wind conditions, and complaining about the weather. Florida is not always as hot as the brochures make out and during the two weeks of training the team managed to experience the hottest and coldest days experienced in that part of Florida for over 40 years. The crew was getting to grips with their new toy and had managed a number of launches and recoveries of Aerostat No 5616. Of course it wasn't all hard work and the call of Orlando and Universal Studio's Islands of Adventure proved irresistible when we organised a day off over the middle weekend of the course. It has to be said that civilian contractors have yet to learn the power of that well known military cliché, 'You're in your own time now,' when it comes to packing away kit. What did they expect at 1145pm on a Friday night when the group was informed that our one day off was to be tomorrow, it took the 12

strong Squadron Team 25 minutes to pack everything away. Seven hours later we were in convoy down the I95 heading for Orlando and Universal Studios' Islands of Adventure.

The second week flew by as we got to grips with procedures for inflation, deflation, launch, recovery and (please no) break - away drills. Being Florida, the sun didn't stay away for long, and true to form when the sun came out so did the Scottish white arms and legs, as those of us fresh from a Scottish winter took advantage. This was done much to the amusement of the locals who were still well wrapped up and regard the low 20s C as 'freezing'. One of the highlights must have been when she reached her normal operational altitude of 4500ft for the first time and thanks to the clear blue sky, we were able to see her in her own environment.



Members of 2 Sig Sqn launch the aerostat during one of the training missions at Horseshoe Beach, Florida

By the end of the second week we were all skilled enough to walk away from Horseshoe Beach confident in the knowledge that we could take control of this highly technical piece of equipment. There was one minor detour on our route home, unfortunately our flight plan meant that we had to spend 12 hours in New York on the way back to Glasgow. All too soon we were home to the anticlimax of 'business as usual' and await the arrival of the equipment in the UK so we can demonstrate and pass on the skills to the other members of the Squadron during Ex Mercury Rising our annual camp in July.

WO2 ANDY WATERSTON DINING OUT - *by Sgt Tracey Waterston*

The date was set then reset, all to accommodate the Scotland v Italy rugby match. The menu picked, the gift bought all that was left was to dine **Andy** out in style. I decided that it was time to experience the delights of top table dining and accompanied **Andy** as **Mrs Tracey Waterston**, this also meant that I had to behave, or at least try to. It was an excellent opportunity to purchase a new dress for my very small wardrobe. After a lovely glass of sherry in the mess we were led down to the drill hall, which conveniently converts into a lavish banquet room (thanks to **RQMS Bert** 'No you can't have that, stores are for storing don't you know' **Wright**). As we stood to say grace **Andy** a blue nose through and through spots something on the edge of the table, a little poem from **SSgt George Cowan** which read, 'He is blue, he is white he is something dynamite, Caniggia! Caniggia! Caniggia!' for those in the know Dundee beat Rangers the previous weekend, not only that but Dundee United also beat them midweek, just reminding you in case you had forgotten **Andy**! This was taken in good spirits until it came to speech time? The whole mess remembers **Andy's** infamous Immortal Memory speech of 35 minutes! We got ourselves comfortable and made sure our glasses were full, (**SSgt Bob** 'I can drink more than you can Bob' **Tasker** and **Sgt Bob** 'No! I can drink more than you can Bob' **Murray**) took this opportunity to drink, refill, drink and refill their glasses thanks to 'Albie' our wine waitor. **Andy** was presented with a Signaller in Combat 95 courtesy of the Corps Museum and a pair of wellington boots, for those in the know. The Squadron wishes to thank **Andy** for all his hard work and dedication to Squadron life throughout his tenure as SSM and previous years in recruit troop. **Andy** has left to take up the post of WO1 (RSM) at the Angus and Dundee Battalion ACF, we all wish him well. PS. **Andy** thank-you for your desk, chair, coat hooks and pictures which you kindly donated to Comms Troop, well **Tracey** said just take them before he comes back.

20 ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (200)

Sqn Comd **Maj I. G. Standen**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. Lawes**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

In December the Squadron completed its planned move to Talbot Barracks, Sennelager and the RSM is glad to be back with the lads in the same camp, as much as they are glad to have him there! The Squadron Ops Team led by **Capt Simon Gough** had no sooner unpacked their slippers and smoking jackets before they were deployed with the Squadron on Ex Mailed Maestro 2 around the Sennelager Training Area. The Squadron was put through its paces by the gruesome twosome **WO2s (YofS) Al Roberts** and **(FofS) Andy Dawson** with sleep deprivation being high on the agenda. **Sgt Jay Shuttleworth** said it was the best exercise he had ever been on and was glad the Training Wing had joined SHQ.

Maj Iain Standen presented YofS Al Roberts with his Warrant

Fond farewells are bid to **Capt Ben Fitch** as he has departed on his JSCC course; the women of Paderborn are still in mourning!

Left Capt Ben Fitch
receiving his armoured fist from the OC Maj Iain Standen

Welcome to **Capt Phil Muir** who has hot-footed it from his attachment with the RRF to steady the ship. We would like to congratulate him on his wedding to **Deborah** and wish then all the best for the future. The team is now well into the planning for the Squadron's deployment to Kosovo in November.

CHEQUE PRESENTED TO THE COMMANDER 20th ARMOURED BRIGADE

WO 1 (RSM) Lawes, WO1 Trevor Berry, WO2 Graeham Beech, Cpl Arthur Dayley, Cpl Ross Thubron and **Cpl Dave Robins** returned to England to compete in the Great North run. **SSgt Hank Cappleman** provided the Admin Support for the event. The team travelled back to Newcastle and competed in the half marathon alongside 49 000 other runners. After 13 miles and several OGGY OGGY OGGY's and frantic waving at the BBC TV cameras the event had finished. They were given a medal and a T-shirt each. The Team collected several thousand DM's. The other event, which collected money for the Commanders fund was the Games night in the Gauntlet Bar, organised by **Cpl Tris Dunbar**. This was a successful evening and with the money collected from the Great North Run a cheque for DM4000 was presented to the Commander 20th Armd Bde.

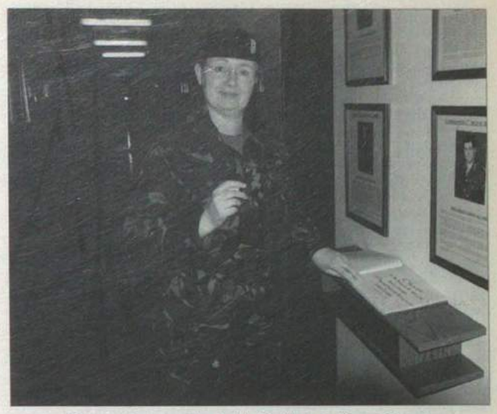
(L-R): Brig J. R. Cook OBE MC receiving a cheque from Cpl Tris Dunbar
Back Row (L-R): RQMS Graeham Beech, RSM Lawes, WO1 Trevor Berry, SSgt Hank Cappleman, Sgt Eddie Corcoran

VISITS

The Commander of 20 Armd Bde and Paderborn Garrison, **Brig J. R. Cook OBE MC**, recently made his first visit to his Brigade Signal Squadron at their new home in Talbot Barracks, Sennelager. During the visit he unveiled a plaque to mark the unit's occupation of the barracks, before touring the site to view the refurbishments and meet the soldiers. He finished the visit by having tea with the unit's officers, warrant officers and Senior NCOs.

(L-R): OC Maj Iain Standen and Brig J. R. Cook OBE MC after unveiling the plaque in Talbot Barracks

The move of 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200) into Talbot Barracks completes a process that began in the summer of 1999. In order to free up space in Barker Barracks for other units, the bulk of the Signal Squadron moved to a temporary home in Antwerp Barracks whilst the Squadron Headquarters remained in Barker Barracks. This situation had remained so until just before Christmas 2000 when the unit was finally able to collocate in a single location in Talbot Barracks. Talbot Barracks offers living, eating and working areas all on a single site, a rare occurrence for a Brigade Signal Squadron. Prior to the unit's occupation of the barracks it was extensively refurbished and will continue to be developed over forthcoming months, making it a tremendous asset, which the unit is very pleased to have secured. The Deputy Garrison Commander, **Col Lynn Relph** (late Royal Signals) also visited the Squadron recently and spent the afternoon touring Talbot Barracks and talking to the soldiers.



Deputy Commander Col L. Relph late Royal Signals on her visit around the Squadron

ALPHA TROOP - *by LCpl Davies*

Tp Comd **Lt S. Hughes**
Tp SSgt **SSgt R. D. Burrows**

During the past two months we have lost some good faces from Alpha Tp. First of all we shall say our good-byes to **LCpl Sam Hall** who has gone to Blandford on his Class 1, **Sig Martin** and **Sig Weller** who have gone to sunny Ireland, cheers for your graft lads. We also have to say good-byes to our personnel on detachments. Firstly our Arctic warrior, **LCpl Dodge**, then **LCpl Barritt** and **Sig Harrison** who have gone on a four-month holiday to Batus, don't forget the postcard. Finally **Sig Ashdown** who is in Poland on Ex Prairie Eagle. **Sig Heathcote** who is leaving us soon, is going to Civ Div, best of luck Petal! **LCpl Knox** and **LCpl Collins** have decided to go on the beat and transfer to the RMPs, morning all! Out go the old, in with the new. We'd like to welcome **Sgt Giffin** from 14 Sig Regt, **Sig Gordon** from 16 Air Asslt, **Sigs Brown, Virtue, Robson** and **Bevan** all fresh from the factory

BRAVO TROOP - *by Sig Kean*

Tp Comd **Lt J. Acton**
Tp SSgt **SSgt T. Gibbins**

After returning from some well-earned Christmas leave it was back to business as normal for the Troop. With over half the Troop either away at the Corps Skiing Championships or on courses it was a busy few weeks for the remainder. **Lt Acton, Cpl Harris** and **Sigs Light, Anderton, Bogart, Harris, Walker** and **Fearn** were the select few who took part in the Corps Skiing Championships. Well done to all and extra congratulations to **Sig Bogart** who won various events in the Nordic Individual Novice categories and was selected as an individual for the Army Championships.

Early in the year an 'H' licence-driving course was held for the members of the Troop still to earn their panzer wings. **LCpl Cooper** and **Sig Beavis** passed with flying colours and are now truly part of the Armoured Brotherhood. The move of the Squadron from Antwerp Barracks to Talbot Barracks was completed in the New Year. After many months of waiting the single soldiers of the Troop were told their new accommodation block was ready and the move was accomplished quickly over the weekend. Everyone seems pleased with the new block especially **Sig Walker** who has a very scenic view of the RSM's office from his window. During the first week of March it was our annual commitment to JOTES. We set up various comms stands for the junior officers to be tested on. The comeback was good but next year, don't forget to bring your wellies! Ex Mailed Maestro was also held in March, a tough four days, but much was learnt. **SSgt Gibbins** has entered a team involving many of the Troop for the Nijmegen Marches in June. He has come up with an intensive training programme and training has begun in earnest. Many people have a tough decision to make - whether 25 miles a day for four days will be better than a week at work.

Welcome back to **Cpl Nix** who has returned from his Class 1. Farewell to **LCpl Dickenson** who is posted to Northern Ireland, your hard work for the Troop will be missed. Lastly congratulations to **Sigs Walker, Anderton, Jones, Lewis** and **Cooper** on their promotion and a big hello to **Sigs Young** and **Mills** from trade training and **Sigs Ferris** and **Beavis** who have seen the light and transferred from Alpha Troop.

IN AT THE DEEP END - *by Cpl Nix*

On my return to Bravo Tp after a busy six month course in Blandford (no, really, it was), I was literally thrown in at the deep end. I had timed return just right for a squadron exercise - how lucky I felt. To top it all off I was informed that I was to be the Complex Corporal. I had to get our Troop Staffy to say that a couple of times before it sank in. This was the weird bit; here I was a panzer virgin with not a clue at all. To say I was worried would be an understatement. With just about zero time to prep the wagons as per usual we deployed onto the training area for what was to become a very steep learning curve. G3 Ops deployed with a crew of **Sig Alex Light**, a new lad to the Troop, **Kev Beavis** and myself.

Due to the Squadron's under manning because of a lot of people away on courses, we could only deploy one headquarters. So with a mixture of Bravo and Alpha Tp we began. The first move and set up was slow but sure and I put it down to the cobwebs that needed blowing out, (I prayed it was, anyway. The RSM was biting his lip!). It was at this point the whole exercise started to go into a blur as we were moving two to three times a day and the lads and lasses soon started to gel together as a team. The Exercise was a mixture of everything with Moves, Comms, Rolling Replens, NBC (we're so lucky), Anti-ambush drills and Defence of a Comms Site. All in all a lot to take in when you haven't had much sleep. My job did start getting easier as we progressed - I soon learnt that it is impossible to do everything yourself. Once people had their own jobs to do and knew where and when things were expected to happen, the load became lighter.

The Complex was going up a lot quicker, the comms were going in, and the only real problem that still hindered us was the cam nets, which were either miles too big for the wagons, or like cling-film on them. By the end of the week when we rolled back into the garages everyone had learnt something. It had all come together: we were working as a team and it showed. Everyone was totally exhausted (an average of three hours sleep per person during the week). We were glad to see the end and get into the bar for a few beers. I walked away with a slight smile. I had survived without too many run-ins with the senior ranks. I had learnt a lot about the Complex side of a brigade and found out just how many arguments start over guards.

TEN PIN BOWLING TEAM - *by LCpl Si Jones and LCpl Lee Gobie*

This year was the first year that 200 Sig Sqn had decided to send in a bowling team to the Army Bowling Championships in Leeds. The previous year **LCpl Si Jones**, who became the Serving Army Bowling Champion for the year 2000, had represented them. Not only was this a competition for the team but it was a chance for **LCpl Si Jones** to defend his title. The Team was comprised of personnel from both Alpha and Bravo Troops. **LCpl Si Jones** (Team Captain), **LCpl Karl Flannagan**, **LCpl** 'Taff' **Barritt** and **LCpl Lee Gobie**. The Squadron had done their best to get the team back to the competition by first trying to get flights and when this fell through, as bowling is not a recognised sport, they paid for a ferry ticket and gave some financial support to the team. This resulted in **LCpl Lee Gobie** needing to persuade his wife to give him the car, and, begging on the phone, he finally achieved his aim. The team left Germany on Thursday 1 March and drove to York where 2 Sig Regt supplied their accommodation. The competition was a three-day event, starting with the singles bowling on Friday morning. This was the main competition for all participants. In the afternoon came the doubles team event with two teams comprising **LCpl Si Jones, LCpl Lee Gobie, LCpl Karl Flannagan** and **LCpl** 'Taff' **Barritt.** That brought about the end of the first day's bowling, overall not a bad day was had by all. We eagerly awaited the results, which left **LCpl Si Jones** in first place and the rest of the team in good positions.

Saturday was the team's day of rest in preparation for Sunday, the main event of the whole competition, the team bowling. We, as the Team, were representing the Squadron in the Minor Units Trophy. We took this part of the competition most seriously, as this was what was going to fill the Squadron Trophy Cabinet. Although the Team bowled well together they did not have enough points to clinch second place so had to be happy with third. The disappointing thing for the Team was that there were no prizes for third place. However, congratulations to the Team for getting this far. **LCpl Si Jones** was the only member of the team ranked high enough to play further games in the competition and take part in the Army Championship. He ended up third overall in serving members, the title of Serving Army champion going to **WO2 Andy Griffin** from 1 (UK) Armd Div, congratulations to him.

Commiseration to **LCpl Si Jones** for not retaining the title and congratulations to the whole Team for doing so well. **LCpl Si Jones** went on to play for the Army team. At the time of print there were no results. Once again we would like to thank 200 Sig Sqn for their help and dedication in getting the bowling team to the Army Championships. Well done to everyone that entered.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt K. Jones**
Tp Sgt **Sgt A. Haslem**

EXERCISE WINTER TRAINING BAVARIA 2001

by Sig Jase Brown

The journey down to Haus Drie Muhlen was a long but worth while one. **Sig Kev Bevis** and myself were the only two from our Squadron. **Sig Bevis** was sent into the beginner group and I ended up in the advanced group. To start off with the snow was fantastic but after a while it got quite slushy. After hard days the evenings were spent wandering around the town or having a few sociable drinks. I enjoyed the two weeks and would like to have the chance to do it again.

Sig Jase Brown finding his skiing legs

4th ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (204)

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Sqn Comd **Maj G. R. Norton**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Craig**

OSCAR TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Mike Parke**

Another year and the fun began in earnest with 2nd lines, a Troop exercise and RSIT all in a short space of five weeks. Since then we have had a Squadron exercise and Exercise Prairie Eagle in Poland.

The Troop exercise actually saw **Capt Paul McTurk** deploy in the field for the first time in two years and now we can see why. No great incidents to report except for the two articulated lorries that **Sig Rob Trotter** was keen to get alongside. **Sig** 'Scott' **Ashmore** is sure he said to move right and not left. An enjoyable time but glad to see that the Admin office were back in camp night and day seeing to our every needs.

Poland was a first for a lot of people in the Troop and for the majority started off well with a marathon 20 hours sleeping session on the train journey with the armour. Once there it was a days exercise prep and then straight out into the field. The first few days were fast and furious with lots of moves practising for receiving the Staff for the final three days. By the time they did come our Troop skills and drills were fast and slick. There were a few casualties along the way, both vehicles and personnel. The worst event was a cross-country move in which three vehicles, in their eagerness to practise the herringbone formation upon halting, all threw tracks within 300 metres of each other. At the end of the exercise phase and before the recovery to Osnabruck, there was a squadron smoker with skits, the Troop got off quite lightly but the usual people (OC, RSM, **2Lt** 'Fi Fi' **Taft** of Papa Tp) all got some flak. The culmination of the whole Poland experience was the long awaited train journey home. After the Tp OC had spent an hour arguing with a non-English speaking Polish female train official about how the armour should be correctly chained on (lots of arm waving and gesticulating). It turned out she had been running a delaying tactic to hide the fact that the Polish locomotive had not turned up to pull the train. Everyone then got on the train and collapsed into sleep. Upon our return to Osnabrück it was straight into the full exercise turnaround and then preparations for Rhino Charge before going on Easter leave.

The Troop would like to welcome **Sigs Dave Doble**, **Dougie McCutcheon** (and his amazing wardrobe), **'Whizzer Whitham'** and **Cpl Ricky Curran** and family to the delights of Osnabruck. Inter Troop postings have seen in **Lt Mike Parke** at the start of February who has come to the dark side from Papa troop. We now have two lowly techs **Cpl Dan Taylor** and **LCpl O'Donovan** who are getting along well (as well as can be expected) and now saving the Army money by not wearing the seat of their pants out by being in the technical workshops. Farewells go to **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Robertson** who has gone to 16 Air Asslt Bde, **Sig Scott Walker** to Civ Div, and **Capt Paul McTurk** to 1 Div before going off to carry out his transfer to the AAC. All the best to you all! We are all looking forward to the forthcoming year and all it brings especially Oman.

PAPA TROOP - *by LCpl Rose*

Tp Comd **SSgt Davis**

It's no great surprise to hear that Papa Tp are wading through another busy period (is there any other sort?). Troop and Squadron Exercises have all rolled into one, culminating with exercise Prairie Eagle over the period 8 March to 6 April 2001, in that lovely place called Poland (which still seems to be the coldest place around).

Exercise Prairie Eagle started off being very busy for Papa Tp with four moves a day. This did not last long because as the Exercise progressed we lost most of our manpower to Oscar Troop, ending up with only two guys from Papa Tp manning the HQ, an experience in itself. Thanks go out to the guys who helped (bailed) Oscar Troop out! Most of the Troop returned to sunny Osnabruck a week early with the remainder staying to run EXCON. At least Pay 2000 has arrived to divert our attention (or aggression!). To say that it has been well received is probably the 'Understatement of the Year'. The main effort for April is Rhino Charge which, all being well, should start on or around 23 April, after the Troop return from a well deserved leave.

Some of the funny sides to the past few weeks have been **LCpl Frazier Anderson** and **Sig Nicky Earl** staring into each others eyes on the two man sniff test during the NBC phase of Ex Prairie Eagle, though they did look quite a match for each other. The Troop would like to say thank you to the 2IC, **Capt White**, for entertaining the Troop with a practical demo on how NOT to put a bench up, thanks Sir. **Sig Earl** and **LCpl Dinsdale** from Oscar Tp went off for a bit of quality time during the set up phase of the Exercise. Unfortunately they became geographically challenged, but luckily could see signposts for 'Droga Powowa'. Sadly this is the equivalent to looking for the town of 'Ausfahrt' when driving along a German Autobahn. By nightfall, and after much Turfer winch practice, they were safely back at EXCON.

It's been like musical chairs recently with **Sgt Charlie** 'Chuck' **Henson** takes his subtle nature to RSS Blandford…God help them. Good luck **Charlie** and **Debbie** in your new posting. **LCpl Jamie Masters** has gone the same way. **Sig Kev Wright** has also gone to Blandford with the White Helmets. Good luck for the future lads. Another farewell goes to **LCpl Gus Crawford** on promotion and posting to PJHQ, all the best. Finally we would like to say welcome to **LCpl Bob Rankin** and family who join us from 3 ADSR. **Sigs Ian** 'Mank' **Muirhead** and **Craig** 'Veitchy' **Virtue** from the school of excellence. Welcome to you all and we hope you enjoy your tour with 4 Brigade. To conclude a busy month again, we look forward to the new challenges that April and May will undoubtedly bring us, and we also look forward to the arrival of our new Troop Commander, **2Lt Henderson**, who will be joining us in April 2001.

7 ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (207)

Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Roberts**
RSM **WO1(RSM) Mark Tivey**

THE RELUCTANT STAFF OFFICER - *Capt Steve 'Laughing Boy' Abram*

As I prepare to depart on my reckless way for the Junior Division of Staff College I thought it would be appropriate that, as Second in Command, I should write the opening paragraph of the latest dispatch from 'The Desert Rats'. Already being the proud owner of a black dog (that could pass, at a distance through squinting eyes, for a black lab), head of a small family and having just ordered a four wheel drive (in which to do the weekly shop), I thought that my life was complete and that I required no further training in order to launch myself into the next world. I speak, of course, of that time in an Officers' career where the transition from Regimental Duty to Staff Officer becomes inevitable. I was of course wrong.

The field role of the 2IC of an Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron has always been, certainly in this Brigade, that of Recce Officer for the HQ complex, Echelon and other elements in support of the Bde HQ. In essence, as my former det commander, **Cpl** 'Sticky' **Allardyce** and sidekick, **LCpl** 'Magic' **McDermott**, will tell you this is a very exhaustive and often time consuming task. It is not easy trying to manage the Recce task and eat as much fast food / sweets / coffee as possible, do a spot of shopping at the PX, drive over some dodgy terrain 'because that looks like a bit of fun', then find somewhere quiet to park up so as not to be disturbed until the next day! I jest (slightly) of course, but this was not to be the case on my last two exercises with 'The Premier Brigade of The British Army'. The OC thought it was about time I got some Staff training in……

Imagine my surprise, on departure for Ex Rats Reminder in February, to be informed that 'No, you won't be needing the Landrover this time, Sir, just collect that large bag of Lumicolors, an eraser, and all that brew kit, 'cause you're fighting with the enemy this week!' Immediately checking that I was on the right fill, quick scan through the 2IC's job spec and tentatively checking my pulse, all confirmed that my worst fears had been realised. There was no escape, it was going to be me, G3 Ops and a pile of maps, Scotch tape and lumicolor – I was 'The Reluctant Staff Officer'. Having suffered the opening phase of the exercise with a tirade of titters and giggles at having been 'grounded' I entered the mysterious world of the inner sanctum, the nervous centre, the deployed 'puzzle palace' that is the HQ Complex. I had sited this monster many times before on the Bergen-Hohne training area and in the toxic industrial wastelands of Kosovo, but I had rarely dared to darken the doorstep of the complex in preference to the relative comfort of the Recce Rover. With a deep breath, followed by smacking my head on the red light in the foyer (an activity to be repeated throughout the following week!), I quietly slipped into the limelight, dumped my kit and found a perch. First task, mark the map. An easy task to cut my teeth on, although deciphering the COS's unintelligible scribbles on the talc was not simple; guidance from my mentors **Capt Jason Etherington** and **Capt Simon Thomas**, SO3 G2 proved useful. By the end of day one I was an expert in TAI's, NAI's, RL's, RFL's, TASKORG, Warning Orders, timelines, even the enemy's First Tactical Echelon was embedded in my slowly expanding 'Staff Brain'. Occasionally seeking refuge in Comms Ops for a brief return to earth, a cup of half decent coffee and some of the OpsO's biscuits (if **Sig Woodhouse** had left any!), this was the way that first exercise (stripped of the recce job) unfolded.

Rat's Reminder ended, and I emerged feeling confident that the transformation from 2IC to SO3 might not be as painful as I had initially expected. Glad that it was over, I quickly reverted to my old role of G1, Admin Officer, and bean counter! (To my predecessors - somethings never change). Perhaps resting on my laurels a little too much, I was slightly unsettled to realise that the next deployment, Brigade CAST in March, would see SO3 G3 Pens/Reluctance in the field once more without his wheels! I accept now that the end is nigh for me as a 2IC, but the future is not all doom and gloom - I dare to say that I am even looking forward to it now!

It is uncanny, but it seems like only yesterday that we came back from Op Agricola 3. As I type the Squadron is embedded into preparation for deployment back to Kosovo, and as you read, the Squadron will already be well on the way to delivering the first elements of manpower and equipment in to theatre. It will be almost as if we'd never left. However the Squadron is keenly looking forward to another successful tour, and adorning the earlier pages of The Wire again (I say this latter point with some confidence as **Capt Adam** 'The General' **Corkery** is no longer in charge of the submission of Wire Notes for 7 ABSS!). Anyway, in order to avoid breaking with tradition the Troops now report on their activities over the past month. As for me, I accept that I will probably now be 'crated' by friends past and present for finally getting my name in *The WIRE*! To **Capt Stuart Whittley**, of 2 Sig Regt - Be Prepared!

'This scene looks familiar!'

THE COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

Sporting achievement is not always an easy thing for as small a unit as ourselves to attain. However, I am glad to report that despite the onslaught of exercises and operational deployments (not forgetting SSI's and LSI's) the Red Rat is very much 'Alive and Kicking' on the sports field. Earlier this year the Red Rat Rugby Club achieved the pinnacle of their field in qualifying as finalists in the BF(G) Minor Units Rugby. A bitterly hard fought contest against our old adversaries, 4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, the final result was difficult to predict. Of course the score line cast the last vote, but it could have easily gone either way. Victorious in defeat, the team went on to prove their worth with style and panache, emerging (somewhat wearily) from an equally well played 'third half'!

The arrival of **SSgt Sanderson** has led to the birth of our latest most popular sport, Hockey. With good leadership and motivation **SSgt Sanderson** has quickly realised our potential with success in a very short period of time. First onto the rostrum were the ladies' Hockey team who won the title of BF(G) Hockey Champions, followed swiftly by an emerging mens' team who secured the trophy as Hohne Garrison Major Units Hockey Champions. Players of particular note were **SSgt Sanderson** and **Sig Stubbs** (who was the secret weapon for our side, being a 'cack handed' player he completely threw the opposition). Also there, representing the Sqn by playing for other teams were **LCpl Saunders** and **LCpl Barney**. On the football pitch, the Squadron Team, led by **SSgt Tim Parker**, currently commands the top of our league in the Minor Units competition. It is hoped that once the last few games are fixed in the rapidly diminishing diary, we will emerge victorious. In terms of individual achievement, the spotlight has been firmly on **Cpl McTurk**, who continues to represent the Squadron and the Corps at BFG, Army and Inter-Service Badminton, achieving much success. She has now, quite deservedly, convinced the OC to buy her a new racquet from Squadron funds!

For those less sporty, the competitive spirit abounds in other arenas. Inter Troop paint balling has been a bit of a theme over the past month. Alpha and Bravo Troops battled it out recently with **LCpl** 'Love God' **Jennings** and **Sig Mark** 'Legless' **Fairley** getting the Firing Squad treatment for no apparent reason. This was followed by Ops/ES and Support Troop with an equally successful day out. Support Tp emerged victorious from their battle with the individual Sniper Trophy going to **Sgt Jim Pritchard** for his snake in the grass routine, beating **LCpl Si Pereira** with a single shot as he was celebrating Kosovo style on the track.

So beware the opposition! The Desert Rats are out there competing at many levels and to a great standard, a trend that it is hoped will continue when we return from Kosovo in November. Next year we are in a heavy training year and the calendar is already packed, but we will be eagerly defending our current titles and battling hard to get our hands on 'the ones that got away'!

'The Storm Troopers of Support Troop'

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Karen Moore**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Andy Buckle**

At the beginning of March the Squadron deployed to Sennelager for the Brigade CAST exercise, where Alpha Tp's famous **LCpl Maton** had to re-wire the whole of CMSC and spent 38hrs with no crewman, he would like to thank **Capt Hill** for that. After the exercise we returned to the delights of Hohne, where some of the Troop were immediately sent on their way, with minimum time for turn around, to Fallingbostel. This time providing support to 1 Black Watch's conversion exercise. Unfortunately there was no translator available, so the lads didn't have a clue what was being said on the nets! Finally the Troop would like to say farewell to **Capt Hill**, good luck in your future employment (you'll need it!), and welcome to **Sig Miller**, hope you have a happy stay.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Johnnie Nicol**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Dave Sloane**

The Troop would like to congratulate **SSgt** 'Dave' **Sloane** on his recent promotion to WO2. We would also like to say hello to **LCpl Fox**, **LCpl Brewer**, **Sigs Barton** and **O'Connor**, and a goodbye to **Capt Corkery**, **Sigs** 'Ronnie' **Barker** and 'Michelle' **Cowley** - best of luck for the future. Also good luck in Canada to **Sig** 'Kerry' **Hopkinson**, we will see you in Kosovo in July!

OPS/ES TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Ollie Dinnis**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Sanderson**

Firstly the goodbyes. Ops/ES bid a fond farewell to **SSgt Dave Baddeley** on his departure to Civ Div, **Cpl Baz Park** to 238 Sig Sqn, **Sig** 'Taff' **Hughes**, to 1 (UK) Civ Div and also to **Cpl** 'Yoda' **Holloway** and **LCpl** 'Goat' **Butler** who depart the LAD for the last time. A big welcome is extended to **SSgt** 'Sandy' **Sanderson**, **Sig Laura Ward**, **Sig Chris Barr** and **Sig Lee Barney**. Congratulations to the last three mentioned previously on their promotion to Lance Corporal. Recently the Troop took to four wheels, donned crash helmets and went go-karting, with mixed results. It was decided that **LCpl Butler** was the winner, of course that had nothing to do with the fact that it was his leaving do. A unanimous decision was had by all that **LCpl** 'Finbar' **Saunders**, who thought he was Nigel Mansell, was disappointed when it turned out he was more like Postman Pat when he came out with a fourth place finish. **Sig** 'Stubbsy' **Stubbs** who also thought he was a Nigel but turned out to be a bit of a flop as he kept crashing. Finally farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Mark Dennis**, **Alison** and 'Oh F***!' the dog, who move on promotion to 16 Sig Regt. The shortest tour with the Squadron on record! Big congratulations also to **LCpl Chris Barr** and his wife **Lisa** for the latest edition to their family, a baby girl **Chloe**.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt (QM) Jon Duckworth**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Jim Pritchard**

With many postings in and out, exercises and a little bit of an LSI, this has been a turbulent period for the Troop. Farewell's first to **Capt (QM) Dave Wilson** and **Colleen** who have moved on promotion to 15 Sig Regt, **Cpl Den Nordon** and **Debbie** who disappear to AFNORTH in Holland, **Cpl Zac Topping** and family, posted to 16 Sig Regt and **Sig** 'Glass Back' **Milne** who moves on to 11 Sig Regt. Last but by no means least, goodbye also to **LCpl Andy Long** and **Sig** 'Mr' **Danny Knutton** who both step out into the big wide world. The Troop extends a warm welcome to **Capt Jon Duckworth**, **Claire** and **George**, **LCpl Paz Parry** from 16 Sig Regt and **Sigs Shirley**, **Smyth** and **Donnelly** from RSS (Holiday Camp) Blandford. Finally congratulations to **LCpl Si** 'Snake Hips' **Pereira**, who steps in the door to be promoted to Corporal.

16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216)

Sqn Comd **Maj N. D. Fraser**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. Drew**

INTRODUCTION

Life at both the Brigade HQ and the Squadron remains ever hectic despite the training restrictions brought about by the Foot and Month epidemic. In barracks training has formed the basis of the weekly program since the restrictions came into being with the imaginations of the Ops Cell, Training Wing and Tp Comds being pushed to the limit. SHQ has been kept firmly on its toes reacting to the ever changing exercise plot dictated by the Brigade HQ, while attempting to address the establishment review and general 'house keeping' with the time brought about by the enforced pause. Jumps courses are continuing, as is P Coy (albeit inside the wire at ITC Catterick) and the Squadron Preparation Course.

The posting plot remains fluid – goodbyes go to the MTO, **Capt Mark Schofield** and his wife **Sally**, who depart for Germany and 280 Sig Sqn in particular. Your efforts in guarding the PRI funds as though they was your own will never be forgotten! Also goodbyes go to **Cpls Childs, Perry, Clancy** and **Wilson** who leave for 238 Sig Sqn, 249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn and 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt respectively – good luck in the future to you all. Welcomes go to **Capt Mark Rouse** and his family whom arrive from Germany – remember thriftiness is next to godliness when it comes to PRI funds! Other postings in have been numerous and a big welcome goes to you all.

On a sadder note this year's Lanyard Trophy competition has been postponed until 17-19 October. Further details can be obtained on Col Mil 2739 – **WO1 (RSM) Drew**. As mentioned above All Arms P Coy is still running despite the Foot and Mouth epidemic – what can be a better opportunity to get on it while other commitments are being cut! Go to it.

EXERCISE NATIVE TRAIL - *by Cpl Hughes*

Early in January I headed off to the 'sweat-pit' more commonly known as Belize on Ex Native Trail with 1 Bty 7 Para RHA. Many of the soldiers taking part on the exercise were 'jungle virgins', including myself. We therefore attended a basic jungle course on which we learnt a variety of skills such as survival. The course covered the construction of shelters, collecting and purifying water, making traps, building fires for cooking and food preparation techniques. Learning how to kill and skin pigs and chickens was one of the highlights of the basic course. The river crossing was also very interesting. We swam across in five teams, while a safety boat provided defensive cover against crocodiles.

After the basic course I was based at Augustine Camp on the edge of the 'J', where I was employed in my primary role of fixing radios. The rest of the lads went on to an intermediate jungle course that included field firing and an FTX. The jungle is a harsh environment, however we benefited enormously from an excellent standard of training provided by the Jungle Warfare Instructors. It made us all feel more comfortable about dealing with and overcoming any situation that arose.

For adventure training I spent five days in St Georges Caye, holding on tightly to a windsurfer in the Caribbean Sea. After much hard work and even more patience I gained my Level 1 Windsurfing qualification. Other courses that were available included scuba diving, canoeing and sailing. For a well-deserved break at the end of the exercise we had four days R&R and I chose to go to San Pedro. Others went to Cancun (Mexico), Honduras or Cay Corker.

EXERCISE EAGLE'S FLIGHT

The end of January saw the elements of the squadron deploying on Ex Eagle's Flight, a Brigade Level FTX on Salisbury Plain. A Tp's Bde Main HQ provided an EXCON function in order to keep track of the various battle groups and support units involved. In addition to the provision of EXCON communications A Tp was also able to conduct its own rebro exercise. Its rebro detachments were moved all over the area, primarily by helicopter, in order to practice the establishment of rebro networks. Such training is vital as the efficient deployment of such detachments is key to how the Squadron does its business. This phase proved to be a great success. The training culminated in competition in which detachments were pitched against one another in a fully tactical set-up race. This clash of the titans almost saw **Sig Bellamy** take the victory, but his cam net became 'airborne' at the last moment and the glory instead went to **Sig Currie. Sig Bacon's** efforts were perhaps the least glorious as, during a road move, shouts of, 'Let's off road,' became cries of 'Let's call for recovery,' as he got himself bogged in!

During the second week a few members of the Troop were employed as rear link teams working directly with the Battle Groups. Battle group taskings included the securing of two airfields by TALO insertion in order to allow the AAC to conduct deep strikes using its attack helicopters. The rear link teams provided man pack HF (PRC-319) and UHF (PRC-346) comms and deployed by both Chinook and C-130. They were a great success despite the magnificent men in their flying machines dropping one force at the wrong end of the airfield!

REBRO moving into location during Exercise Eagle's Flight

Eagle's Flight also provided the opportunity to shake out the Squadron's parachute inserted TAC Headquarters elements supplied by Charlie Tp. Unfortunately the weather once again triumphed over the parachute but undaunted the Brigadier, his staff and Charlie Tp deployed by CH 47. On landing Charlie Tp deployed Light TAC. This man portable headquarters is designed to afford the Brigade Commander and his staff maximum flexibility to move around the battlefield and is also established to provide a near immediate TAC Headquarters following a parachute insertion. The man-pack rebro was also deployed in order to establish robust VHF comms. With the notional parachute insertion a success the race was on to recce a site for, then establish the more substantial parachute deployable vehicle-borne Brigade TAC Headquarters which is based around two TULs and a 12' by 12' tent. This was initially located at a notional heavy drop DZ site, where it would have landed had an Airborne Taskforce insertion happened for real.

Once the Brigade Recce Officers' party had chosen a suitable location Brigade TAC was quickly set up and established on a number of exercise nets. With the deployment phase achieved, the COS ordered us into the TAB'ing phase. The staff and Signallers set off on foot in small groups to the extraction point where a CH 47 took us to the EXCON location. All in the entire shake out proved an excellent opportunity to practice the Brigade TAC assets with a view to further enhancing the deployment SO1s.

GRADE 3 ARMY MINOR UNITS BOXING

The Squadron has dedicated significant efforts in recent months to the Grade 3 Army Minor Units Boxing Competition. Run by the illustrious **Capt Stott** from Brigade HQ and coached by **WO1 (QMSI) Berry**, the team achieved a great deal in a short space of time. Its first confrontation came in the semi-final of the competition in which it took on 7 Coy, 1st Bn, The Coldstream Guards. This clash produced some excellent bouts, with the quality of boxing being of a very impressive standard. The team's hard work paid off spectacularly as they managed to secure a 5-2

victory over the Guards. Special mention should go to **Sig Donnelly** who achieved a convincing first round win. The final was against 9 (Para) Sqn RE and it took place in Aldershot on 8 March. Everyone expected an outstanding nights boxing and no one was to be disappointed. Both teams fought hard and the event proved to be quite a spectacle for the sizeable audience. Unfortunately 9 (Para) Sqn managed to secure the title despite some excellent individual performances from the Brigade HQ and Sig Sqn Team. **Sig Weallean** and **Sig Fitzpatrick** stood out particularly.

The Boxing Team
joined by the Comd 16 Air Asslt Bde, Brig Wall OBE,
the Squadron OC and the RSM

EXERCISE ANGLIAN WARRIOR (Squadron Air Skills Cadre)
by Capt Griffiths

Due to an incredibly busy eighteen months since the formation of 16 Air Assault Brigade, the Squadron has had little time to dedicate to the acquisition of air skills qualifications. This was particularly true of helicopter handling skills. With the whole of the UK training areas out of bounds for the benefit of our cloven hoofed brethren, Ex Anglian Warrior was devised to overcome these shortfalls whilst at the same time building up our parachuting experience and expertise. The Exercise was designed to encompass three separate elements, a Landing Point Commander and Rigger Marshaller course, a Parachuting Continuation Training Package with 2 PARA, and a Parachute Chalk Commanders Course. These took place in a variety of locations including Colchester, RAF Odiham and AMC South Cerney. Almost one hundred personnel from the Squadron were involved. With assistance from the immensely helpful Joint Helicopter Support Unit, **SSgt Walker** and **Sgt Makings** spent the first half of the week ensuring that the Squadron toms were fully versed in rigging vehicles ready for under-slinging beneath Chinooks. At the same time the Corporals, SNCOs and Officers were lucky enough to receive the necessary entertaining power point presentations required to qualify them as Landing Point Commanders. Thursday and Friday saw the two groups despatched to connect what they had rigged to Chinooks at RAF Odiham. Despite the coach breaking down on the way, a wide range of loads, including an ISO container, were rigged and flown around the camp perimeter. A stomach-dropping ride in the Chinook followed before everyone being awarded either their Landing Point Commander or Rigger Marshaller Qualification. Meanwhile, **SSgt Hatton** and his band of ferocious troopers were being instructed by the RAF in the art of parachuting whilst wearing webbing, with their weapon strapped to their side and also carrying 100lb containers - at night. The weather once again was not kind and only half of the planned number of jumps actually happened.

Parachute Training during Exercise Anglian Warrior

NITEX

As with the rest of the Army 16 Air Assault Brigade's exercise programme has suffered severe disruption due the Foot and Mouth Disease crisis. NITEX, a major RAF tactical leadership training exercise, was to be the Brigade's first casualty. It was postponed during the deployment phase. Bravo Tp were put on 'stand by' until later on in the week when the go ahead was finally given. One of the CV detachments was the first to deploy closely followed by the Rear Link Teams (RLTs). **Sigs Fyfe** and **Benson** manned RLT 1 and **Sigs Fletcher** and **Watts** manned the RLT2. The journey was horrendous, taking about 11 hours to drive up to RAF Luecars in a mini bus, but at least the exercise was finally underway. Ex NITEX was primarily a RAF exercise but it did include elements of 1 Royal Irish towards the end. The two RLT detachments were deployed to provide UHF ground-to-air and HF comms through the use of PRC 346 and PRC 319 man-packs. The RLTs first deployed to two airfields north of RAF Leucars, one on the Isle of Skye, the other at Macrahanish. Both provided skywave links to Colchester and RAF Luecars as well as UHF comms to the RAF helicopters and AWACS. For the RLT dets the rest of the week was very quiet; at least up until the deployment of 1 Royal Irish. This gave the teams the opportunity to undertake their own comms exercise around the local area. However, once the Royal Irish were given their tasking the RLTs found themselves preparing to fly with the BG on a mission to secure a further airfield. Simultaneously to 1 Royal Irish's attack, a Special Forces assault was to go in onto the main objective. The RLTs role was to provide HF and UHF comms support to one of the Royal Irish's company HQs. RLT 1 was to be inserted by CH 47 and RLT 2 by C130 however unfortunately bad weather, and not Foot and Mouth Disease, stopped play this time and the assault was cancelled.

EXERCISE DIAMOND CUTTER – *by LCpl Crutchley*

Ex Diamond Cutter was a six-week long exercise conducted by 1 Royal Irish in the Shoshong Training Area in Botswana. On 27 January 2001 I deployed with the advance party. This consisted of pioneers, engineers and REME. Together we were given the task of establishing a camp in the bush some 30km from civilisation. A week later B Coy of the Royal Irish moved in and commenced a rigorous field-firing package.

I, together with a member of the Signal Platoon, were at that point whisked away to the Kalahari Desert in south-western Botswana to run a week long HF training course for the Botswana Anti-Pouching Unit. This unit was established to track poachers deep in the bush – and seemed to conduct a shoot to kill policy! The course we designed gave the unit a comprehensive insight into HF theory and also dedicated significant time to practical exercises. The radio we were using was the American PRC 1099 man-pack. The course was a complete success with all students obtaining outstanding results.

LCpl Crutchley with the Botswanan Anti-Poaching Unit

After the conclusion of the HF course we headed back to Shoshong Camp where B Coy were well into their field-firing package. The Signals Detachment had set up an EXCON to co-ordinate the training. The EXCON personnel were kept very busy with many heat casualties, and the occasional more serious incident including shrapnel wounds and a groin injury sustained through a .50 cal. breach explosion! I managed to get on a four man recce patrol deep into the bush during which we encountered some hostile wildlife. At three in the morning we came across the only hyenas within 50km, and they seemed to be decidedly displeased with our presence. Fortunately, we were carrying live rounds for just such an eventuality and were able to dispatch the hyenas with little difficulty. The training culminated with a 4-day final exercise. Following a 20km insertion march the Royal Irish conducted operations against the Botswana Defence Force (BDF). We set up various harbours, OPs and ambushes and conducted numerous CTRs. The exercise was challenging and exciting. As the final event we switched back to live ammunition to conduct a raid on a heavily guarded communication station (courtesy of the pioneers). The raid incorporated the use of snipers, GPMG, .50 cal., mortars, LAW 94, grenades and bangalor torpedoes. This awesome amount of firepower was a definite success as there was not much left of the camp by the time we had finished!

With the final objective secured we conducted an extraction to a barbeque area. The lads were then let loose for five days R and R after which the camp was stripped down and we set off on the 3-day journey back to the UK. The exercise was an excellent opportunity during which I learned a tremendous amount.

Relaxing in the bush

12 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (228)

MCM DIV VISIT - *by OCdt Stone*

In order to enhance an already worryingly good relationship with the MCM Div desk girls, the 2IC invited them to visit the Squadron for a couple of days, leaving newly promoted (or demoted depending which way you look at it) **OCdt Ben Stone** to organise the whole visit. The trip began with a bit of armoured vehicle familiarisation. This consisted of an hour of ripping chunks out of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards parade square in a panzer. **Lesley Scott** and **George Flemming** started the drive under the command of a very nervous **Cpl** 'Crouching Dale, Hidden Pie' **Petty**. He then got his own back by scaring the life out of **Elaine Easton** and **Carol-Ann Forrest** with his extreme driving. With much relief we led them away from the 'slightly overheated' panzer and off to watch the Brigade HQ and Sig Sqn on command tasks. In the evening the visiting party were collected and taken to down town Aldershot for an innuendo laden pub-crawl and chest poking session. Being a Monday, 'Cheeks' was given a wide berth and everyone tottered home. The next day it was back to business. The team provided some excellent answers to several burning issues raised by Squadron management personnel. Despite acute hangovers, they managed to answer all questions before they returned to sunny Glasgow. Their opinion of our hospitality will no doubt be evident in coming promotion boards and future postings.

Elaine Easton from C Wing, MCM Div passes on her extensive armoured driving experience to Cpl Petty

BRIGADE LEADERSHIP DAY - *by Cpl Collins and Cpl Scott*

Just for a change Alpha Tp is as busy as ten men after finishing DS1 Trials and then straight into a board of officers and first lines. Keeping everyone on their toes and being the only number in the Squadron Telephone Directory has meant never a dull moment. There has been a massive change around of manpower with new arrivals and departures all over the place. Farewell to **LCpl** 'KR' **Kelly-Rutherford** back to his airborne roots, congratulations **LCpl** 'Dangerous' **Armstrong** and his brother **LCpl Brett Appleyard** on passing probation and their departure to 26-Blah, Blah, Blah. Also **LCpl Damien Chorlton** off to the 'feds' (book em Danno murder one) after getting married to the nurse that is constantly repairing his fragile bones. Last but not least **Cpl** 'Blue Oyster' **Briscoe** off to sell his ginger wares at 14 Signal Regiment. Owls 'gentlemen only' night-club will never be the same again. Welcome to **Cpl Jo Collins** on arriving in the unit and on having to write the Wire notes as soon as he gets here. **Cpl** 'Tips' **Tiplady** from 1 Div, **LCpl** 'Juggsy' **Wilson** and **LCpl** 'Jess' **Limbert** also from the fighting 1st. Welcome and get on them panzers. Also new on the arrival list is **LCpl Andy Porter** from 7 Signal Regiment. Congratulations to **Sgt Roy Davies** and **Sgt Simon Barker** on successfully passing an extremely hard and arduous Royal Signals Sergeants Course; they were the only people to actually benefit from the foot and mouth crisis. However, neither managed to get their name on the cup. Well done to **Cpl** 'Grandpa' **Lea** on not only passing his weapons instructors course but coming back to a store full to the brim with kit from the board of officers and sorting it without even breaking into a sweat. Last but not least a special mention to **Lt Ed Dickson** and his merry band of men who are off to Cyprus sailing (will we ever learn), good luck and stay away from RAF Akrotiri. On Monday 26 March, selected members of 12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228) attended a Brigade leadership day. The day commenced with an opening address by the Commander, **Brig J. Cooper DSO MBE**, who emphasised the importance of leadership and what skills he hoped people would gain from the days activities and lectures.

Sgt Coldwell 's team being briefed on one of the command tasks

We then received lectures by various Brigade staff on the following four leaders:

1. Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery of Alamien
2. Field Marshall Viscount Slim
3. General Patten
4. Field Marshall Sir Claude Aushleck

The briefings focused on their different personal leadership qualities and styles and how this was portrayed by their peers and troops. The military lecturers were followed by two civilian speakers. The first speaker, **Mr Taylor**, was a Korean War veteran. The second civilian lecturer, **Mr Rafferty**, was CEO of Ipsarris. Each speaker presented their personal views on leadership and their opinions on what they thought makes a good leader. Their views were valuable and illustrated with personal experience that added to the overall worth of the day. To prepare for the afternoon activities we were sub-divided into teams ready for the forthcoming events. These activities consisted of four assorted command tasks, an assault course and the dreaded stretcher race. Once the command tasks were complete, we made our way to the assault course. After a walk through, talk through demonstration of each obstacle, the teams lined up for a head to head challenge on the course.

Cpl Kev Dade and LCpl McGonigle
examine a particularly nasty river crossing

To conclude the day, each team competed in a stretcher race. This involved carrying what can only be described as a tonne weight around a short course. After we recovered from this, we freshened up and retired to the Sgt's mess for a meal and drinks followed by a few badly placed bets on the charity mess horse racing.

TAQEX - ***by Sig Shrubsole***

On the return from a wonderful time in Cyprus on Ex Lion Sun 1/01, that I am sure everyone will agree with, we went back to normal everyday work with many new faces. Welcome to **LCpl** 'Jonah' **Jones**, **LCpl Jon Hemming**, **LCpl** 'Gem' **Treen**, **Sig** 'Dan the Man' **Tasker** and let's not forget **Sig** 'I didn't realise I needed a rifle for guard' **Jones**. With all these new arrivals there was only one good bye and that was to **LCpl** 'Penguin' **Sharpe** who as gone on to 16 Air Asslt Brigade.

The month started off well. First there was Ex TAQEX. Time well spent setting up and tearing down, moving armoured vehicles from car park to car park. I suppose this is the next best thing considering the foot and mouth crisis. After all that movement we were to deploy to CAST (S) in order to stay put in one place for a week. We tracked down to Warminster as fast as we could (a staggering 28mph downhill, wind assisted). After about four hours, and only one pack fire, we finally arrived to find ourselves setting up again. The exercise went well with the golden blanket award going to **Sig** 'What's for tea?' **Jones** who slept the whole way through the exercise excluding meal times. The week soon past and it came to tearing down and going back to sunny Aldershot. The whole exercise went well and the OC was very pleased with everyone's' hard work. Now it is just a case of working up for first lines. A final well done to **Cpl** 'Who ate all the pies?' **Petty** on his promotion, just in time for pay 2000!We are all now looking forward to a thoroughly well deserved Easter break.

238 (LONDON) SIGNAL SQUADRON

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj Ian Seraph**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Melanie Crowther**

Firstly we have a change of personnel in the Squadron hierarchy. We've said our goodbyes to **WO2 Euan Hall**, who has now left the Army and welcomed our new SSM, **WO2 Mel Crowther**. Congratulations also go to **SSgt Ian Tait** for picking up his crown, as of 01 Apr; He's currently away enjoying the delights of the SQMS course. The last few months have been very quiet for 238 (London) Signal Squadron, the Op Penywort restrictions have crippled most of our planned training, so its been a time of leave throughout the squadron. We have recently been put on standby for Op Peninsular with C2 support to local units, so we await tasking.

MIKE TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt (TOT) Bob Nicol**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Andrew Twizell**

Another period full of excitement in Mike Troop, with even more fresh new faces. Welcome to **Cpl Baz Park** who joins from Germany. Hello, also to **Cpl Dana Grills** who joins us from 36 Sig Regt. What part of America do you come from? Finally welcome to **LCpl** 'Bash' **Bashir** who comes to the troop after completing his T3 course at Blandford. As always along with the hellos come the sad farewells. It is goodbye and good luck to **Cpl Dean Spiers** who not only leaves the Squadron but the Army. We wish **Dean** and his family well for the future. The Troop has also said farewell to **Sgt Chris Jacobs** who couldn't leave London fast enough for his new posting, Cyprus. We wonder why? The ACISG, Radio and PA Sections all continue carrying out their ongoing tasks. On a sporting front, the recent sporting events have not gone as planned. In the joint Squash and Rowing Inter-Troop competition the Steve Redgraves of the Troop did us proud but the same could not be said of the Squash players, and in the volleyball competition the less said the better. Congratulations to **Cpl Paul Smith** who not only passed his silver while on Winter Warrior but also has been recommended to become an instructor. Finally we look forward to the imminent return of **Sigs Andy Milne** and **Tim Robinson** from Kosovo and Bosnia.

OSCAR TROOP
Tp Comd **Maj (Tfc) Carl Storey**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mandy Eardley**

The Troop itself has been pretty quiet lately, due to the annual rush of personnel applying for the rest of their leave entitlement before April deadline; so not a lot has been happening on the military side of life.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

On a sadder note, **Mr Dick Steer**, the Engineering Officer has finally hung up his telephone and retired from the civil service after many years' service. **Dick** who was also a former member of the Royal Air Force worked at 238 Signal Squadron for more than ten years. Everyone sends best wishes and good luck for the future. **Mr Ian** 'Sludge machine internet gigolo' **Slight** has finally dekitted and has successfully applied for a civilian job in London Central COMMCEN, so he will be doing the same job but won't have to do PT anymore which I'm sure he will be GUTTED about, ha (only kidding)

SPORT

On a cold March morning, the 21st to be exact, Location: Chelsea Barracks gymnasium. A mix and match team comprising of **LCpl Brain** 'Should have joined the Navy' **Stewart, LCpl Nicholas McGregor, LCpl Ayesha** 'Wee Yin' **Mohammed, Cpl Annette** 'Don't make me serve' **McChesney** and last, but certainly not least, **SSgt Tommy** 'Calm down, clam down' **Burns** won a major victory in the annals of sporting achievement. We beat Radio 'loads to choose from' Troop 3-0 at the annual inter-troop Volleyball competition. OK so we got beat by Mike 'full of baby techs' Troop in the next game, but we won overall and a good time was had by all.

RADIO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Andy Wilson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mark Brooksbank**

The winter months have been a fairly quiet time for the troop, with everyone catching up on leave that they didn't have the time to fit in. During this quiet time one or two rare sighting have been made, the OC Troop in uniform, the OC Troop on Pt and the OC Troop in work although not all in the same timeframe. Some welcomes, a big hello to **Sig Grant Mockett** who arrives from the barren lands of Osnatraz and to **Cpl Sean Childs** who will soon arrive from 216 Sig Sqn, oh boy what a shock you will have coming here. Although the Op Penywort restrictions have severely limited our training capabilities during this period, we have managed to acquire some new trade expertise, thanks to our co-operation with 31Sig Regt (V). Lanwood is HF based communications equipment, originally designed for post-strike communications to the USA. Several other employment options are now being tested for Lanwood; as part of this our Radio trade's are learning how to operate it in the event a quick deployment is required. The idea being the volunteers would back fill us at a later date. The silver lining to all this is that we've been allocated two places to go to Cyprus in July! – As part of 31 (V) Signal Regiment's summer camp.

The Squadron football team has gone from strength to strength, Wednesday 28 March has gone down as a day in history, 238 Sig Sqn finally won a cup semi-final and now have a final appearance on 2 May. Their opponents will be either The Kings Troop RHA or No 7 Coldstream Guards. The semi took place at Hounslow against BFPO Mill Hill, for only the second time this season we were able to field a strong team. The weather was typical, 'four seasons in one day' and the pitch very heavy. After a quick team talk from **Sgt** 'Virgo' **Brooksbank** 'SCORE AS MANY GOALS AS YOU CAN', the team set about its task. It wasn't long before **Sgt** ' Where is my match ball?' **Tate** opened the scoring with his first of three, a screemer, of his big toe, from a full 27 and half yards ish. The team picked up in momentum and by half time had sailed into a good 2 – 1 lead. The second half the team clicked and BFPO were left facing an onslaught. **LCpl Wes O'conner** was orchestrating the game and when needed, the back three were always equal to any small counter attack they could muster. With the final whistle and a hatrick each to **Sgts Tate** and **Carnegie** and a goal each to **Cpl Smith, LCpl Dinsdale** and **Sig Green**. Final score 9 – 1, watch this space for further news.

(L-R): LCpl Burgess, Sig Mockett and Sig Howland
Enjoying a break from their training on the Lanwood equipment at 31 (V) Signal Regiment

BOARD OF OFFICERS - *by Cpl Powell*

It has been yet another busy period for the already overworked QM's Department. The increased workload has meant many late nights and early mornings. Despite the laborious checks and counter checks, there has been surprisingly few teddies thrown. With the recent board of officers and a surprise, but satisfactory LSI, the department has also had their fair share of success. Neither were aided by the untimely departure of **Mr Dave** 'I can't count' **Wagstaff** and **LCpl Joe** 'Is it dinner time yet?' **Roberts**.

A big hello to **SSgt Pete** 'Bob the Builder' **Mullen** who has taken over from **SSgt Sam Parke** who has set his sights high as the new Bongo Troop Staffy. Congratulations go to **Sig** 'Shadwell' **Davies** and **Sig** Rob **Hunt** on passing their gruelling Class 2, a shining example to new arrival **Sig** 'Kav' **Kavanagh**. Good luck to **SSgt Jim Lemon** who is promoted and posted across the road to RLC TDU, also in Aldershot.

243 SIGNAL SQUADRON

BASKETBALL NOTES - *by Cpl Gray and LCpl Miller*

After coming second at the 5 Div qualifying basketball tournament at Tidworth 243 Sig Sqn qualified for the Army Minor Units championships at Grantham. The Team was lead by **WO1 Kev** 'Get To Bed' **Moir** backed up by **Maj Graham McNeill, Cpl Paul** 'Methane Man' **Floyd, Cpl Olly** 'Traveler' **Gray, LCpl Steve** 'Love Struck' **Miller, LCpl John** 'Mr Muscle' **Liddell, LCpl Ali Way, Sig Chis** 'Grab a Granny' **McGuire** and **Sig John** 'UMIN' **Denyer**. The night before our first game we had a team building exercise with a couple of the girls' teams. It was a pound a pint and soon **Sig Denyer** unleashed his best chat up line, 'I'm not here for the basketball I'm here for you,' and unlike on the court he did score.

We were all up bright and early for the first game at 1015hrs on Tuesday 2 March against the RLC. Our Team started a bit bleary eyed but proceeded to pick up the game towards the end of the half. After the break **LCpl Liddell** managed to spend more time on his feet than on the ground and we started to build up a healthy lead, because of this we were able to rotate the squad so that everyone had some court time, even **Sig McGuire**. The final score was 61- 31 and we felt confident for the second game against AFTC Harrogate. After a few hours rest we started as we finished the first game building a lead with stunning fast breaks. Despite Harrogate having a 6' 5" man-mountain we dominated the boards and scored some long range jump-shots. There was a little tension as **LCpl Liddell** kept on getting body slammed by the opposition, but same heroic 'off the bench' performances led to an emphatic 57 - 10 victory to get through to the semi's. After our day's performance we set off high spirited to the bars of sunny Grantham. We settled again for pound pint in Chicago Rock Cafe for a dismal performance singing yellow submarine on the karaoke. **Cpl Floyd, LCpl Miller** and **Sig Denyer** did their part for Anglo-American relations with three young ladies from Tennessee and showed them warm hospitality. Wednesday we had a day of rest and recuperation and watched a few of the Major Units play. On the evening we had a few more team building drinks which led to an early night for our big semi final game the following day.

Our opponents for the semi finals were the AGC who had an Army player on their team and we knew we had to close him down if we were to win. Our starting five was **WO1 Kev Moir, Cpl Paul Floyd, LCpl John Liddell, LCpl Ali Way** and **LCpl Steve Miller**. Unfortunately we quickly fell behind and we were not playing like we had in the previous games, so a change was made **Cpl Floyd** was swapped with **Cpl Gray** but by the end of the first quarter we were still behind by 18 points. **WO1 Kev Moir** gave us a harsh team-talk at the interval that led to us tightening up the defence and being more aggressive on the offence. This stopped their star player from scoring and we had pulled it level by half time. In the second half we were almost point for point and neither team were able to establish a lead. Towards the end of the third quarter we started getting in foul trouble and their free throws interrupted the momentum of our offence. In the fourth quarter once again their star stepped up and we found it difficult to get our shots to fall. **LCpl Ali Way** got in foul trouble from marking their best player and so **WO1 Kev Moir** and **LCpl Steve Miller** were left with the job. However they ran down the clock and with five seconds remaining and we being one point behind we gave away two free throws. They made both of their shots but despite a last second three point shot from us the AGC just beat us by one point and knocked 243 Sig Sqn out of the competition. The final score was 64 -63. Although losing we held our heads high and headed back to Salisbury knowing we played well and enjoyed a good week.

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON (AIR MOBILE FORCES (LAND))

Sqn Comd **Maj David Hudson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ken Marsh**

Once back from the ice of Norway the Squadron launched into a series of training weeks and Data over Radio trials. It has taken weeks to thaw out the toes and fingers and get life back to normal. The last few months have been busy with movement of personnel in and out of the Squadron. Many being posted on promotion: **Sig Clayton** to 30 Sig Regt, **LCpl** 'Nice T-shirt' **Clegg** over the road, **Sig McEnaney** to 16 Air Asslt Bde, **LCpl Osmond** to 16 Sig Regt, **LCpl** 'Give me my second stripe or else' **Palin** to 1 Div, **Sig Swift** to 11 EOD and **Sig Young** to 21 Sig Regt. Those on the move include: **LCpl** 'Vinnie' **Haffendon** to 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Hardy** to 2 Para, **Sig Jim** 'Jam' **Lee** to 16 AirAsslt Bde, **LCpl Tierney** to NI and **Cpl** 'The aim of this lesson is to...' **Witham** to ATR Bassingbourn to worry recruits. A special mention goes to **Sig Waring** for managing to get posted and also get selected for the Combined Services Beach Volleyball Team! A final farewell to the footie crazy old 2IC, **Capt Stokoe** who has now taken over as Adjt 30 Sig Regt - all the best. A hearty welcome goes out to **Sgt Crawford, LCpl** 'Mrs Fruity' **Fielding, Sig Sloan, Sig Snape, Sig Walker, LCpl Weight, Sig Whitson, LCpl Williams** and **Sig Woodward**. We also have a few leaving their green suits behind and exchanging them for other colours: **Sgt Eden, Sig Green, Cpl Keightley** and **Sig** 'Liz' **Taylor**- all the best for the future - live life and prosper.

EXERCISE HARDFALL 2001 - BLUE PETER HOST
by Capt Teri Downer

The Squadron was fortunate enough to host 'Mat' from Blue Peter for two days during Ex Hardfall 2001 in Norway. The aim was to allow him to experience some of the harshness of Norwegian weather and hopefully toughen him up a bit, but more importantly get 249 on prime time BBC. (This included **SSM** (WO2) 'Ken' **Marsh** showing his best side during a BV sketch -'Oh look SSM my breath freezes when it touches the window of the BV, why is that?) **Mat** was kitted out in some of the Army's best arctic kit and taken up into the hills surrounding Voss. He did not take a liking to the itchy Extreme Cold Weather hat and when asked why he insisted on wearing a bright red woolie hat he replied, 'A top hat for a top bloke,' - this received a few hidden sniggers from the hardy men around him at the time! He was teamed up with **LCpl** 'Messtins' **Sustins** ('why do they call you mess tins - oh you eat from them in the Army don't your) and began to dig a snow hole. Many hours later they settled down for some gorgeous scoff 'lancashire hot pot' and a wet (brew). After a few hours **Mat** was up again on candle watch (just because he is civilian he does not get away with stag)! He then emerged from the snow hole to a fine morning and was transported down to the lake for a quick dip - ice-breaking drills. This was something he really did not like, he would not smile on exiting the water or even stop far a chat before going into the warming tent! Obviously not toughened him up enough yet. The footage taken was screened during March just gone - if you missed it we have a few copies in the Squadron!

Mat from Blue Peter just a little wet and unhappy

259 SIGNAL SQUADRON

FUN IN THE SUN - *by Sig Ben Tierney, Dhekelia Troop*

The Squadron has just completed its annual cadre course for 2001. The course started on 12 March, that's when morale was left in the accommodation! However the prospect of not working with **Cpl Brent** 'Skin' **Readhead** for the week did keep me going. From then on it was fun all the way. The course included activities such as command tasks that were made easier by a short tab across the bondhu (16kms not including geographical embarrassment) and other skills such as drill and PT, and not forgetting MOD 90 checks at 0300hrs in the morning! However, the weather was good at approximately 25 degrees, and the course contained the usual amount of comical errors under pressure. Also included into the course were classroom lessons to catch up on sleep! To finish the course, there was a final exercise that I was appointed Platoon Staff Sergeant for. I nearly flapped so much I took off when the first task was an RTA incident to deal with! After all that, things didn't go too badly. With all the lessons learnt, the biggest one is simple; never try to put leave in at the last minute!

SKYDIVING TELEMECH (SORT OF) - *by Sig Pyle, Dhekelia Troop*

Between the dates of 26 February and 9 March **Sigs John** 'Macam' **Dent** and **Andy** 'Sugar' **Pyle** attended the Cyprus Joint Services Adventure Training Centre (CJSATC) basic parachuting course. After an intense day of being taught exits, flight, landing and emergency drills, we took to the skies. The day began with 12 students from the Navy, Army, RAF and Royal Marines looking apprehensive to say the least, knowing they would have to drop 3,500 feet! The same feeling happens when **Cpl Jim** '15 seconds' **Stocks** is issuing work out. The course progressed, and individual coaching was given to each of the free-fall wannabes. When the instructors were happy with our ability, a number of students progressed to free-fall, which resulted in a few disco dances to maintain stability whilst approaching terminal velocity! All in all, it was a very enjoyable course, with the exception of a few landings, and just one of the many adventure training courses available here in Cyprus.

GOODBYES AND HELLOES- *by Cpl Si 'Monkey boy' Hogg*

It is also time to say goodbye to three members of the Troop. Firstly to **Cpl Si Hogg** who is posted to 7 Brigade to do some work! Also to **Sig Matty Stables** who is posted to JCU (NI) to catch up with previous members of the Squadron, and finally to **Sig Lynne Marshall** who is moving on to pastures new in Civvie Street. We wish them all the best for the future. It is also time to welcome the new arrivals to the Troop. Firstly to **LCpl** 'Queenie' **King, Sigs** 'Magic' **Johnson,** 'Taff' **Davies** and 'Lefty' **Wright** to Line Section. Also to **Cpl** 'Mac' **Macallum** to Comms Section, and **Cpl** 'Paperwork junkie' **Molden** to the MT. A warm welcome is extended and the best of luck to you (enjoy Napa!)

AIRFIELD TROOP - *by Sig Wells*

After an eventful afternoon of Kart Racing and plenty of bombing and shunting around the corners and many spin offs into the bondu, **LCpl** 'Twitchy' **Fell** won the final to become Airfield Troop's Grand Champion. The Troop would like to say goodbye and good luck in their next unit to **SSgt Stenhouse** and family, **Sig King, LCpl Barnett** and **Sig Stanley**. A big hello to the new arrivals to the troop, who are **LCpl Lewis, Sig Kendall, Sig Jordan** and **Sig Orr** and family. Congratulations to **LCpl Fell** for getting promoted and transferred to a proper working Troop.

EPISKOPI TROOP - *by LCpl 'Barnsley Dan' Reade*

Epi Troop would like to say a big hello to its latest arrival **Cpl** 'Manc' **Singleton** fresh from the UK. However, we're also losing a long-standing member. One of the old boys **Cpl Bob Cope** goes to the land of the leprechauns to see what the crack's like over there, all the best in the future mate. Cyprus held it's Nefski championship to which five of the lads joined in with one casualty **Sig** 'little' **Phil Harris** thought he'd stab himself with a ski and 259 Sig Sqn cleaned up in the novice event taking three of the four medals. Also here the sun's coming out to play and the Troop Cliff Diving Competitions have started; Time to see who's got the highest aspirations.

101 LOGISTIC BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS & SIGNAL SQUADRON (261)

Sqn Comd **Maj M. Baines**
RSM **WO1 E. Udell**

Being busy is becoming a bit of a habit in the Squadron! Thankfully the beginning of the year has offered plenty of opportunity for sport and adventurous training. Behind the scenes though the Ops team have been toiling with planning for Ex Saif Sareea II to Oman this summer. The Squadron is now seriously gearing up for its advance party deployment in May with the main body due out in August. In preparation we deployed to Sennelager to support 102 Log Bde HQ in their build-up exercise for Oman Ex Platinum Halberd, it was a great success for the 102 staff who are used to exercising RAF-style and looked quite shocked to see camnets and grass and rain.

ROYAL SIGNALS MINOR UNITS RUNNERS UP 2001
by SSgt Martin Stebbing Team Captain

Some weeks before the competition and prior to going on Christmas and New Year leave the OC Squadron informed me that he had a cunning plan. 'Staff,' he said, 'I want you to enter two teams into the male minor unit race, so we can hopefully push some of the other team runners further down the field.' The first week back from leave a Squadron Cross-Country race was organised to aid team selection. As the day of the race approached and after numerous team changes and training sessions the final selection was made. The day of the race was here and just as the team was about to leave the Unit received a visit from the CDT team having aged about 20 years within a few minutes and numerous telephone calls later the team was allowed to set of for Colerne. On arrival at Colerne the teams were booked in. As we had some time to kill it was decided to walk the course. Perhaps a wet suit would be the order of the day after seeing the length and depth of some of the so call puddles that would have to be encountered not once but three times as the race was three laps of the route. After a blistering start by **Cpl Fitzpatrick** which he unfortunately could not maintain the Team pushed out an impressive performance and as the results were placed on the board it became clear that the Team had come second. The cunning plan had worked.

Cross Country Team
Back Row (L-R): Cpl 'Taff' Lean, Cpl 'Richies' Middleton, Cpl 'Fitz' Fitzpatrick, SSgt Martin Stebbing
Front Row (L-R): LCpl Tim McEnkin, LCpl Lee Marten, Cpl Mark Simpson

COMBINED JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS – GOSPORT

Two of the unit represented the Army at the Combined services Competition in Gosport. Judo is a sport that has been steadily growing in the unit. Having competed at the Army Championships earlier in the year this was a opportunity to do better. **Sgt** Jim **Turnbull** had an excellent competition coming up against the combined service champion in the semi-finals meant he went away with a well-deserved Bronze. **LCpl Harris** was extremely brave having only been fighting two weeks he tried hard and went on the attack, although not winning anything showing he has potential for the future with some practise!

Sig Sam Yardley enjoying the new Squadron Sport of Judo watch out Lee!

EXERCISE LOG FLAKE II - *2Lt Cas Wootten OC A Tp*

The beginning was an uncomfortable, long and tiring journey to Bavaria but bravely **SSgt Al Dummer, Sgt Sean Fardy** and **Cpl** 'Taff' **Lean** tackled the driving while everyone else slept! After sampling the local cheap refreshments and a bit of over-sized Jenga the course began the next morning with meeting the self-loving, over-confident but generally nice ski instructors. After getting our ski legs the course progressed with everyone improving rapidly. Lots of aching for all to come home with as well as sun-burn for me, sun stroke for **LCpl Danny Martin** and a career on the stage for our very own stripper **Sig** 'All Muscles' **Blower**!

SUPPORT TROOP
Troop Comd / QM **Maj (QM) Peter Beauchamp** RLC
Tp SSgt **SSgt** Martin **Stebbing**

We would like to welcome to the Troop the following persons **Cpl Dennis** and **Sig Austin** both Installation Technicians. We would like to wish **LCpl** (now Corporal) **Rabey** good luck in his new posting to Army Apprentice College Arborfield and his promotion.

PLEASE NOTE

THE COST OF YOUR WIRE IS NOW £12 PER ANNUM - £2 PER COPY

IF YOU HAVE PAID £9 BY CHEQUE THIS YEAR WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR A FURTHER £3
THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION

280(UNITED KINGDOM) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Jim Harris**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Craig Kearney**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTER'S TROOP

SHQ would like to say farewell to **WO2 (FofS)** 'Fluffy' **Flather**, who is departing to 16 Signal Regiment and also **Cpl Paul** 'Golden Keyboard' **Cunningham** who has departed to HQ 1 UK Armd Div in sunny Herford. The Troop would like to welcome **LCpl Dunc McKee** who had joined us from 1 Black Watch and **Sig Jo Gill** who has joined us from Kilo Tp. Congratulations go to **SSgt Pat Farrell** on being presented his LS&GC Medal.

JULIET TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Jim Barber**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Kev Roberts**

Juliet Tp has seen a lot more movement within its personnel this month. A warm welcome goes out to **Cpl** 'Slim' **Humphreys** and family who have recently arrived from 1 (UK) Div, **Sgt Steve Templeman** accompanied by wife **Joanne** and son **Christopher**. **Cpl Wayne** 'Mini Thorpe' **Meeds, LCpl Alex Brown,** and **Cpl** 'Ritchie' **Brown** who recently completed his T1 at Blandford. Welcome to **LCpls Tony Hogan** and **Neil Haggar** who have joined Juliet Tp from the MT Section. We would also like to say farewell to **Cpl Daz Rickard** who has joined Comms Sp Tp (the dark side!). Best wishes go out to **Sig** 'Old Man' **Walker** who has left for Blandford and our Troop OC, **Capt Higgs**, who not only has been posted to 14 Sig Regt but has recently been promoted and married to **Jo** (congratulations from all of us). We now look forward to **2Lt Barber** joining us from his Troop Commanders Course. We also wish to say good luck for the future to two of the longest serving members of the Troop and inspirational members of 280 Sig Sqn's Army Cup Final achievements, **Sgt Valentine** and **Cpl** 'Captain Marvelous' **Brown**. A big shout to our boys and girls on operational tours **Sig** 'Russ' **Abbott, LCpl Ian Wallace,LCpl Gordie Kirkwood, Cpl Dave Rycroft** and **Sig Sharon** 'Watch the garage door' **Young**. They are all currently in Bosnia and also **LCpl** 'Mac' **Mcalpine** who is in Kosovo. **LCpl Tim Mallett** deserves a special mention for passing RCB. Sandhurst next step and then who knows OC J Tp… Finally we'd like to say congratulations to **Cpl Al Gore** and his wife **Amanda** on the birth of their daughter **Liberty**.

KILO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Lindsey Calderhead**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Graham Weavers**

After many early starts and hectic days of work, the second line inspections are finally over for the year. A lot of hard work had been put in by everyone in the Troop and we're all glad they are now over. Sadly we have had to bid farewell to **Sig** 'Pol' **Smiejowski** who has abandoned us for 15 Sig Regt along with a shiny new stripe. We wish 15 Sig Regt the very best of luck! Leaving us in the near future is **Sig** 'Wingnut' **Machin** who will be joining 7 Sig Regt. Also departing us very soon is **Sgt** 'Have a Shot' **Porter** who will be leaving us in the more than capable hands of Tyson, the Troop dog. We wish him all the best at 241 Sig Sqn in Donnington. Where did you say Donnington is **Sgt** 'Have a Shot' **Porter**?

Kilo Tp also say a warm welcome to **Cpl** 'Jock' **Taylor, LCpl** 'Smudge' **Smith** and **Cpl** 'Mad dog' **McGee** who have already managed to fit into the Troops wild and wacky way of life. We are all eagerly awaiting the return of **Cpl** 'Daz' **Cattle, Cpl** 'Mr. Universe' **Cook, LCpl** 'Woody' **Wood, Sig** 'Chick' **Henley** and **Sig** 'Coops' **Cooper**, who will be ending their four month tour out in Banja Luka this month. Talking of people on holiday sunning themselves, **Cpl** 'Devo Daz' **Pearce, Cpl** 'Mr. Hanraty' **Baber** and **LCpl** 'Cuppa T' **Turner** are all currently taking a break in Gran Canaria for ten days. We just hope it rains every day for them!

As Easter leave approaches we all look forward to **Cpl** 'Monkey Boy' **Harrison**'s Wedding on 12 April, who has spent the last month finalising things for the big day. This has included dragging some of us singlies along with him to the shops to purchase pots and pans for his new home due to the necessity of a car to put it in. The singlies will be sad to see him leave the block that obviously has nothing to do with the fact that his sky digital box is going with him.

Unfortunately a major tragedy recently occurred within the Troop as **Sig** 'Rolfie' **Rolf** twisted his ankle on a PT session. It was most upsetting to see him limping around, but don't be sad he is still his happy self.

SUPPORT TROOP
QM **Capt Steve Toms**
RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) Kev Innes**

On the evening of 14 March the QM(T) dept of the Squadron bade farewell to the Quartermaster and his wife **Jan**. **Capt Steve Toms** has been with this Squadron since July 1998 and during his time he managed to fit in a tour to Kosovo. The function was held in a Chinese Restaurant in Krefeld. The night was very pleasant and enjoyed by all that attended (especially Dionne, the RQ's wife, who has always got something to say and joke about when it comes to the QM).

We all wish him, **Jan** and their family all the best in their new home, in the posting and in the future. Soon **Capt Mark Schofield** will be taking over the department and we hope that the QM, his wife **Sally** and their family will enjoy being part of this busy Squadron.

ANGLO GERMAN SHOOTING COMPETITION

by LCpl Sally Hubble

The annual Anglo-German shooting competition took place at Francisca Barracks on 2 March. There were ten teams, each of four people. Competitors included the local German shooting team and German Guard Service as well as the 280 (UK) Signal Squadron shooting Team and some of our seniors and officers. The main competition was with the Browning 9mm Pistol. **SSgt Dave Copley** won Best Individual Shot and Best Team (along with the RSM, RQMS and **SSgt Graham Weavers**). **LCpl Sally Hubble** came second overall and won Best Individual Female Shot. After the main competition the Germans had a chance to use the Rifle 5.56 and LSW. At the end of the day's shooting in the rain and cold, the Germans brought a keg of beer, which went down well in the bar. There was also a presentation for the winners, followed by an evening of Karaoke.

280 Signal Squadron Shooting Team
(The two best shots are on the extreme right)

STORMING OF THE GATES - *by Sgt Walsh*

The annual tradition of storming the gates took place on the 23 February 2001, where the towns folk of St Tonis, storm the camp. This tradition marks the end of carnival week where the carnival committee and members of St Tonis have a mock battle against the guard of Francisca Barracks. The guard consisted of twelve of the squadrons personnel who took on the theme of a mediaeval night, dressed in knights costumes and armed with maces, swords and pikes to protect the castle which had been erected on the front gate. The evening commenced with the town's folk of St Tonis gathering outside the castle gates and become an angry mob trying to break down the front gate.

The Carnival Committee President and Princess
with the OC and 2IC - Nice Medallions!

Once the town's folk had stormed the camp and got through the main gate, fireworks and loud explosions were heard. Once inside the castle turrets they were met with the guards who grace fully retreated giving them access to the camp. The carnival prince and princess were then welcomed into the camp by the OC, **Maj Harris**. The procession was then escorted to the gym by the guard force and **LCpl Macdonald** playing the bag pipes. Once in the gym the conquering of Francisca Kaserne commenced and traditional carnival celebrations took place for the last time.

During the evening both parties said their farewells with presentations and the 'Key to the Camp'. This was to mark the last event of the storming of the gates which has taken place at 280 (UK) Signal Squadron over the past 28 years.

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT FALKLAND ISLANDS

OC **Flt Lt Wright**
OpsWO **WO2 (Supvr R) Dalton**

Written by Sgt Steve Trump

With the arrival of a new OC and OpsWO it was decided that it was about time *The WIRE* included some notes from JSSU (FI) a little known about detachment in the Falkland Islands. We say a fond farewell to **Cpl Gaz** 'Stripper' **Leadbitter** and **WO2 (Supvr R) Andy Marchant** with his 140 photographs of King Penguins. They are both heading back to UK and there's a special farewell to **Lisa Grundy** who was mad enough to travel 8000 miles to visit her husband **Sgt Paul** 'Grim Reaper' **Grundy**. A warm welcome goes out **to WO2 (Supvr R) Frank Dalton** and **LCpl Greg Edwards** who have both recently deserted UK to join us down here in the Southern Hemisphere and congratulations to **Sgt Deano** 'On The Wagon' **Lightfoot** on his recent selection for promotion.

It has been a very busy period for all at JSSU what with Ex Mercury Cell being called, which meant the deployment of several Unit personnel aboard HMS *Leeds Castle*. A big thank you goes out to our resident tech **Cpl Stu** 'Wannabe Commando' **Wilkinson** for making everything go so smoothly during this deployment after much hard work. As one of the smallest Units on the Islands we have been actively involved in the BFFI Cup events and recently came a very proud sixth place in the Cross County after a good run from the team which included JSSUs 'liquorice allsorts' team of all comers!

The Unit has had a hectic social life over the last couple of weeks which included ten pin bowling and numerous Gozomies held in the 'local' Squirrel Bar. One of the most successful and hardest fought events was the go-karting organised by **Sgt Pat** 'Green Slime' **Savage**, it was eventually won by **Sgt Eddie** 'Schumacher' **Mackie.** However, the most memorable moment was when **Cpl Katie** 'Mad Woman' **Driver** almost killed **Sgt Steve** 'Squash Mad' **Trump** by ramming him off the track. Later **Sgt Trump** seemed quite proud to be told he was the only man in the Falkland Island to have rolled a go-kart.

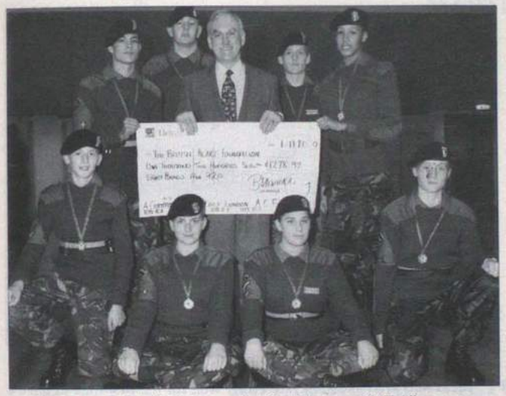
MOVING OR POSTED
DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW
WHENEVER YOU HAVE A CHANGE
OF ADDRESS

NEWS FROM THE CADETS

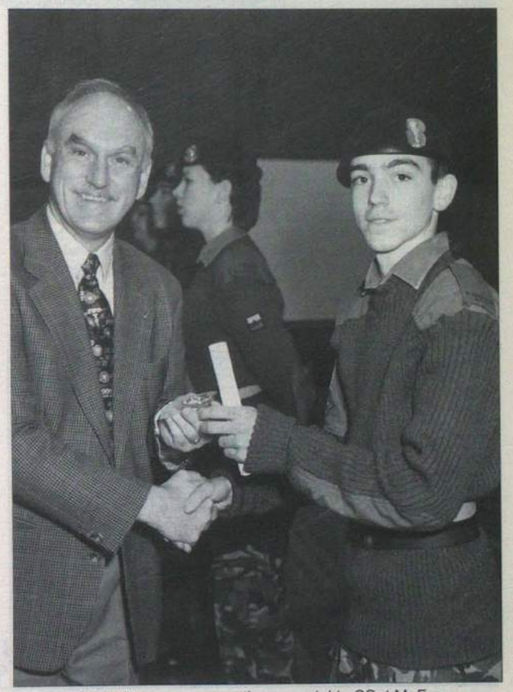
107 CADET DETACHMENT ROYAL SIGNALS - BEXLEYHEATH

SPONSORED WALK IN AID OF BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

On 16 July 2000 a group of 60 cadets from 107 Royal Signals South East London ACF based at Bexleyheath TA Centre and sponsored by 71 (Y) Signal Regiment, walked from Big Ben to the Thames Barrier a total of 11.5 miles. The day was rather warm and in the 70s but a few of the younger cadets were glad to get to the finish line at the Thames Barrier and down a few cans of well deserved pop! This was some achievement especially for the 13 year old cadets who had done nothing like this before. Our Commandant, **Col M. P. Sharpe,** came on the walk with us. An old Signalman himself he battled on and completed the walk. This was all done for a great cause; the British Heart Foundation and the cadets raised the fantastic sum of £1,278.00. **Mr Terry Kingsman**, Director of the British Heart Foundation presented medals and certificates at a ceremony held at Bexleyheath TAC on 1 November 2000. The cadets then presented him with the cheque.



Back Row (L-R): LCdt Hergest, LCpl Watson, Mr T. Kingsman, Cpl Edwards, Cdt Francis
Front Row (L-R): LCdt Robinson, Cdt Driver, LCpl Watt, Cdt Grant



Mr T. Kingsman presenting a medal to SSgt M. Fry

CADET FORCES SIGNALS ADVISOR AND NATIONAL ACF/CCF INTER-DISTRICT RADIO NET

PROJECT MILLECOM

by Capt M. J. Buckley M1CCF/M1ACF, Cadet Forces Signals Advisor

Project Millecom is a project which aims to unite young people throughout the world by radio communications. It commenced on 1 January 2000 and has been outstandingly successful. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) through its United Kingdom and International networks encouraged young people of all nations and of all abilities to communicate with each throughout the year 2000 by HF Radio and arranged for the issue of a special amateur radio call - M2000Y.

The project was launched at the London Amateur Radio and Computer Show, Picketts Lock, London. A combined youth stand was set up by the RSGB, subsequently a semi-permanent station has been set up in Blandford Camp using a former D11/R234 Radio Cabin outside the Museum. The first call was sent out on the stroke of midnight (or was it 00.01?) 2000.

The Objectives having been clearly met in 2000 the project has now been extended into 2001. Promoting communication between young people world-wide throughout the Year 2001, using hobby radio and the Radio Cabin, which remains in use, on Blandford Camp. International friendships between young people over the air is something no other hobby can achieve and this is being taken up by the Army Cadet Force and Combined Cadet Force Signal Platoons as they visit Blandford and other parts of the country, using a new callsign - M2001Y/70.

There was a special two-week activity period at Easter and it will happen again by being part of the summer activities in 2001. Signalling Cadets are, once again, using amateur frequencies around 3.600 MHz, 7.080 MHz & 14.300 MHz to make worldwide contacts. The aim continues to be one to one contact by young people, in our case Cadets!

The photograph show ACF Cadets using the Radio Cabin and a shiny new Racal Syncal 2000. If there are amateurs out there who would like to help, please contact the CFSA via the Royal School of Signals or E-mail at CFSA@milnet.uk.net

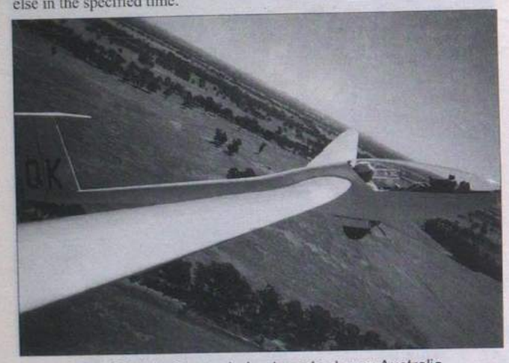
SPORT

AUSTRALIAN INTERSERVICE GLIDING COMPETITION LEETON, NEW SOUTH WALES, DECEMBER 2000 – JANUARY 2001

by Maj Charles Cooper, UK Exchange Officer - Army Comms Trg Ctre, Melbourne, Australia

As luck would have it, I was invited to fly for the Australian Army team in the Interservice Gliding Competition, an annual competition, held in Leeton, New South Wales, on the edge of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area - a brown landscape punctuated with glistening blue canals, orange groves and nut plantations. For those unfamiliar with gliding, this form of adventure training involves a plane without an engine being towed up to about 2,000-ft altitude behind a tug aircraft, before being cast loose. Gliders gain further altitude by circling in invisible bubbles of rising warm air, called thermals, and can reach tens of thousands of feet high.

The aim of this competition was to fly furthest and farthest. The type was known as 'assigned area tasking', in which the surrounding area was divided into four quadrants, centred on the airfield. At the daily briefing, pilots were assigned selected quadrants in a specified order and given a target time window (usually five hours). Then after studying the daily meteorological reports and working out an estimated speed for the day, the pilot selected registered turning points in each assigned quadrant, and came up with a cunning plan that would get them further than everyone else in the specified time.



Maj Charles Cooper being launched over Australia

The flying was superb, and so much better than in the UK (mainly due to temperatures of around 40 degrees Centigrade!). Flying under cloud streets at 10,500ft at 250kph, and experiencing lift so strong that the grip of the stick comes away in your hand is quite an experience. Seeing potato sacks swirling up in invisible thermals at several thousand feet is quite astounding. Playing 'chicken' with wedge-tailed eagles with talons extended at 5,000ft, (I won!) and finishing a 490km 5.5hr flight with ten minutes of dusk remaining, landing on a dark strip with mist rising off the surrounding canals and engulfing the field is majestic – (thank God for a full moon!) I benefited greatly from the training and learned a lot from some very experienced pilots. Then there is all the personal development that went with it – learning to work a bit faster under pressure, whilst navigating. Flying, monitoring airspace and radio traffic, photographing turn points (the proof that your actually flew to where you declared you would!), and calculating if you have enough height to get back. It gets busy up there. I wish to thank the Corps and the Army Sports Lottery for their support in this event.

'Map reading, the laid back way'

The results were pleasing. The Army won for the first time in quite a few years, with a little help from some German Army National Service pilots and myself, the token 'Pom'. There is now an invitation to take an UK team to the next competition, which will be held in Leeton from 27 December 2001 to 11 January 2002. Less experienced pilots can fly in a 2-seat glider, a perfect way to 'learn the ropes'. Serving as well as retired members and Civil Servants are eligible. If anyone is interested, make sure you are a member of the Army Sports Lottery, and get in contact with me at Charles.Cooper@defence.gov.au or wherever I end up when I'm posted in April!

CORPS GOLF (GERMANY)

The Corps Golf Squad had an extremely successful season, remaining undefeated throughout the Inter-Corps league and finishing top of the table. The top four teams competed in a knockout competition on 31 October - 1 November 2000 and we were drawn against the REME. Confidence was high as the league match had been a comprehensive victory but the semi-final was not to be so easy. After the morning 4-ball matches, we found ourselves behind by $3^1/_2$ to $^1/_2$. However, during the singles matches, spirits rose and the deficit was pulled back with the eventual score being $6^1/_2$ to $5^1/_2$ in our favour. Exceptional performances came from **Maj Mick Bohanan** who won 8 and 6, **Cpl Ian Hare** who won 5 and 3 and **LCpl Graham Rennie** who beat the REME No 1 by 2 and 1. The final was played against the AGC, whom we had also beaten comprehensively during the league match. Unfortuately, they gained revenge in a shortened match consisting of singles and narrowly won by $4^1/_2$ to $3^1/_2$. Would we have pulled back the deficit had there been a 4-ball match - we'll never know.

Sadly, the Squad has lost the services of its Captain, **Sgt Brian Turner,** its experience in the form of **Mick Bohanan** and its youth in **Ian Hare.** Thankfully, **Maj Tim Prince, WOI (YofS) Neil Ferris** and **ex-WO2 (RQMS) Terry Marsh** have joined the squad and we are confident of going one better this year.

The registered Domain Name for the Beverley Boys' Archive - beverleyboysarchive.co.uk

The Team
Front (L-R): LCpl Nige Brennan and Cpl Ian Hare
Back (L-R): SSgt Willie Scoots, SSgt Andy Saunders, Sgt Paul Taylor, Maj (QM) Mick Bohanan, Cpl Craig Bowman, LCpl Graham Rennie and SSgt (FofS) Bob Pace

SNOWBOARDING

LOCAL TA GIRL CONQUERS THE SLOPES!

by Cpl P. A. White

Lancashire Girl, **Cindy Meller**, clears the 'board', taking three top prizes at the Royal Signals annual Snowboarding Championship in Austria. **Cindy**, from Darwen near Blackburn, flew out to take part in the Royal Corps of Signals Snowboarding Camp and Championships at Zell am See in Austria, She beat opposition from the Regular Army to take the Gold Medal in the Womens' Slalom. She then went after the Gold in the Womens' Giant Slalom and success won her the trophy for The Womens' Champion of 2000. A week was spent training then a week in competition, 'It was tiring, but fun' she says smiling.

This is not the first win for **Cindy** who after nine years is now a Sergeant in the T.A Royal Signals at Blackburn. Earlier in the year she was on the winning Shooting Team taking home the trophy for Best Female Shot, testament to her expertise as a Skill At Arms instructor.

In her civilian life **Cindy** is a personnel assistant at Wolstenholme International, manufacturing metallic flakes and pigments in Darwen, she also studies part time, currently undertaking a Professional Course in Personnel and Development. 'The TA has taken me places to do things I would never have done otherwise,' she explains, 'Before this I have snowboarded at Aviemore, and two years ago I spent two weeks with 143 Brigade in Cyprus.'

MARTIAL ARTS

LISBURN-BASED SIGNALLER KICKS-ASS AT ARMY EVENT

A Lisburn-based Signaller kicked-ass when he took part in the Army's Martial Arts Championships. **Sig Jamie Emett**, based at HQNI was one of around 40 competitors taking part in the event held at the Army School od Physical Training in Aldershot. Competitors of all grades and skills demonstrated their prowess in karate, tae kwon do and tendo.

For the tae kwon do competition, participants had to prove their ability in a range of skills including patterns, which are set routines and sparring. **Jamie** took up tae kwon do last year and was a runner-up then. He said, 'I also do kick-boxing, but you can't do that for the Army so I took up tae kwon do. My background does help. I came to this event last year and was runner-up then. I don't get nervous before competitions, and I'm pleased to have got to this level this quickly. My unit gives me time off to compete, and provides transport so that I can get to the various locations.'

Jamie joined the Army in 1998 and has served in both Cyprus and Northern Ireland

ROYAL SIGNALS VICTORIOUS AT INTER-CORPS SWIMMING AND WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Report by Major T. P. Langford

The 12th Inter-Corps Championships were contested at Arborfield on 30 November 2000 and yet again we demonstrated the depth and talent in the Corps with the outstanding results all three teams achieved.

INTERNAL CORPS COMPETITION

The Internal Corps Competition was held at Colerne on 21 November 2000 with teams from UK, Germany and the Individual Training Organisation (ITO) battling for the medals and cups. It was apparent after the first few events that the swimming would be a two horse race between UK and ITO. The Competition was decided in the relays and the depth of the UK team (they achieved a sub 2min 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay time) came through with them winning the Competition by three points. In the Water Polo all games were extremely close with the UK team winning their two games by three goals in each game to be crowned winners. **Brig H. H. Ham CBE** kindly presented the trophies to the winning teams.

Brig Ham CBE presents the Water Polo Cup to SSgt Spence Ord

Brig Ham CBE presenting Cpl Ollie Olver with the Swimming Trophy

INTER-CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS PREPARATION

The teams were then retained at Colerne for a training camp prior to the Championships at Arborfield. **SSgts Paul Gorman** and **Mike Openshaw** with the help of **Cpl Sara Lacey** trained the swimming teams and **Mr Mick Flaherty** developed the Water Polo Team's fitness and tactics. The Water Polo Team had four warm up games against Bradford-on Avon (lost 9-4), twice against Weymouth (losing both games 15-5 and 9-5) and finally Frome (education is an understatement as we lost 24-1, **Lt Ben Psaila** scoring our goal).

INTER-CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS

We moved to Arborfield after an extremely successful training camp and confident we were capable of contesting all three titles. The swimming is the first Championship and both the male and female

swimming teams were extremely strong, also for the first time in living memory we entered two female teams. The female swimming teams first event was the 4 x 50m Freestyle with our A Team of **Lt Vanessa Galloway, Capt Tanya Noakes, LCpl Nicky Ainscough** and **Lt Catherine Jardine** winning in a time of 2mins 5secs, which was a new Inter-Corps record; **Lt Catherine Jardine** recorded a sub 30secs leg. The B Team finished sixth out of nine entries. The next event was the 4 x 50m Breaststroke Relay where again our A Team were winners with **Cpl Sara Lacey** recording a sub 30secs and again our B Team finished a very creditable sixth. The final female event was the 4 x 50m Medley Relay where our A Team finished second and the B Team improved on the previous events by finishing fifth. The overall result was very close with our ladies being crowned Champions by one point over the RLC who were extremely strong and a little surprised to be beaten! The B Team finished sixth overall and demonstrated the depth we have in the Corps.

The female swimming teams with the Inter-Corps Shield

The male swimming was an even tighter affair. In the first event, 4 x 100m Freestyle, we finished second to the RLC with both **Cpl Lance Barr** and **Sig Ollie Smith** producing 60secs swims. The 4 x 50m Breaststroke was next on the blocks and our team was the strongest I have seen in this event. The team of **LCpl Aaron Gartside, Sig Carl Renshaw, Sig Mark Chilvers** and **Sig Sean Peart** set a new Inter-Corps record of 2mins 18secs beating their nearest rivals in this event, again RLC, by nearly 9secs. The third event was the 4 x 50m Freestyle where the team of **LCpl Matt Lee, Cpl Jack Homer, Sig Robbie Williams** and **Sig Tony Davies** finished second to the RLC by less than three tenths of a second. All four swimmers recorded sub 28sec legs and **Cpl Jack Homer** and **Sig Robbie Williams** were under the 27 sec mark. The final event was the 4 x 50m Medley Relay, the Championship was extremely tight with our team leading RLC by two points. RLC won the final event and we finished third which meant we shared the Cup. For the first time we entered two Water Polo teams which created two pools of four teams. The B Team were drawn against RE, RA (last year's Champions) and REME. The Team was superb and lost narrowly to the RE 5-3 in a game they deserved at least to draw, they then met the RA and as expected lost 7-0 but they kept their best game until last and deservedly drew 3-3 with the REME. The B Team finished joint third in their Group. The A Team drew APTC, AGC and Int Corps. The first game against APTC was a little physical. However, our defence was outstanding with **Capt Pete Griffiths** pulling off some amazing one on one saves in goal (and as **Mick Flaherty** keeps telling us - If they don't score you can't lose!) and we managed a 3-1 victory. Against the AGC we met the best forward in the Army. Our tactics proved themselves and we beat the AGC 5-0. The final game in our pool was against the Int Corps where we won comfortably 12-0 and finished top of our pool. In the first semi-final APTC met last years Champions the RA and beat them 8-7 in a thrilling game. In our semi we met the REME who led 2-1 after the first quarter but as the game progressed our overall strength and depth surfaced and **Maj Tim Langford** chose this game to score his annual goal. We ran out winners by 6-2. In the final we again met the APTC who we beat 3-1 in our first game of the day. We expected a very physical game that would run to the wire. However, again the skill level of all 13 players proved their worth as we eventually won by a staggering 10-1, the biggest margin I have seen in the final.

Maj Tim Langford being presented the Inter-Corps Water Polo Cup

The Corps Water Polo Team - Inter-Corps Champions

Sig Ollie Smith was presented with the Best Royal Signals Water Polo player trophy for his outstanding display over the Championship

Sig Ollie Smith being presented with the Best Water Polo award by Maj Tim Langford

Yet again the results achieved by the Corps were exceptional. My thanks to all individuals for their effort over a very hard week and to their Units for releasing them. Special thanks to **Mr Mick Flaherty, SSgts Paul Gorman** and **Mike Openshaw** for training the teams. Also congratulations to **Cpl Sara Lacey** on her recent marriage - from all members of the teams we wish you happiness and the best of luck for the future. Anyone interested in representing the Corps should contact **Maj Tim Langford** on 943824284. The Internal Competition will be held on 20 November 2001 with the Team Camp running until the Inter-Corps on 29 November 2001 - see you there.

INTERESTED IN ICE HOCKEY?

The REME Stallions are looking for anybody interested in training or playing Ice Hockey.
We are also looking to play other Services, Corps or Regiments.
For further details contact **WO2 (AQMS) Patey** on 9214 841 5470

ARMY BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2000

by Cpl Tony Booth - 600 Signal Troop

This year only two people represented the Corps at the Army Boxing Championships, **LCpl** 'Nathan' **Dorrian** of 3 (UK) Div & Sig Regt and **Cpl** 'Tony' **Booth** of 600 Sig Tp.

LCpl Dorrian boxed at L/Middle and **Cpl Booth** boxed at Super Heavy. There was a large turnout for the L/Middle Division, which meant that **LCpl Dorrian** had a real battle on his hands and would have to fight at least five fights just to get to the Finals!! **LCpl Dorrian** fought hard and well to get through to the Semi-Finals where he was drawn against a very experienced boxer from the 7 RLC team (three years in a row Army Champions). The fight went the distance, which was three fantastic rounds of pure heart and soul, with neither boxer wanting to drop the pressure. **LCpl Dorrian** lost on points, in what must have been, one of the closest fights ever seen.

Cpl Booth was more fortunate with a smaller turnout at the Super Heavyweight Division. Only four people had entered at this weight, which meant that **Cpl Booth's** first fight was in the Semi-Finals. Unfortunately, he was drawn against the huge 17 stone Welshman from 1 RRW who was widely tipped to win. Just four seconds into the fight, **Booth** let rip with a powerful punch on the Welshman's jaw, (sending his head about a foot off of his shoulders), which was followed by the referee jumping in, and with a count of eight, the fight was stopped. A total time of just 12 seconds!! **Cpl Booth** was drawn against **Gdsm Culsworth** from the Coldstream Guards in the Finals.

On the big night, and the last fight of the evening, **Booth** stepped into the ring, perhaps a little too confident of the outcome. He again used his strength to knock the Guardsman into the corner, where the referee had to stop the fight, re-adjust the Guardsman's head-guard and warn him for turning round. The Guardsman then used jab and move tactics to keep the stronger **Booth** away. The following rounds were **Booth** chasing after the Guardsman but receiving constant jabs to the head and body. At the end of three rounds of 'blood and guts', the Guardsman deservedly won on points.

Much congratulations to both Boxers for some excellent boxing. The only let-down of the night, was that only two boxers represented the Corps, when much smaller Regiments managed to enter a dozen boxers. Come on lads (and perhaps even ladies??), lets have a much greater Corps presence at next year's Championships!! Perhaps, even a Corps Boxing Team?!

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Brig C. J. Burton OBE
Commodore	Brig H. H. Ham CBE
Vice Commodore	Maj D. C. A. Ellis (94371 5299)
Rear Commodores:	
Offshore	Maj K. Whitehead (Mil: 9621 80133)
Dinghy and Day boats	Maj J. F. Calvert (94777 2204)
Windsurfing	Maj D. I. Gilchrist (94631 4219
Yachtmaster (UK)	Maj J. S. Stuart (94371 2101)
(Germany)	Maj I. C. Gray (94371 2261, Fax 2668)
Retired Members Representative	Lt Col (Retd) M. J. P. Collins
Secretaries:	
General	Maj R. Gibson (94371 5577)
Windsurfing	Capt A. J. Mould (94344 5111)
Soldier Members:	
Offshore	Sgt D. Sangster
Dinghy	LCpl S. Southan
Windsurfing	Cpl A. Varney

WEB SITE

The Club now owns a web site that will become a new medium for club members. The Web site already features the Offshore Section and dates for next year. The URL is http://www.bigfoot.com/~royalsignalsyc (The ~ (tilda character) is above the # key). The full address is http://www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/yacht_club/yachtclub.htm. To tell others about this site, inform them of the shortcut, or type in 'Royal Signals Yacht Club' in inverted commas into any search engine, and you will find the site. Once there, you will see the full details of the current committee, the calendar for future events, and you will be able to E-mail or phone any member of the committee.

OFFSHORE SAILING 2001 REVIEW
TRAINING EVENTS 2001

In 2000, I told you that we qualified two coastal skippers, one day skipper and in the region of 40 Competent Crew. By May 2001, we already qualified in the region of 53 Competent Crew, and soon will be starting on more Day Skippers and Coastal Skippers. The most notable event so far was the Corps Sail Training week in UK, which was supported by some 42 people. The trip started at Gosport, moved on to Lymmington then Dartmouth, sailed overnight into Yarmouth, then moved up to Ocean Village before returning to Gosport.

NEW NAJAD DELIVERY MARCH 2001

BKYC (Kiel, Germany), accepted their new fleet of ten Najad 331 in March 2001. Pictures are on the Internet site. Of the 60 of so people assisting in the delivery, over 10% were R SIGNALS.

FUTURE EVENTS

The next major event in the offshore calendar, which should include 80 sailors, will be in Germany/Denmark between the 15th and 26th of July 2001. Contact **2Lt Steven Davis** on Herford Military 3742 if you would like to enter. Most of those taking part normally have never sailed before, and will all walk away with a Competent Crew certificate, racing experience, and fantastic, but occasionally cloudy memories of late nights in Denmark.

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

If you want to either improve your sailing, or become more qualified, then contact the Offshore Training Secretary, **Maj Ian Gray**. If you have a qualification, and want to put it onto the Corps Database, then either Email **Ian Gray**, Fax, or speak. There will be a Day Skipper Course between 28 August 2001 and 2 September 2001 for ten people. Names will be chosen based upon experience.

CORPS YACHTS

The Corps still owns three Corps Yachts; Quicksilver which is based in Kiel, Germany, Skywave and Petasus which are in Gosport. Any currently serving or ex-R SIGNALS person may charter the yacht as long as they have a minimum qualification of Day Skipper. More details about booking are on the Internet, but contact either of the Yacht Masters for more information.

INTERESTED IN SAILING?
Volunteers are required to join the
British Antartic Expedition 2001

The Royal Signals are sponsoring legs 1 & 2 of this chance in a lifetime expedition.

24 Crew Required

Positions Range from Complete Novice to Watch Leaders

Leg 1 - (27 August - 18 September 2001)
Southampton - Canaries

Leg 2 - (18 September - 17 October 2001)
Canaries - Rio (Trans-Atlantic)

Contact: Sgt H. Skidmore

Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp,

Blandford Civ (01258) 482032 or Mil (94371) Ext 2032

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman: Major General A. H. Boyle CB

Vice Chairman: Brig N. F. Wood Area1; Brig W. H. Backhouse Area 2; Brig S. G. M. Gordon Area 3; Big K. H. Olds Area 4; Brig P. J. Evans CBE Area 5; Lt Col J. G. Billingham Wales; Maj R. Sampson CBE Scotland; Lt Col C. N. Lightfoot N Ireland

General Secretary and Treasurer: Col A. R. Carter MBE
Welfare Secretary: Mrs J. Cornick

Assistant General Secretary: Lt Col I. J. Hamilton
Administrative Officer: Mr P. J. Cuckow (Membership & Records)

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. Telephone: Military System (9) 4371 2090 or 01258 48 2090. Welfare Secretary Telephone: Military System (9) 4371 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.
Internet: www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/museum/rsa.htm

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 to 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.*

Branch News: After around 22 years in office, **Jimmy Carruthers** has stood down as Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool Branch. The Branch and Association offers **Jimmy** their sincere thanks for his outstanding contribution. **Jimmy Mayne** is the newly elected Secretary and his address is, 20 Ashton Drive, West Kirby, Wirral CH48 0RQ. Tel: 0151-6255862. The Rotherham Branch has had a change of Secretary; **Keith Bates** was elected at the Branch's recent AGM and can be contacted at, 92 Howard Road, Bramley, Rotherham S66 2SU, Tel: 01709 547688. **Bryan Whittaker** has been elected as the new Secretary of the Colchester Branch. Bryan can be contacted at, 75 Lower Kingsland Road, West Mersea, Colchester CO5 8AH, Tel: 01206-383682. Somehow Association HQ has been advertising the incorrect address for **Eric Harris**, Hon Secretary of the Nottingham Branch. **Eric's** correct address is, 74 Apollo Drive, Hempshill Vale, Nuttal, Nottingham, NG6 7AG. My apologies to **Tony Hull** of the Beverley Ex-Boys Assn for getting his e-mail address incorrect in the April *WIRE*. It should read: beba.tonyhull@lineone.net. The Hon. Secretary of the '254 OBA' is **Mr Brian Fisher**, 29 Haslemere Drive, Penketh, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 2RP, Tel: 01925-727420, E-mail: A254mech@bfisher.freeserve.co.uk. **Peter Dooley**, Hon Secretary of the Southport Branch, has a new address, 34a Chambers Road, Southport PR8 4JQ, Tel: 01704-512723. E-mail: 'pjdooley27@hotmail.co'. **Brian Podmore** is the new Hon Secretary of the Shropshire Branch. **Brian's** address is, 22 Westwood Court, North Street, Leek, Staffs, ST13 8DQ. E-mail: jimmy@royal-signals.net. Holders of the Branch Secretaries List should make the necessary amendments regarding the above detail.

Annual General Meeting: The combined AGM/Branch Representatives Meeting was held in Chelsea Barracks, London on Saturday 7 April 2001. Over 130 members, representing 49 of the Association's 69 Branches were present. Five of our affiliated associations were also represented. It was also good to see four of our Chelsea In-Pensioners there. It is hoped that the minutes are now with Branch Secretaries. **Maj Gen Tony Boyle** chaired an interesting and enjoyable meeting during which **Col Neil Donaldson**, the Regimental Colonel and representing the SOinC(A), gave an update on Corps matters.. As a result of three amendments approved at the meeting, the Association Rulebook has been reprinted (as at April 2001) and copies are available to members from Association HQ. After the meeting **Dave Walker** and **Tom Ditch** (Dorset Branch) organised a raffle, which raised £190 for the Benevolent Fund. Our thanks go to **Dave** and **Pat Maloney** for donating the prizes. Many acquaintances were renewed and new friends made at the meeting. Our thanks go to 238 Sig Sqn for their assistance with the meeting. Thanks also goes to all those who made the effort to attend, many having come from far afield. Next year's AGM will be held on 6 April – have you got that in your diary **John**?

Corps Carol Service: This year's Corps Carol Service will take place on a date yet to be confirmed at the usual venue of St Stephen with St John, Rochester Row, Westminster, London. The service will start at 1800 hours, after which everyone is invited to join the Master of Signals in enjoying sherry and mince pies in the nearby Parish Hall. All serving and former members of the Corps, plus their families are cordially invited to attend.

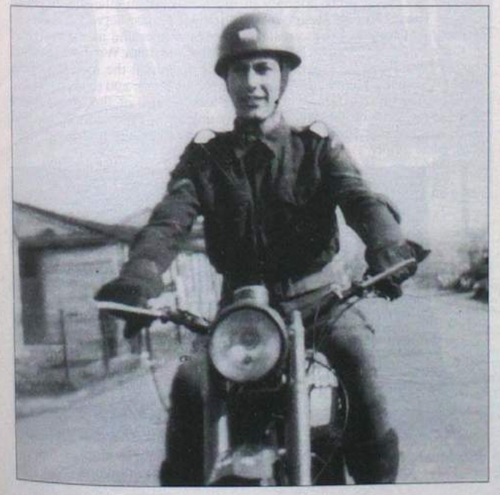
Did you serve with 7th or 11th Armd Div in 1945? 7th Armd Bde Sig Sqn, based in Hohne, Bergen Belson, Germany are looking for former Corps members who served in the area during the later stages of WW2. They would like members to contact them concerning the history of the Corps' participation during the fighting in the area and on to Hamburg. The unit would like to invite concerned members to a Remembrance Service in November. Fuller details will appear in the August *WIRE*, but in the meantime anyone interested is asked to contact **RSM Mark Tivey** on 0049 5051 962555 or 962267, Fax 962422.

New Life Members: Thank you to the numerous members who took the trouble to let me know that they consider the list of New Life Members to be useful. This service will continue and the list of those enrolled since the last *WIRE* is shown below.

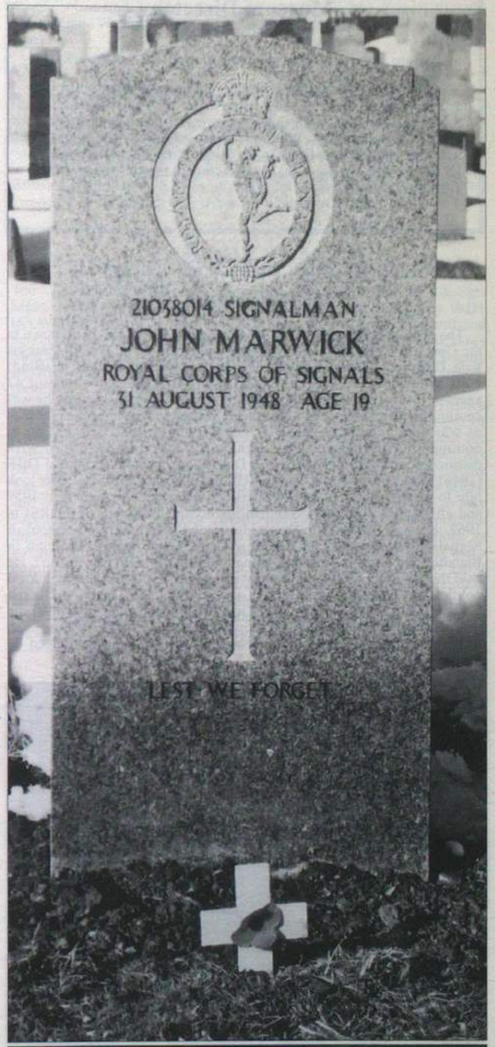
Rank & Name	*Branch*	*Served*
Sgt Ted Williams	RHQ	1961-69
App Ross Munroe	RHQ	1999-00
WO1 Alex Sherrard	RHQ	1978-01
SSgt Geoffrey Coatsworth	Beverley Ex-Boys Assn	1950-78
Cpl Lindsay Howson	RHQ	1993-01
Cpl Paul Willmer	Derby	1993-date
LCpl Robert Holt	Derby	1998-date
LCpl Robert Bromwich	Derby	1992-date
Cpl Kevin Twigger	RHQ	1977-01
SSgt Colin Brown	RHQ	1979-01
SSgt Christopher McKenna	RHQ	1984-01
Cpl J. D. Donnison	RHQ	1989-01
SSgt Ray Stokes	Berwick	1960-82
Cpl Keith Taylor	RHQ	1977-87
Sig Conrad Warne	RHQ	1996-01
SSgt Steve Harrison	RHQ	1977-00
WO2 Biddy Baxter	RHQ	1977-01
WO1 John Gibson	RHQ	1975-01
LCpl Virginia Hopson	RHQ	1980-84
Dvr Frank Goddard	West Wales	1945-48
LCpl Ted Reed	West London	1947-49
LCpl Chris Mitchel	West London	1996-date
Sgt Ralph Porter	Catterick	1960-78
Maj Philip Akass	Aldershot	1938-48
LCpl Sally Reggler	Exmouth	1983-94
Capt Guy Anstiss	Middlesex Yeomanry	1994-date
SSgt Bob Breheney	RHQ	1977-01
Sig Chris Ankers	RHQ	1995-01
WO2 Wayne Cox	RHQ	1977-01
WO2 John Prowse	RHQ	1978-00
Sig Sam Stroughair	RHQ	1997-01
Sgt Allan Beever	Rotherham	1950-68
WO1 Gordon Smith	RHQ	1951-76
Sig Peter Vass	RHQ	1953-64
Cpl John Wagstaff	RHQ	1980-93
Sig Steven Thomson	RHQ	1992-01
SSgt Keith Langton	RHQ	1977-01
WO1 Phil Jones	RHQ	1977-01
WO1 Nick Hawley	RHQ	1977-01
Sgt Jim Harvey BEM	RHQ	1977-01
WO1 Phil Court	RHQ	1977-01
SSgt Graeme Chapman	RHQ	1987-01
Cpl Lex Barker	RHQ	1985-date
Sgt Nigel Brewin	Dorset	1978-01
WSgt Jo Richmond	Catterick	1970-80
Sig Nick Gibbon	Reading	1951-55
Cpl Gordon Canning	Reading	1951-55
Sig Darren McAlister	RHQ	1995-01
Capt Helen Bosley	RHQ	1994-01
Sig James Angliss	RHQ	1954-56
Sgt John Sears	RHQ	1945-48
Sig Peter Bird	RHQ	1953-55
Sgt Pamela Foakes	Colchester	1968-75
Sig Sid Noon	Colchester	1943-47
Cpl John Ridler	East Kent	1949-51
Sig Gordon Stephens	RHQ	1950-52
Sgt Les Sharp	RHQ	1951-73
Cpl Ian Allmark	RHQ	1981-94
LCpl Lee Anderson	RHQ	1985-94
Cpl Phil Annison	RHQ	1972-94
Sgt Trevor Allen	RHQ	1977-94
Cpl George Amos	RHQ	1974-94
LCpl Bob Armstrong	RHQ	1984-94
Cpl Robert Arthur	RHQ	1980-94
LCpl Kenneth Armstrong	RHQ	1985-94
Sig Joanne Smith	RHQ	1997-01
Cpl Scott Dernie	RHQ	1986-01
Sig James Walker	RHQ	1963-81
Sig Vic Rayner	East London	1941-47
WO2 Tony Wells	East London	1978-date
WO2 Bob Woods	RHQ	1953-92
Sig Tony Stevens	Loughborough	1950-52
LCpl Leslie Wright	Loughborough	1955-57
Sig L B Kilbourne	Loughborough	1947-53
Cpl Jim Traynor	RHQ	1961-70
Sig Brian Roalf	East Kent	1958-60
Sgt Bradd Braddock	RHQ	1987-01
SSgt James Eddowes	RHQ	1977-00
Cpl Peter Davenport	Newark	1962-71
Sig Collin Cawkwell	Newark	1947-49
LCpl Jimmy Lafferty	Newark	1962-71
Cpl Frank Bowles MBE	Cardiff	1953-58
Sig Thomas Kitchen	Rotherham	1949-50
Cpl Lyn Sheridan	RHQ	1990-01
SSgt Patricia Millar	RHQ	1979-01
WO2 Mark Harvey	RHQ	1977-01
Cpl Neil Cox	RHQ	1991-01
Maj Brian Murray	RHQ	1963-01
Sig Morris Carpenter	12/15/18 AFSR Assn	1942-47
Maj Andy Talbot	RHQ	1990-01
WO1 Ernie Adams	RHQ	1955-76
Sgt Clem Clements	12/15/18 AFSR Assn	1940-46
Capt Richard Newhouse	RHQ	1994-01
WO2 Mike Goatley	RHQ	1963-89
Sig Thomas Lafferty	RHQ	1965-76
Cpl Eric Ball	RHQ	1951-53
WO2 Rick Powell	RHQ	1977-01
CplConrad Towner	RHQ	1992-01
Pte J. A. Glasgow	Glasgow	1975-83

LEST WE FORGET

Ex-Signalman Albert Thurling (pictured below) never forgot his friend **John** 'Jackie' **Marwick**, a young Kirkwall, Orkney soldier who died in the military hospital in Glasgow in 1948, after several weeks illness.



He was given a full military funeral in Kirkwall but no gravestone. **Albert** raised the matter of the absence of the gravestone with the MoD and his intervention and persistence has resulted in the War Graves Commission providing an appropriate stone for the family grave where **Jackie** is buried.



LOST

THE 'JOE COTTERELL' CROSS COUNTRY CUP

The Cup is presented in memory of **Joe Cotterell** who ran for the Army in the mid-1930s and won the Egyptian Command Cross Country Cup three years in succession. The last known recipient was **Bill Bailley**, 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt Cross Country Champion – February 1990.

The Corps Property Manager, **Maj (Retd) Pat Lafferty** is anxious to trace its whereabouts.

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED by Col (Retd) Cliff Walters, Museum Director

We are in the process of gathering material for a new book,

'A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE CORPS'.

I would be grateful for any suitable photographs (with appropriate captions) that depict the Corps on operations: particularly since 1970. If you have any other photographs that you believe may also be worthy of this project please contact the Museum Director. Tel : Blandford Military 01258 48 2267.

MEDALS PRESENTATION TO THE MUSEUM

The death, at the age of 89, of **Lt Col Edwin Day OBE TD** (known in the Corps as **Edward**) was recorded in the April *WIRE*. On 30 April his wife **Elizabeth** presented his medals to the Museum where **Col (Retd) Cliff Walters** received them. **Lt Col Day OBE TD** gave a total of 42 years of his working life to the Corps which started in 1931 when he was commissioned into 55 (WL) Divisional Signals (TA) and at the outbreak of war he commanded the Div HQ Signal Section. He went on to command 13 Air Formation Signals in Operation Overlord with distinction and was Mentioned in Despatches (1944), appointed OBE (1946) and awarded the TD (1945). His distinguished military career took him to Egypt, Sudan, Catterick, Larkhill, and Suez. He retired in 1959 and after a short spell as a 'civilian' he became Secretary of the RSI in 1962. He was involved in the planning of the move of the School of Signals from Catterick to Blandford. Having set up the Museum in Blandford, he assumed the appointment of Museum Director in 1967. He held this position until his retirement in 1976. He was also active in local politics and became a prominent Conservative in the Tendring District Council, Walton. He met his wife, **Elizabeth**, in Egypt in 1948 whilst she was serving with the WRAF and they married on 30 April 1955. As such this presentation day was also their anniversary. He is also survived by his daughter **Rosemary**.

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON AMF (L) REUNION

249 Signal Squadron AMF(L) are to hold their **26th ANNIVERSARY**on at Bulford Camp. For a programme and booking form any Serving or ex-Squadron Members wishing to attend are to contact the SSM on

94321 2193 or **01980 672193**

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

In April we enjoyed an outstanding event, a formal Dinner in the Garrison Sergeants Mess to celebrate a further two successful years of the Branch. We were delighted to have as our Guest of Honour our new Association Chairman, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle CB** with his wife **Ann**.

Remembering Borneo - The After Dinner Speech
(L-R): Maj Gen Tony Boyle and Edelgard Moss

The dinner was attended by our President, **Gen Henry Hild MBE** and his wife **Janet** and by **Nigel** and **Betty Ribchester** who have a special mention as they were celebrating their Golden Wedding. It was a memorable occasion for **Nigel** as he also received from **Gen Tony Boyle** the 50-Year Badge.

Maj Gen Tony Boyle - RSA President (R)
presenting a 50 Year Badge to Lt Col (Retd) Nigel Ribchester
(Nigel is the author of the Signal (Cary) Theatre 1945-1973, a multi volume record, recently presented to the Corps Museum)

The night proved to be not only an auspicious but an hilarious occasion as **Gen Tony, General Henry Hild** and **Nigel** all had served together in Borneo. **Col Neville Lyons** presided over the dinner and mention should be made of the way in which **Edelgard Moss** and **Jean Wilson** organised the very attractive floral arrangements that decorated the tables. Thanks are due to **Joe Fairbairn**, the Garrison Sergeant Major and to his excellent Staff for the presentation of the dinner and the use of the Mess. **Nigel Ribchester** brought not only a large contingent of celebrants of his and **Betty's** anniversary but buckets of champagne to ensure that our glasses were never empty.

Lt Col (Retd) Nigel and Mrs Betty Ribchester
Golden Wedding Anniversary - Congratulations

The occasion was organised by our Chairman, **Brig Noel Moss**, as a successor to our 50th Anniversary dinner and it was a most enjoyable evening befitting the Branch that epitomises the Home of the British Army. Our Annual General Meeting was held in February on the occasion of our Spring Luncheon for which we again were indebted to **Joe Fairbairn** for the use of his Mess and the excellent service of his Staff. Once more, they did us proudly. In March we were given a very good talk with slides by **Tony Harmsworth**, the Waterways Manager of the Basingstoke Canal Authority, whose family had been associated with the Canal from its inception. His knowledge of the Canal was an education even to those of us who had long been familiar with it, and the evening proved most enjoyable.

COTSWOLDS BRANCH

We were pleased to welcome **Lt Col Bob Peake**,our Area Representative and his wife, to our February Meeting when he outlined to us the work of the RSA and answered many questions and queries to everyone's satisfaction. This is the first time, in over twenty years that we have had a visit from outside the Branch and look forward to a return visit in the not too distant future. Our March meeting was our Annual General Meeting, when all the Committee were re-elected. The Chairman, **Maj Arthur Cropp** and our Secretary, **Mrs Cropp** informed those present that they both intended resigning from their posts at the end of this Branch Year. This was received with dismay, but we all realise that their efforts over the past 18 years has kept the Branch going and they are going to be a hard act to follow. The Membership must pull together over the next year and find replacements.

DORSET BRANCH

As usual we have just, by the skin of our teeth, managed to defeat the deadline for the publication of our Branch notes. On Friday 23 March we held our Annual Dinner in the Crown Hotel, Blandford. During the evening our President, **Pat Lafferty**, welcomed the guests, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** the Association Chairman and **Mrs Boyle**, **Col J. K. Ewbank**, Commander The Royal School of Signals and **Mrs Ewbank** and **WO1 (RSM) H. Kemp** and **Mrs Kemp**. The highlight of the evening was a tribute paid by the President to **Jimmy Wilds**, one of our oldest and longest serving members. **Jimmy** has spent 34 years as a member, serving eight years as Assistant Secretary and 30 years as Standard Bearer. He holds the 50 Years' Service Badge and is an Honour Member of the Association. Well done **Jimmy**. During the evening **Jimmy** presented his name-sake to the Branch. The photograph shows **Pat Lafferty** receiving the 'Jimmy' on behalf of the Branch (PS. **Pat** is on the right). Some 89 members, their wives, and guests attended the Dinner and a good evening was enjoyed by all.

THE EAST KENT BRANCH

Nearly fifty Members gathered on 11 March at the Shant Hotel, a delightful olde worlde establishment near Sutton Valance, to first of all listen to a most interesting and amusing talk given by **Miss Karen Bennett,** the granddaughter of **Maj Tom** and **Mrs Doris Bewsey. Karen** took part in last year's Millenium Marathon which she completed despite suffering a knee injury during the latter part of the event. This most entertaining talk and description of the training, build up and final day was followed by a further talk, this time by **Karen's** mother, **Pauline**, who is the Area Secretary for the Cancer Research Campaign, and she enlightened us on how the donations are spent and how the Research Campaign is progressing. Both these talks were loudly applauded and a further donation was made by the Branch from the proceeds of the raffle. All this was followed by a delicious lunch.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Roy Andrews was an original member of the first Branch Committee and served in many capacities until 1997, when he became the South East Representative on the RSA Central Committee. He completes his tour of this appointment at the forthcoming AGM and will then step down, to devote more time to his other 'iron in the fire', the Tripoli Signals Association. We are all very grateful to him for all his efforts over the years.

VALE

It is with much sadness that I must report that **Mr Jimmy Hand** has finally lost his battle with cancer after many months of treatment. **Jimmy** was a most entertaining and popular member who took it upon himself to discover and enlist ex-members of the Corps into the Branch. His funeral on 21 March was attended by several of the Branch despite the distance involved and by many members from his local branch of the Royal British Legion, where he was an enthusiastic and popular member. The sympathy of the Branch goes out to his wife **Pam** and the family.

GLASGOW BRANCH

The ' Jimmy Club' meeting was held on 16 February in the WOs & Sgts Mess. The invitation was extended to members of the Branch by **WO1 (SVWO) Terry McVey**. An excellent meal was provided prepared and served by chef, **Cpl Debbie Carruthers**, helped out by waitresses **Sharon McKenna** and **Caroline Dorrian** of 32 Sig Regt (V). **Sgt Danny Beattie** was in charge of the bar service, much appreciated by the branch members, voted a very convivial evening.

The Branch Standard Bearer, **Bill MacNamara**, paraded the Branch Standard, at the 60th Anniversary ceremony, of the bombing of Clydebank, which resulted in so many civilian casualties, with half the town's houses and other buildings being demolished in March 1941. My own late wife was fortunately in a shelter that night. The family home was destroyed. The family was evacuated to Troon, Ayrshire for safety. **Bill** was also invited to attend as a representative of the Branch, to take part in a Standard Bearers Competition for Service Associations, organised by the Royal British Legion Scotland. **Bill** took the honours, by winning the special award for associations, of the May Peat Trophy and a commemorative medallion. Well done **Bill**. The RBLS also had a competition for their own members in which Association Standard Bearers were not allowed to participate. The presentation of trophies for both sections was made by our Branch Member, **George MacFarlane**, as the RBLS Western District Secretary.

The Regiment held an open day on Saturday 31 March. The Branch was allowed to have a stand with photographs and memorabilia, to attract the attention of any ex Signals who could be interested in joining the Branch. The meals cooked in the field kitchen were excellent, and the regiment's cooks did a roaring trade with their hot dog stand. A display of the food packaged for use in the field, was certainly 'up-market' in the memories of most of the older members of the Branch. The Signals Army Cadets also had their own spot and their Miniature Rifle Range was a great attraction for the younger male and female visitors. Their equipment on display was also upto date.

Arrangements are well in hand for the ceremony of Beating Retreat and the Drumhead Service to be held on 28 April to mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Branch. This is to be held in the HQ of 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), with kind permission of the CO, **Lt Col J. K. McKee MBE** who has intimated that he would have some of the Regiment attend the ceremony. To round off the day a buffet and disco is arranged.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

Members of the Branch travelled South to the RSA AGM on Friday 6 April 2001, led by the Chairman - **Ron Taylor,** Vice Chairman - **Pete Griffin**, Branch Secretary - **Harry Ferguson** and Entertainment Supremo - **Ian Ashworth-Davies**. Also in the party were **Mrs Ida Harvey, Roy Gartside, Harry Jones** and **Norman Tipton. Ron** said that it was the largest contingent ever to attend from this Branch.

On Friday evening we were joined by **Ivana Muir**, Glasgow Branch Secretary, who had earlier taken afternoon tea with **Ida** at **Mr**

Mohammed al Fayed's emporium in Knightsbridge. We were royally entertained by **Ida** at the Civil Service Club in Whitehall. The party got away from the Union Jack Club for the AGM before the Met Police cordoned off the entire area, because of a 'suspicious' illegally parked car, outside the club.

The concensus was that this year's AGM had quite a lighthearted feel to it, the hospitality was of the usual high standard, and the two-day trip deemed a great success.

HUDDERSFIELD BRANCH

The Huddersfield Branch of the Royal Signals Association held their fourth Christmas Dinner on Sunday 25 January 2001, at the Bradley Park Golf Club. The Guests of Honour were **Capt Rejendra Gurung** and **Cpl Balaram Pun** of 2 Signal Regiment, Royal Gurkha Signals. **Capt Gurung** gave a short talk on the Gurkha Welfare Trust, and was presented with £50, the result of a raffle run during lunch. **Cpl Balaram** then awarded **Mr Trevor Dean** with his Life Membership of the Association.

Back Row (L-R): Mr R. Pawson (Treasurer), Mr P. Berry, Mr J. Dearden, Mr D. Pollard, Mr P. Smith, Mr T. Dean, Mr D. Crawshaw, Mr A. Dunn and Mr P. Ling
Front Row (L-R): Mr D. Tippon (Vice Chairman), Capt Rajendra Gurung, Mr J. Hurst (Chairman), Cpl Balaram Pun and Mr G. Scott

NORFOLK BRANCH

Our AGM was held on 9 March at our usual meeting place: the TA Centre, Aylesham Road, Norwich. The existing Officers were re-elected en-bloc the only vacancy being the Parade Marshall, there were no takers. The new post of Assistant Secretary and Public Relations was filled by **Brian Gibbs**. The meeting continued to be quite lively and we had an average turnout of 35-40 ably presided over by the Chairman, **Maj (Retd) Mike Sexton**, who has organised a visit to the Muckleborough Collection on 12 May. The Collection is an interesting one of military memorabilia and is housed in a museum in Weybourne, Norfolk. By popular request there will be a further visit to see the Shuttleworth

Mrs Cynthia Wade, Mrs Ann Boyle, Maj Gen A. H. Boyle, Mike Sexton

(L-R): Don Ellingworth (Branch President), Mrs Cynthia Wade, Mrs Ann Boyle, Maj Gen A. H. Boyle CB, Maj Mike Sexton, Mrs Francis Greenwood

Collection of WWI aeroplanes, both British and German. They are all working machines and there are several other attractions as well. Should any other Branches wish to visit the phone number is 01767 626227 and the Group organiser, **Tony Podmore**, will send full details.

Our Branch Dinner was held on 24 March at the Hilton Hotel in Norwich, where we were regaled with the presence of the Association Chairman, **Maj Gen Tony Boyle CB** and his wife, **Ann**. They were warmly welcomed by the Branch Chairman - **Maj Mike Sexton**. The Association Chairman spoke at some length on the work of the Association including its benevolence work. He also spoke of the problems being faced by the serving members of the Corps with the shortage of recruits and the retention of trained personel.

At the conclusion of his talk the Branch Chairman presented him with a Branch cheque for £100 for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. Another welcome guest was **Mrs Cynthia Wade**, the wife of the late **Maj Gen A. Wade** who was the first President of the Branch. Both **Mrs Ann Boyle** and **Mrs Cynthia Wade** were presented with bouquets by **Brian Gibbs**.

Our Branch publication 'Jimmy News' suffered a short demise due to the illness of the Editor, **Keith Swetman**. **Keith** felt that he could not carry on but we are glad to report that its original founder **Colin Spencer** (ex 3 Div) has volunteered (?) to pick up the cudgels once more. Anyway he is making a very good job of it and is very much appreciated by the Branch. With his permission I reproduce a part of his 'Prayer for the Stressed':

Help me to be careful of the toes that I step on today, as they may be connected to the feet I may have to kiss tomorrow. And help me to remember, when I am having a bad day and it seems that people are winding me up, it takes 42 muscles to frown, 28 to smile and only four to extend my arm and smack somebody in the mouth.' ***C. Spencer.***

READING BRANCH

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of **Col Harold Shorter** on 4 March, 2001. To many of us in Reading Branch he had been our OC, CO and CSO in our Territorial days and subsequently a founder member of the Branch. **Harold** served two tours as Chairman and although ill health had prevented him from attending any of our events in recent months we kept in touch. He will be missed by all that knew him.

On 17 March we held our Spring Luncheon. Although the attendance was smaller than we might have wished, those who came gave a splendid illustration of the 'Corps Family' enjoying themselves. Our guests of honour were **Maj and Mrs Neville Hogan**, representing the Gurkha Welfare Trust. After our first year of supporting this excellent cause the highlight of the luncheon was seeing our President, **Maj-Gen MacFarlane**, presenting our cheque to **Maj Hogan**. After lunch we held a very successful Annual Draw. In the afternoon of 17 March we held our 30th Annual General Meeting. To start the proceedings our Branch Vice-President, (**Jeff Hazel**) read out the Branch 'Roll of Honour' which now comprises the names of the 40 members who have died since the 'new' Reading Branch was formed in January 1971, and this was followed by a short silence in memory of our 'absent friends'. Following the presentation of the usual Reports, the Meeting proceeded to elect the Committee for the new year, as follows: Chairman: **Mrs Pauline Tennant**, Vice-Chairman: **Maj Brian Billsberry**. Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary: **Alan E. Foot**, Social Secretary: **Mrs. Thelma Wakefield**, Asst. Social Secretary: **John Wakefield**, 50-Club Secretary: **David Norris**, and Publicity and Newsletter Secretary: **Miss Cheryl Jackson**. The ex-officio members of the Committee are our President: **Maj-Gen Bill MacFarlane**, Vice-President: **Jeff Hazel**, Standard Bearer: **John Mumford** and 94 Signal Sqn Rep: **Sgt Chris Lewis**.

Why not visit the Royal Signals Museum?
For opening hours ring : 01258 482248

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

The Branch A.G.M. was held on 9 April 2001 at Coldyhill Lane Barracks, Scarborough. Branch President, **George Rusby**, opened the proceedings by thanking the Committee and all members for another good year. Chairman, **Derek Rigby**, started the business of the 53rd Annual General Meeting. Treasurer, **Brian Mortimer**, reported that the Branch funds were in a very healthy state. Branch Secretary, **Steve Jewell**, gave a report on the past year and highlighted the successful social programme arranged by the Committee. Vice-Chairman, **Harry Harper**, reported on the Royal Signals Association AGM, which had been held in London. The following Social Events have been arranged for the coming year:

29 June 2001	Informal Dinner
21 July 2001	Family Evening - Disco and Barbeque
26 October 2001	Annual Formal Dinner
11 November 2001	Curry Lunch
24 November 2001	Cheese and Wine Evening
8 December 2001	Christmas Dinner

On Friday 11 May, we held a Charity Race Evening in aid of the Army Cadet, **Stephen Menary** who was injured by a terrorist bomb. The evening started with the Horse Racing, many of the races had been sponsored by the Korean Veterans Association, REME Association and Osgodby Wine Club and we say a big thank you to these organisations for their support. Included in the evening were a raffle, and a special prize for the lucky numbered ticket holder, and a buffet supper. The whole event was superbly organised by **Steve Jewell** and the Social Committee to whom we also say a big thank you. We are pleased to announce that as a result of this evening a cheque for £310 will be donated to this very worthy cause.

Committee Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and Branch Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. If anyone reading this would like to join our Branch, please telephone our Branch Secretary, **Steve Jewell**, on 01723 379922 or 01723 375646.

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT BRANCH

The Branch held its AGM on 6 March 2001. Two members announced their retirement at the meeting. Our Chairman, **George Packer** and Committee member, **Ernie Budd**. Both, now well into their eighties, are giving way to the 'younger' generation. They joined the Association in 1947 when the Branch was formed from Signallers who had served in the 43rd Wessex Division Signal Regiment throughout the war. They gave loyal and dedicated service to the Branch as Committee Members and **George** is staying on as an ordinary Committee member. **Brig Johnny Clinch CBE** was re-elected as President. The Branch membership now stands at 72 (including associate members). Our new Chairman is **Sidney Lionel Smith**. He is the first Chairman who is not a veteran from the 43rd Wessex Division, Signals Regiment. **Sidney** was born on 11 October 1928, in Wimbledon, London. **19037873 Sig Smith**, enlisted in the Corps in August 1946. He trained as a Driver and served until November 1952. In July 1947 he joined 118 Dvr Troop, 15 Air Formation Signals Regiment, Buckeburge, BAOR, where he served until October 1948. His next posting was to the War Office in London. In October 1949 he found himself at SHAPE as part of West Europe Signal Troop, Fontainebleau.

The war in Korea Was the next area to demand his services and in September 1951 he was posted to the 1st Commonwealth Division and served in Kure (Japan) then Seoul, Taegu and Pusan in Korea. He was repatriated in September 1952 and left the Corps that year.

Handing over the Chairmanship
(L-R): George Parker shakes hands with Sidney Smith

SOUTHPORT BRANCH

The Southport Branch held its annual Dinner Dance at the World famous Scarisbrick Hotel on Lord Street Southport. **Col John Roberts**, our guest of honour, gave an excellent and entertaining speech. **Col John** who is a local Southport man and his wife **Liz** were made up to be back in Southport as they say round here. We have had three new members recently. They are **Eric Grady, Eric Timewell** and **Bill Penkeyman**. If there is anyone around the Southport area who is interested in joining our association we meet every third Thursday of the month in the Conservative Club Bath St Southport at 8-o-clock. We hold a yearly Social Evening and other functions and run subsidized transport to the annual reunion in Blandford. Contact **Peter Dooley** on 01704 512723 if you require any information about the Branch.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting in March followed our very enjoyable Christmas Party which for the first time was held in our new venue, affording generous space for the excellent buffet furnished by our Ladies Section and for our Raffle. Our respected Treasurer, **Cliff Wood**, won a trip on the London Eye. No one told them he suffers from vertigo. We hope he and **Ann** enjoyed it. AGM Night is Fish and Chip Night, when all attending Members partake of our national dish courtesy of the Branch. This is a great occasion, the feast taking place during the interval and coinciding with the Raffle. **Pat Miller**, with her usual efficiency, organised the raffle, and **Sheila Ruff** did a great catering job with the fish and chips. Our President, **John Daw** attended the meeting with **Margaret**. We always are pleased to see them as they now are resident on the Hampshire coast but make the effort to be present on every special occasion. This was a very special occasion, the President presenting **Cliff Wood** with a 'Jimmy' in recognition of his great services to the Branch. **Cliff** was standing down after many years service on our Committee. He was a Member of the London Branch, the forerunner of the present. It fell into a limbo in the late 70's and was reconstituted as the West London by those of us who survived its demise. Well done, 'Chippie', we owe you a great debt! The Branch meets on the last Friday of every month at the Richmond British Legion Club situated on the Westbound carriageway of the A316. There is free parking. All Corps, serving or retired are welcome.

REUNIONS

260 SIGNAL SQUADRON ASSOCIATION REUNION WEEKEND

BACK TO WHERE IT ALL STARTED - SHOEBURYNESS

Some six years ago four or five of us met up at the RSA Weekend and that was the beginning of the 260 (SAM) Signals Squadron Association. Since then we have had two meetings at Lutterworth, one at Loughborough, at Dortmund, Germany for the millennium year and this last one took place in Southend. The reason we were at Southend was this was where the Squadron began what was to be a nine-year run supporting the Gunners of 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment with communications.

The weekend began with a majority of the number of members attending arriving by the late afternoon and early evening on the Friday 27 April 2001. After the usual travelling wash and brush up it was head for the BAR, anyone would think we were a load of large consumers of falling down water, well nothings change there then. This was followed by an excellent meal and, after a return to the room that dispels that self-inflicting falling down water, many memories recalled over what we all got up to some three decades ago. I say self inflicted as the next morning we had only ourselves to blame. Saturday was the day to return to all the old haunts but unfortunately we were restricted entry to parts of the old camp as the developers have now started to repair and build new housing but the security officer explained what was being done and gave

us a picturesque brochure. If you look at the Squadron web site under history there is a small article about the housing development. That left the rest of the day to explore the town of Southend and for at least one of our party to have some real English FISH and CHIPS, see he's a foreigner, well ex-pat living in Germany. We had an invitation to the Naval and Military Club that most members of the Squadron took up and spoke to the local members over coffees and drinks at lunchtime. Come mid afternoon our group returned to the hotel for a shower and some relaxation before the start of the evening's program. Yet again the gods smiled on us and apart from a cool breeze the sun shone all day, the weather was excellent for most of the weekend. At approximately 1800hrs the AGM kicked off. The Secretary, **Roy Andrews** announced that a replica of the Thunderbird Missile, manufactured in brass on a plinth and made by **Frank Woodall**, who is our associated REME member has been bought by the club and would be presented to the winner after the main raffle later in the evening. There were apologies for absence sent in by letter and phone but the Chairman has, since our last meeting, moved and forgotten to let **Roy** know his new address. If anyone out there sees **Mr Tony Morgan** around Wales somewhere then please call **Roy Andrews**, but this could be a tall order considering his name and the and the country he has moved to. At this point, however, we would like to send a GET WELL message to **Anna Seymour** and **Rita, Peter Lori's** partner who both had operations in the week prior to the club weekend. We all hope to see you next year fit and well. Due to the fact that we lost our Chairman and the Vice Chairman, **John Seymour**, is looking after his wife, **Roy** asked **Archie Cairns** if he would like to step in as Deputy Vice Chairman and he accepted and Chaired the rest of the meeting admirably. If next year we have to ***find*** another stand-in Chairman we will have more Chairmen than committee members. **Pat Andrews** was seconded into the Treasurer's post and gave a favourable report on the club finances. **Roy** and **Pat** bought all the scarves and ties the aim being to sell them to the members to top up the coffers again, this went very well. The only exception was the two-associated members who were presented with a tie each. The Committee members remained the same except for the new Chairman.

All the business was concluded for the last year and for the next meeting it was decided to go back to Loughborough at the Jarvis Loughborough Hotel but the dates have now changed due to the Hotel's commitments and they are Friday to Sunday 12 to 14April 2002. Please can you all amend your diaries accordingly. Proforma's will be sent out shortly to all members, but if you are not a member and you wish for further information then contact **Roy** and **Pat Andrews** on 01227 264551 or yours truly **Steve** and **Ursula Freeman - Pannett** on 01603 300027.

The subject of the current running web site was put to the floor and it was suggested that we try and make an all out effort to improve the site for which members were asked to supply any anecdotes about their time with Squadron that might spruce up the site. We also hope that it will seek out the many folks out there to join the Squadron Association. Our web site address is http/:*www.260signaisquadron.00go.com;* Give the site a visit and let us know your views. The meeting closed and the merriment began in Ernest and Fred, John, Bill etc. 44 sat down to an excellent meal and the hotel staff looked after us very well over the whole weekend. A round of applause was given to the waitresses and we conveyed our heart felt thanks. There then followed the raffle that netted a small prophet £52 to boost the club finances. The bar was the next port of call and here we stayed till the call of the bed was heard. We were ready for some shut-eye to prepare us for the next day's tasks and that was a sobering thought. It meant the journey home for most of us. After a late breakfast there was the big round of good byes and the hopes of seeing all again in a year's time. Yours truly delayed his departure to change the unwelcome flat tyre on the car and of course the weather men got it right this time it rained and just as we were about to leave it stopped and the homeward run was done in brilliant sun shine. See you all next year god willing.

DENBURY

On 19 March 2001 a new egroup was formed for all the 50 somethings who started their Royal Signals Lives at Denbury Camp. The egroup has grown quickly by luck and word of mouth, it now stands at 29 members. Its address is
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/denbury_boys

12th, 15th & 18th AIR FORMATION SIGNALS REGIMENTS ASSOCIATION

On Thursday, 5 April, we held our bi-annual get-together at the De La Warr Pavillion in Bexhill, Sussex, and there was a record attendance. Out of the nineteen Members now in the South East Region we managed to get twelve of them together for three hours non-stop 'lamp-swinging'. We also had four 'apologies for absence' from Members unable to attend. Considering that some of our Members are unable to travel, and some live much too far away, (our furthest one is in North Humberside!) to get to the gathering, this was a very good turnout. Originally I intended these get-togethers to be an annual event, but after the first one it was unanimously agreed that they be held twice a year. As one of the Members said at the time, 'None of us are getting any younger, and these meetings could be the last chance we'll get to remember the good times we had with the Regiment.' My sincere thanks to you all, and I do hope that we'll see you all again, and some of the absent faces too, at the next get-together in October.

A newcomer to our April gathering was **'Clem' Clements,** who kept us in fits as he regaled us with some of his Army experiences. **Clem** has written a booklet - actually, it's more of a tract – about how he 'wasn't there' to win the War, and he lent it to me to read. I found it hilarious, and if anyone else would like to read it I suggest that they contact him. Perhaps he'll get a few copies run off for those who are interested. Write to **Mr A. Clements**, 85 King George VI Mansions, Court Farm Road, HOVE, East Sussex, BN3 70Y, or telephone 01273 557004. Don't forget to forward the cost of photo-printing to him, either. £1 should about cover expenses, and it will be money well spent. From the collection made at the get-together I was able to forward a cheque for £35 to **Dennis Egan**, and he sends his thanks to all. The South East Region is now in the black again, so let's hope that the Post Office doesn't put up the cost of postage. I was also able to sell four copies of 'Swing That Lamp' at the gathering as well, and the money for these was forwarded to **Pat Soward**. Anyone else requiring a copy please contact **Pat**. Full details are to be found in the National Newsletter that you recently received. Don't forget that all profits from the sale of this book go to the 12th, 15th & 18th AFSA.

Paul Stickley produced a momento which brought back memories to many of us - an original Bar-None' badge, in perfect condition. It's fifty odd years since I last saw one of them! Do any of you remember those cigarette cases that German pows used to make out of aluminium scrounged from crashed aircraft, and inserted with pieces of coloured china from broken crockery? **Paul** also still had one of them that he showed to us. There's no doubt about it, these gatherings certainly do bring the memories back to us.

Now, get your diaries out and make a note of this date. Our next get-together will be on Thursday, 4 October, in the cafeteria of the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, from 1100hrs to 1400hrs and we hope to have a good attendance. Once again, I urge Members to share their cars and try to bring someone who is not mobile. For those of you who have not yet attended one of our gatherings I can promise you that you'll really have three hours of enjoyment as you're transported back to 50 odd years ago with comrades from your old Regiment. Please try to come, and if it's your first attendance I guarantee it'll be an experience you'll never regret. Have a good summer - if we do manage to get one! I hope to see as many of yon as possible again in October. All the best, and Certa Cito to you all.

WERE YOU AT BAD EILSEN OR BUCKEBURG WITH 2TAF?

The Bad Eilsen Reunions 2001 and 2002 wish to contact all servicemen/women and civilians based in that part of Germany between 1945 and 1955. This year the Reunion will be the week from 22 to 29 August in the village spa of Bad Eilsen and the organiser will be delighted to send further details. Please contact **Geoff Lipscombe**, 60 Firsby Avenue, Shirley, Croydon, CRO 8TN, Tel: 020 8655 2511, email: geoff.lipscombe@btclick.com

660 SIGNALTROOP (EOD) / EOD ECM OPERATORS

All serving and former members of 660 Signal Troop (EOD)/EOD EMC Operators, are invited to a reunion at Didcot Station Sergeants' Mess on 7 July 2001. Contact, either **Capt Phil Ashworth**, mil: 94234 3368, civ: 01235 513368 or **Cpl Steve Bruce**, mil: 94234 3437, civ: 01235 513437 for further details.

254 OBA (SOUTHERN CHAPTER) DINNER

The Uplands Park Hotel, Droxford, Tuesday, 27 March, 2.30pm. The first Old Boys start to arrive, amongst them the far traveled **Bill** and **Sheila Leech** from Exeter later to be joined by **Jim** and **Rita Braid** from Little Clacton, **Roy Smithard** from Rugby and **Dot** and **Brian Fisher** from Warrington. Sudden alarm: mine host, ex A/T RSM Boy **Brian Lay**, has elected to take a holiday and go skiing on the most important

evening in his hotel's calendar. Still time proved that in spite of his absence (or perhaps, as some sceptics opined, because of it!) the evening went without a hitch.

At last all 36 have arrived; with difficulty the 'deep and meaningful' discussions are temporarily suspended and we move into the dining room where difficult choices are made from the wide-ranging menu. **Pat Soward** welcomes all, particularly **Iris Emerson** with her son-in-law, **Jim Parker** and **Ken Wood** accompanied by his daughter, **Carole**, and son-in-law. **Ken** is still bronzed from his recent trip 'down under' where he met up with the West Australian chapter and has much to recount. **George Severs** says grace in his inimitable style and we tuck in. The chef has excelled himself with range of choice, quality and quantity - a little too much for some of the ladies - but Old Boys remain staunch trenchermen.

A sudden surprise as coffee is served, the ladies are presented with a boxed orchid each and the Shooters Port is broken out - compliments of our absentee landlord! All too soon the evening comes to an end and those travelling start to drift away. Those staying overnight enjoy a nightcap and meet up again over breakfast - all promising to meet again at Derby for the 'national' reunion in October.

'F' BOYS COMPANY ROYAL SIGNALS 1920-41 REUNION

The Tenth Reunion of 'F' Company members will be held on 26 September at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London situated just behind Waterloo Station. We have booked the spacious Gascoigne Room, with bar, from 1100hrs until 1500hrs. A curry lunch will be provided. There will be an alternative meal if we are advised well in advance of the Reunion. The cost this year is £15.00. Invitations will be sent out early in May/June to members who are currently on our list, but all who served in 'F' Boys Company 1920-41 are eligible to attend.

Contact is the Hon Secretary, **Victor Dugdale**, 12 Deep Well Drive, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 2HF, Tel: 01276 29176.

MALTA LIBYA COMMAND 1947 TO 1967

This year the reunion is at The Jarvis Hotel, Loughborough, Leics. Regular, National Service, WRAC, wives and partners are welcome. The programme is as follows:

Friday 28 September 2001	- Arrival and nostalgic evening
Saturday 29 September 2001	- AM Canal Boat Trip PM Annual General Meeting followed by Gala Dinner and Cabaret
Details from the Secretary on -	Tel: 01227 264551 internet: roypat.Andrews@ic24.net. Web page: http://www.homestead.com/signalsmaltalibya/index.html

600 SIGNAL TROOP (EOD)/EOD ECM OPERATORS

All serving and former Members of 600 Signal Troop (EOD)/EOD ECM Operators, are invited to a Reunion at Didcot Station Sergeants' Mess on 7 July 2001.

Contact either **Capt Phil Ashworth**
Mil 94234 3368, Civ 01235 513368
or **Cpl Steve Bruce**
Mil 94234 3437
Civ 01235 513437
for further details

BEVERLEY EX-BOYS ASSOCIATION

We would like to extend a warm welcome to a new member **Peter Vass.** Our next Reunion will be held on Sunday, 6 October 2001, at the Lensbury at Teddington Lock, Broom Road, Teddongton, Middlesex which is situated right on the banks of the River thames. There is good accommodation available but it does need to be booked early and we will have use of the leisure centre and swimming pool. Full details are available from the Branch Secretary, **Tony Hull** on Tel: 10202 770261, or E-mail: beba.tonyhull@lineone.net

REUNION BEVERLEY EX-BOYS ASSOCIATION

Our next Reunion will be held on
Saturday, 6 October 2001
at Lensbury at Teddington Lock

Contact **Tony Hull** on 01202 770261
E-mail: beba.tonyhull@lineone.net

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

3rd (UK) Div HQ and Signal Regiment was honoured by a visit from the **Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess Royal**, on Friday 3 March 2001. The CO, **Lt Col Philip Davies**, Royal Signals, was kind enough to invite a number of Club Members to join with the Regiment at Bulford to share in this proud occasion. The chosen few duly gathered at Picton Barracks to be put through a vigorous rehearsal of what we were to do and say to the Royal visitior by our President, **Brig Ronnie Stonham**. He, by a mixture of good humour, tact and will power, blended everything together in the short time available to him. Watching him demonstrate how to curtsey was a delight.

The **Colonel-in-Chief** arrived at the Regiment by helicopter at 1204hrs and spent three hours being shown round but I shall leave that side of the visit for the Regiment to describe. We were all assembled in the Sgts' Mess Annexe where **HRH** arrived at 1500hrs. At the entrance, waiting to be presented to **HRH** by **the Master**, were our President - **Brig Ronnie** and our Chairman - **Maj Derek Roberts**. The party then moved into the ante room where the remainder of the Club Members were gathered in what I can only describe as 'photograph order' carefully arranged by **SSM Strudwick**.(I wish you could have seen him chivvying assorted Brigadiers, Colonels, Majors, ex-RSMs, very old soldiers and a good selection of wives into some sort of order.) We then had a group photograph taken as a memento of this occasion. The President then escorted **HRH** into the bar area where lined up ready to be presented were Founder Member and Vice President - **Maj Ken Smart,** the Treasurer - **Mr Ernest Packham** and Secretary - **Mr John Templeton**. Each of these three then gave a short presentation on the formation of the Club 50 years ago, it's fortunate financial position and how we were able to contribute to some Regimental purchases, not least the 'Ernie Bayley Award' for the Soldier of the Year. Also how the Club recruited and ran it's day to day affairs and how the Club had grown from a group of comrades who had served together in World War II into a reunion association firmly linked to the Regiment.

We then returned to the ante room where the other members of the Club were gathered in four groups. The President then formally welcomed **HRH, the Colonel-in-Chief,** to the Club and explained that as she had spent her time with the Regiment meeting young soldiers of the modern Army we now hoped to give her a glimpse of how things had been for old soldiers of an older Army. He began his narration with a reference to the late **Brig Bertie Brett** who went to France as the Signal Officer of 7th Guards Brigade equipped with some high tech pigeons against the might of the Wermacht. Then came some vignettes from **Peter Clifford, Les Wright** and **Ernest Packham** of what it was like during the early part of the invasion of Europe. The theme was continued -with anecdotes about the drive through the Low Countries into Germany from 'Trader' **Horn** and memories from the late **Maj Gen Tony Tighe**. **Brig Ronnie** continued his narration by telling that after VE Day the 3rd Division had been designated the Imperial Strategic Reserve and sent to Egypt and Palestine in an Internal Security role until being disbanded in June 1947. **Brig Johnny Clinch** reminisced on tho se days. The disbandment did not last long as events in the Middle and Far East led to the Division being reformed in a hurry at Colchester in 1951and it's move to the Canal Zone in June of that year. **Maj Prescot, Maj Roberts** and **Bill Barnard** told some tales of these hectic days. The Division returned to Colchester at the end of 1954 and settled down to some peacetime soldiering rudely interrupted by the Suez Crisis in 1956 and the Jordan affair in 1958. **John Templeton** told of these serene days. The

President moved on to the 1960s,70s and 80s which saw the Regiment move back to it's historic home in Bulford and then to Soest to join BAOR and it's transformation to an Armoured role. **Harry Hawke, Maj Derek Roberts** and **Brig Johnathan Cook** were able to fill in some of the details of these days. **Brig Cook** having served as a subaltern, Captain and finally CO in the Regiment during this time was well placed for this. **Brig Ronnie** concluded his gallop down memory lane by asking the Chairman to escort **HRH** round the room in order to present to **HRH** the members present. The members were all impressed by the warmth and interest shown by **HRH** in her tour round the room. On the conclusion of **HRH's** tour the President escorted **HRH** to the table where the Ernest Bayley Award awaited presentation. The Secretary then asked **Cpl Stuart** 'Spike' **Milligan** to step forward, the Adjt to read the citation and invited **HRH** to present **Cpl Milligan** with his award. This concluded **HRH's** visit and she departed to applause from members.

Saturday 7 April saw Club members gathered at the El Alamein Room of the Victory Club in London for our Annual Reunion Luncheon and AGM. We were joined by our Regimental guests and **Brig James Shaw MBE**, ACOS G6 CIS HQ Land Command our Principal Guest. The Brigadier was accompanied by his wife, **Mrs Liz Shaw**. After the usual greetings and examination of the photograph taken at the Royal visit, provided due to the endeavours of **Capt Terry Crane**, we whizzed through the AGM and made our continued existence legal. We then sat down to an excellent lunch after which our President proposed the Loyal Toasts and introduced our first guest. **Brig James** thanked us for our invitation and told us how highly the soldiers of our Corps were held by Commanders and Staffs throughout the Army. He pointed out that Royal Signals were deployed all over the world in some very unusual places and jobs. Notwithstanding all this over-stretch we were still well represented in many sporting occasions. All in all the Corps was in good heart and we should be proud to be Signals.

Brig Ronnie, having thanked **Brig James**, then proposed the toast to the Regiment and asked the CO, **Lt Col Philip Davie** to give his 'report to the shareholders'. In response the CO told us that Spring would reach Bulford in June this year by order of the MoD and Div HQ. Things were still pretty busy in the Regiment with detachments in all the places mentioned in the media and some which are not mentioned. Life goes on though, as it always does, and people cope. They still find time for sport and adventurous training and morale is high. In short the Regiment is in good heart and happy. Our Chairman then proposed the toast to the Ladies and welcomed our only 'first footer' this time, **Maj Peter Unwin**. The Secretary then proposed 'Absent Friends' and announced the raffle. The President cut him short and ordered him 'front and centre'. The Chairman then produced an Honour Members Badge for the Secretary, read the citation and asked **Brig Shaw** to present the award. The Secretary in reply stated, 'This is the third time in eight days that I have been rendered speechless. I shall remain that way. Thank you.' The raffle, organised by **Ernest Packham**, assisted by Committee members, raised more than £60-00 in spite of a low turnout of 49. That concluded the Reunion and we all went home.

BIRGELEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION INAUGURAL AGM AND DINNER

Ther AGM and Dinner will be held at the Trecarn Hotel, Babbecombe, Torquay on 22/23 September, 2001. Members wishing to attend should contact

Maj (Retd) F. P. Searle Tel: 01903 786549
or E-mail: Cyril@charding.freeserve.co.uk

Bookings can also be made via the website
www.searlesite.com

EX DENBURY (NEWTON ABBOT) JUNIOR LEADERS

It is regretted that the former three yearly reunion which used to take place in Newton Abbot can no longer be held. The venues that we used are no longer available owing to closure. There will be a meeting at Blandford during the Corps week and Reunion each year on the Saturday evening. All ex Denbury Junior Leaders and Staff will be welcome in the Sergeants' Mess, in Blandford from 6pm. This year this will be on Saturday 23 June.

LOST COMMS

Joe Smith is seeking his old pals **Ron Evans, Tom Chown** and **Pete Murrells** from their time in No 1 Squadron, Palestine Command Signal Regiment, Sarafand in 1946-48. **Joe** can be contacted at: 39 Shepham Lane, Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 6NA

Tom Smith is looking for **Des Pollard**. They were at Catterick Camp 7TR then on to 3TR Aisne Lines in July 1955. He and **Sammy Schofield** have been trying to find **Des** for quite a while. **Tom** can be contacted at :
Tom Smith, 34 Hill View DR, Kilsyth 3137, Victoria, Australia
E-mail: menthee@one.net.au

Seeking the former **Sig Karl Hand**, who left the Corps in 1982, whilst with 5 Field Force Signal Squadron. Believed to have settled in the Rochdale area. Anyone who can help is asked to contact **Harry Ferguson** on 0161 4422 054.

Anyone who knows the present whereabouts of **Christopher Smith**, who served in the Corps as a Lance Corporal at Newton Abbot in the 1950s, please contact **Paul Frost** at www.knarle@btinternet.com **Paul's** father (22792950 **M. J. Frost**) and **Christopher** served together.

Anyone who served in 8th AA Divisional Signals during the period September - December 1941 is asked to contact **Mr M. Forshaw**, 76 Falcon Hay, Fazakerley, Liverpool, L10 7NU

Mr John Dangerfield is seeking the present whereabouts of his former pal **Michael Leather**, with whom he served in 2 Trg Regt, Catterick, in 1954. Anyone who can help is asked to call **John** on 01453 810355.

Douglas Smith would very much appreciate hearing from any Switchboard Operator who served with 80 TOS, 12 Corps Signals in Tunbridge Wells around June/July etc 1942. He would also like to hear from anybody who was with 43 Operating Section, 1 Corps Signals Tunbridge Wells from 1942 to April 1945, when they were in Iserlohn Germany. Contact him at Castilian House, 34 Park Avenue North, Abington, Northampton, NN3 2JE.

Brian Mellors would like to know if any readers recall **LCpl Ivan Gore** (Service No. 2363787, possibly), who joined the Corps in 1939 and served with the BEF in France. He can be contacted at: 'The Maples', West Hill, WINCANTON, Somerset, BA9 9BZ, Tel: 01963 32251

Mrs Jean MacKenzie is seeking the present whereabouts of **Victor Dark**. Her late husband, **John**, served with **Victor** in the 1950s in BAOR. Anyone who can help is asked to contact **Mrs MacKenzie** at : 43 Allendale Cottages, Banknock, Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, FK4 2HE.

R. J. McBride is trying to contact **Roy Gibson** who was a Captain in the Royal Signals in December 1945. At that time he was stationed in Singapore but had been in Burma before that. He came from around Manchester but by December 1945 his parents were living in Stockport. **Mr McBride** can be contacted at 5 Anne Arundel Court, Dumfries or:
E-mail: bob@ancestors.worldonline.co.uk

J. W. Neve would like to trace the whereabouts of two colleagues who served in 2 Corps in the BEF in 1940, they are **Sgt Ryan** possible initials of W. A. who came from Sunderland, and **Cpl A. Hewson No. 2325798**. They all got home from Dunkirk and they would be between 80 and 90 years of age now. **Mr Neve** can be contacted at 4 Hurst Croft, Warwicks Bench Road, GUILFORD, Surrey, GU1 3TJ.

Rod Stone, John Phillips, Paul Ponsford and **Mick Vanter** would like to make contact with any old members of 'O Troop', 1 Squadron, 9 Signal Regiment (1968-1971) who remember them. They recently had a very enjoyable 'mini-reunion' after 30 years, enjoyed it so much that they are going to do it again soon. Anyone else who would care to join us would be more than welcome. So where are the likes of **Dave Manders, Ron Kirkwood, Bob Watkins**, 'Chalkie' **White** et al. **Rod** can be contacted on 0116 2600169.

Conrad Barrell, would like to hear from anyone who served with or remembers his late father - **Cpl L. C. A. Barrell** R. SIGNALS, 12 Line Communications. He transferred from the Hampshire Regiment to the Royal Signals in September 1945 and died as a result of an accident in Europe on 8 June 1946. Please contact **Conrad Barrell** on (01255) 241452 if you can help.

The above photograph came into the possession of **Eric E. Powell.** It was taken in 1942 in the area around Qum in Iran. The photograph is of the WOs and Sergeants of the 5th Infantry Divisional Signals. (At the time, the 5th Infantry Division was a part of the 10th Army). He can identify two of the group for certain, one being himself (third from the right seated). Of the two seated in front of the group, the left hand one is **SSgt Ted Bolton** later RQMS. Can anybody identify any of the others? If so please write and let the museum know: The Archivist, The Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH

Bob Shimmon would like to hear from anyone who served in 648 Sig Tp, Brunei in 1966-68. **Bob** can be contacted on 0121 6058568.

CORRESPONDENCE

From: **Sgt Philpott**
Military Transport Section Support Troop
230 Signal Squadron
16th Signal Regiment
BFPO 40

Dear Sir,

I am writing to *The WIRE* on the advice of **Mr Tim Stankus** at the Royal Signals Corps Museum, who suggested that I might place an enquiry in *The WIRE* to contact former members of 16 Signal Regiment, formerly the 2nd Line of Communication Signal Regiment that served during the period of 1958-1960.

I am acting on behalf of a retired member of the Corps, **Sig John Wallace** and a pal of his **Sig Gordon Smith**. They are particularly keen to contact any fellow members of the 1959 Nijmegen Marching Team, led by **Lt Griffiths**. Other Team Members that can be remembered are **John Crossman, Mike Turner** and **Derek** 'Del' **White. Mr Wallace** and **Mr Smith** are planning to arrange a visit later this year, both to the current 16 Signal Regiment, now based at Rhiendahlen, and to the former home of 16 Signal Regiment, Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld, now home to 7 Signal Regiment.

It was the first time 16 Signal Regiment entered a team in the Nijmegen Marches and therefore rather memorable, especially as they did so well. I am hoping that with that in mind some of your readers will remember their time with 16 Signal Regiment and the Nijmegen Marching Team, and will put pen to paper and get in touch. All corrrespondence should be addressed to **Sgt Philpott**.

As always seems to be the case, time is against us, as 7 Signal Regiment are due to move from Bradbury Barracks towards the end of this year, therefore if you have any ideas or suggestions that you think will assist in the task of locating these former colleagues, it would be very much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely.....

From: **Andy Andrews**
26 Mayfield Park Street
Firpponds
Bristol
BS16 3NG

Dear Sir,

I spent my last year in the LAD as WOIC in 1947 having taken over from **Nobby Clarke**. Four times a day I drove along the Tampines Road, past Changi Jail to the LAD situated at the parade ground adjacent to the WAAFS quarters in Changi.

My friend at Elim was the **Sgt DR Norman Croft** an ex-TT Rider. Of course the subject was always motorcycles and I believe that at least one of the DR Team at Elim became a TT Rider in later years. **Bill Body**, I believe, too was a leading light in the Trials World. Some of the army bikes were fitted with megaphone silencers! I said nothing on my role as I too lived motorcycles. **Norman Croft** later lost his life racing a Velocette in France about 1949.

Charlie Long was the RSM at Elim in 1947 and came from Norfolk, he was a good man. He asked me to share the expense of **Stephen** our batman who was about to be evicted from Singapore Hospital with pneumonia, as he had no money. **Charlie** and I paid and **Stephen** lived.

After demob whilst having a liquid lunch in Dursley I heard a pub landlord, whom I know well, discussing wartime events. He used to be a Major in the Royal Marines. Odly enough the Royal Marines were at Elim before 19 AFS. I told him that there were crocodiles inthe camp and he retorted that he knew, and one of the Marines used to breed them there! They were there all right, along towards the AQMS Store House and from the tracks I saw they were six footers at least. I never saw one but the tracks were there.

What happened to **Sgt Riggs** and **Pam, AQMS Osbourne's** daughter. Clearly they were made for each other as **Sgt Buddere** always said? Does anyone know?

Yours Sincerely.....

From: **A. H. Thomas**
32 Grasmere Close
Tettenhall
Wolverhampton
WV6 9DP
Tel: W'ton 752811

Dear Sir,

I the April issue of *The WIRE*we were invited to express our opinions as to whether or not the list of 'New Life Members' should be published. I believe that it should, on the grounds that the new Members know that their names have been circulated. I was particularly interested to see the names of two new members of the 12/15/18 AFSR Association of which I am a member.

Over the years my wife and I have commented favourably on the smartness and turnout of the soldiers in training as they paraded at the Annual Princess Royal Day Parade and at the courtesy shown to us as we made our way to the various exhibits during our enjoyable stays in or near Blandford for the Royal Signals Reunions.

It is interesting to note that after varying lengths of service 40 of the 88 new Life Members listed as RHQ, left the service in the years 2000 and 2001. I'm sure we must have seen some of them and if so then it augers well for the future of the RSA.

Yours Sincerely.....

From: **Capt R. A. G. Rickard**
Charlwood Court
33 Chilcote Close
St Marychurch
Torquay
TQ1 4QT
Tel: 01803 312172

Dear Sir,

Here is a photo of a group of ex-Royal Signals who meet monthly at St Marychurch, Torquay.

V for Vintage - A very active group!
(L-R): Harry Vennel, Bob Thompson, Allan Pledges, Bert Legg, Tom Evans and Jim Drake seated Wally Dolman

From: **Col (Retd) A. Hawksworth TD DL**
105 Grangewood Road
WOLLATON
Nottinghamshire
NG8 2SX
Tel/Fax: 0115 9283439

Dear Sir,

'TA' or 'V' ?

At a recent 38 Signal Regiment (V) Reunion Dinner we sorted out the problems of the Western world and then turned to more important matters. High on the agenda was the history of the post-nominal use of 'TA' or 'V' by TA regiments and officers! We concluded that before 1 April 1967 both regiments and officers used 'TA', that with the formation of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve in 1967 regiments changed to 'V' and officers to 'TAVR'. Following the Shapland Report in 1978 (and the consequent reinstatement of the old Territorial Army name) regiments retained 'V' but officers reverted to 'TA'.

I understand that currently both regiments and officers use 'V' and, assuming we got it right as far as the Shapland Report, the question is when did the change to 'V' for officers take place (and why)? Can anyone help?

As an aside, it does seem strange that we have a Territorial Army of which both the regiments and the officers are labeled something different, ie: 'Volunteers', especially when all our regular soldiers are also volunteers. Some branding confusion here I think, which cannot help in the recruitment battle.

In any case, has the time come to drop any distinction and accept that TA or regular we are all just 'Royal Signals'?

Yours faithfully……..

From: **Jim Jacobs**
15 Angus Close
Fareham
Hampshire
PO15 6BA
Tel: 01329 235155

Dear Sir,

Colleagues disagree with my confirmed belief that the ABLE, BAKER, CHARLIE phonetic alphabet introduced in 1943 was not replaced until 1958. Certainly in my Gunner Battery it was still in use right up to the date of my discharge from the Army, 14 March 1957, although I understand civilian airlines had already adopted ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE. I am convinced that former experts among the readers of *The WIRE* will recall the changeover date.

Yours Faithfully.....

From: **Michael Hamill**
28 Methuen Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH8 8ND
Tel: 01202 552833

Dear Sir,

My Grandfather served with the Royal Engineer's Signal Service during the First World War. I am trying to find out which Signal Company he served in. Once I have this information I can ascertain to which Division, Corps or Army he was attached and not only where, on the Western Front, he served but also in which specific battles he took part.. To date I have the following information:

(a) His Army records were destroyed in an enemy air raid in 1941.
(b) The RE Museum at Chatham have no record of him.
(c) The Royal British Legion in Newcastle/Sunderland area (where he lived) couldn't help.
(d) Newspaper adverts in the same area proved to be fruitless.
(e) The Coal Board records(he worked with them before and after the war) were no help.

I do have the following facts:

(i) 50934 **Sgt Paterick Hamill**
(ii) Born 21/12/1879 - died 29/03/1935 aged 56 (partially due to gas inhalation).
(iii) Lived 163 Charles Street, Boldon Colliery, Co. Durham.
(iv) Married **Jane Gibson Flockhart** of Heaton Northumberland.
(v) His civilian occupation was Miner/Shot Firer Boldon Colliery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
(vi) He was a Kitchener Volunteer - Royal Engineers
He enlisted 19/09/1914 at age 34 and became a Lance Corporal in November 1914.
(vii) He was posted to France on 24/07/1915.
(viii) He was discharged CD (Corps Depot?) Thetford Norfolk, 21/12/1918 392(XVI(A)) KRs
(ix) He received the following medals/decorations:
1914/15 Star Victory Medal War Medal
Silver War Badge (1918) No: B193378
(x) It is possible that he served in one of the following Divisions (Inf) 18 (Eastern), 19 (Western) and 20 (Light). They all went to France in July 1915.

I hope that somebody reading this will be able to help me. I can be contacted at the above address and telephone number.

Many thanks in anticipation.....

From: **Mr G. S. Kennard**
16 Conifer Close
ORMESBY ST. MARGARET
Norfolk
NR29 3RU

Dear Sir,

The Communications and Electronics Branch of the Canadian Forces will be celebrating their Centennial in the year 2003. The C&E Association, in collaboration with the retired C&E Branch Members and the Associations of retired Royal Canadian Corps of Signals personnel, proposes to produce a year-long series of activities to commemorate this event.

I am a Life Member of 'The Signallers Club of Canada' and intend visiting Canada during September 2003 to take part in these celebrations.

Could any reader of *The WIRE* please help me? I am looking for a 1900-1920 pattern PACE STICK to take with me on my visit. Apparently the first RSM of the C&E was an Englishman, selected straight off one of the Drill and Duties Courses of that time and they do not have a stick in Canada. We are prepared to pay a reasonable price for one.

Yours Sincerely.....

From: **Mrs A. A. Neal**
25 Sandown Avenue
Dagenham
Essex
RM10 8XD
Tel: 020-8592-6846
E-mail: aneal@cwctv.net

Dear Sir,

I have been in touch with **Tim Stankus**, the archivist of your Museum, who has been so helpful and I understand that you do a magazine called *The WIRE*, which goes far and wide. I realise that this is probably a long shot, but I am finally going to Poland on 25 May 25 to visit my father's grave. He is buried in Malbork. On checking with the little information that I have, something of a mystery has come to light.

The official form that my mother received stated that he died in Stalag VIIIB but was buried in Malbork, which is the opposite end of Poland. I have now had confirmation from the MoD that he was in fact, captured in Givenchy 21 May 1940, arrived in Stalag XXA on 10 June 1940 and moved to Stalag XXB 1 November 1940, died on 16 July 1941in Reserve Hospital I Danzig, of toxaemia. He was buried in the local cemetery before being reburied in Malbork. I wonder if there is anyone who remembers my father and could shed any light on this or indeed give me any information at all. I was only three when he died, so obviously my mother could not tell me too much, if indeed she was aware of much that had happened. She died quite a few years ago now, so I do not have anyone that could answer my questions. As I have now retired I am able to go to Poland. My father was **Corporal Richard Wallace** 6084502 - 2nd Army Signals.

I should be most grateful if you could put something in *The WIRE* that may give me some answers and additional information. Many thanks,

Yours Sincerely……..

From: **Maj J. F. Stokes TD**
52 High Street
Island Bay
Wellington 6002
New Zealand
Tel/Fax: 64 4 970 3353

Dear Sir,

I was sorry to hear of the death in December last of **Lt Col Jimmy Yule.** He had a few days of worldwide fame in early 1983 and the story is worth the telling.

It started in Colditz Castle in the last war - it was the place where the really bad (or valuable) POWs were kept and **Jimmy** was there, sleeping in the bunk below **Charlie Upham**, the New Zealand double VC. The prisoners had made a wireless receiver and had it hidden up under the roof - very few knew where it was but the daily news was passed round the camp - a great morale raiser. The War finished and Colditz became a Museum. Fifty years later a workman rewiring the roof found the wireless and the rest is best told in **Jimmy's** own words -

'Thank you very much for taking the trouble to send me that cutting (the Wireless at Colditz story) from the Wellington (New Zealand) Evening Post. My involvement in the story started with a telephone call from my good friend **Kenneth Lockwood**. He told me of the chance discovery of the Radio Shack by these German workmen and the finding of bits and pieces including an exercise book with my name on it. I asked, 'What book?' An hour or so later I received faxed copies of several pages (**Kenneth** had already received copies of each of the 29 pages). They were mine all right. But I don't remember writing a word of it.

Kenneth told me to expect a phone call from The Daily Telegraph because he wanted the story to appear in the English newspapers before the Germans ran it. It was a busy time on the telephone. Interviews with all sorts of people including the BBC World Service and Reuters. Thus the word spread around the world. By Thursday evening everything had quietened down – but no – a call from Toronto CBC – result interview then coast to coast across Canada and the USA. The local people hadn't finished – BBC East had a slot.

I don't think the German workman realised what he had started when he told the Curator of the Colditz Museum about his find. Certainly I am amazed at the worldwide interest that has been shown. It makes me feel very humble. However, what is interesting about the whole affair is that there was no rhyme or reason why the cabin should have been discovered at all. Apart from the fact that the roof was in disrepair and the Germans thought they had better do something about it after 50 years of neglect! Perhaps it is as well that it has been found now and not say in 24 years time - at least a few of us are around to talk about it!'

Yours Sincerely……

From : **Len Cox**
31 Wheatfield Crescent
Mansfield Woodhouse
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG19 9HH

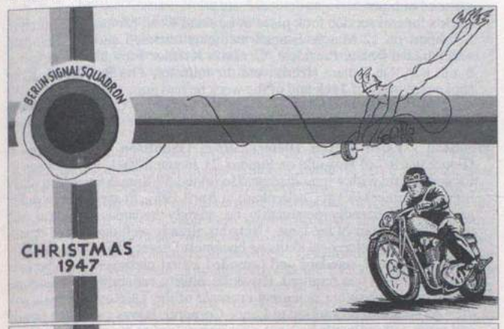
Dear Sir,

Yesteryear - in the days of the 19 & 52 sets

I distinctly remember **Maj Bower** saying to a very young Sergeant (me) after the 1947 Berlin Signal Squadron Christmas football match, 'Laddy, when your old and grey like me you'll happily remember today.' I must be old and grey since today (for the first time in many many years) I thumbed through my army memorabilia and in doing so did remember that Christmas day with much joy. With no one here to share this occasion with I thought of you, and in doing so send my apologies as well for probably boring you - since you no doubt have some of the enclosed in *The WIRE* archives. They were great days and great comrades - I wonder where they all are now?

Yours Sincerely…….

PS: In 1947 J Troop Royal Signals of 5 Division Signal Regiment (who I was with) was seconded to the Berlin Signal Squadron because of the unrest amongst the Berliners due to food, coal etc. shortages.



From: **Maj (Retd) & Mrs Steve & Maureen Bresloff**
3 The Pastures
Penyffordd
Chester
CH4 0HQ

Dear Sir,

I have just attended, as 'husband of', a Ptarmigan Function held in the Crown Hotel, hosted by **Lt Col (Retd) Andrew & Denise Symmons**, an excellent affair, one of which they should be very proud and many friends were linked up again.

In my case it was fourteen years since I left Blandford, after serving as School Adjt. 1980-1985 and in those days used the museum as a shortcut to talk with others in the main building, and so I could not leave Blandford without visiting what over the years I have read so much about.

I would just like to say that I left that building on the Sunday morning with a lump in my throat. I have visited a few military museums in my day but the Royal Signals Museum is outstanding. The displays and the models are excellent and the Morse spilling over the airways was music to my ears. What a credit to the late **Roger Pickard** and of course so many others, you can all be very proud. If I lived nearer I would be a weekend volunteer. I was lucky enough to meet the famous **General Jimmy Helier** and his wife who made us very welcome.

Museum Staff, you made an old man happy but a little plea please, how about a little corner for Boy Soldiers, after all **General Swainson** was an ex-Boy Soldier and they named a road after him! There have been many others who have climbed the ladder to fame. Again my thanks for all your work.

Sincerely.....

(Note from the Museum Director: We are currently planning a Museum display to cover the Training Organisation. This will include the Boys and the Apprentices. We hope to have this ready for the RSA Weekend in June.)

From: **Maj (Retd) N. L. Baker**
Greenbank
Winterbourne Stickland
Nr. Blandford
Dorset
DT11 0NB

Dear Sir,

I am writing about your list of 'New Life Members of the Royal Signals Association' on page 176 of the April edition of *The WIRE*. You invited comments on the continuation of the service.

I feel most strongly that the list is not a waste of space. Over the years I have rejoiced in finding the names of old friends in the Corps. I served from 1943 to 1970 and made many friends during that time.

Please carry on your good work.

Yours Sincerely.....

DONATIONS

RSA Catterick	£ 510.00
RSA Aldershot	£ 231.00
RSA Bedford	£ 40.00
RSA Norfolk	£ 100.00
RSA East London	£ 200.00
RSA Lincoln	£ 75.00
Dave Silburn, Jim Robinson and Dave Cunliffe	£ 70.00
Mr B. Philips	£ 10.00
Mr D. J. Mann	£ 100.00
Mr Edgar McCall	£ 8.00
Mr A. R. Ayres	£ 20.00
Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry Lodge	£ 80.00
3 Div Sigs Reunion Club	£ 90.00
56 Division Old Comrades Association	£ 250.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 30.00
Legacy from the Will of Sgt P. J. Price	£5000.00
Collection at the funeral of Col J. R. Piddington OBE, MC	£ 75.00
Mr & Mrs R. G. Thompson in memory of Lt Col J. Yule	£ 25.00
RSA Bournemouth in memory of Mr B. Burch	£ 5.00
3 Division Signals reunion Club in memory of the Rev R. W. Hubbal	£ 10.00
Lt Col J. Rose in memory of Maj R. G. Aitken	£ 100.00
Lt Col (Retd) J. A. Montague MBE in memory of Col H. G. Shorter TD	£ 10.00
RSA Reading in memory of Col H. G. Shorter TD	£ 25.00
A. S. Forty in memory of Col H. G. Shorter TD	£ 20.00
Anonymously in memory of Col H. G. Shorter TD	£ 10.00
Mr D. Ellingworth in memory of Lt Col R. R. Morrison BEM	£ 10.00
The Inner Wheel Club of Wantage in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 50.00
The Rotary Club of Wantage in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 200.00
W. J. Northmore in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 25.00
A. J. Lees in memory of Maj F. Bergelin	£ 25.00

LAST POST

Amor - Sig E. D. Amor	Served 1940/46	Died Feb '01
Arch - Sig H. A. W. Arch	Served 1942/46	Died
Aston - Mrs Shirley Aston	Served 1942/46	Died 15/03/01
Bartlett - Sgt K. M. Bartlett	Served 1940/46	Died 27/04/01
Burch - LCpl B. Burch	Served 1926/38	Died 02/03/01
Byrom - Lt Col G. Byrom TD	Served 1939/67	Died 24/03/01
Coleman - Maj W. N. Coleman	Served 1932/62	Died 04/04/01
Copeland - Sgt A. W. Copeland	Served 1946/48	Died
Cokayne - Maj C. B. M. Cokayne Lord Cullen Of Ashbourne MBE	Served WW	Died Dec '00
Coverdale - M. Coverdale	Served 1939/44	Died Dec '00
Cox - Maj G. A. Cox	Served 1953/72	Died 07/04/01
Emerson - Sgt J. E. Emerson	Served 1945/57	Died 06/02/01
Finney - Cpl M. G. Finney	Served 1956/67	Died Mar '01
Foxon - Capt H. P. Foxon OBE	Served 1939/46	Died 19/01/01
Hand - LCpl J. P. Hand	Served 1953/56	Died 13/03/01
Hardman - F. E. Hardman	Served	Died June '98
Hardman - LCpl K. R. Hardman	Served 1964/77	Died 03/03/01
Hebdon - WO2 J. E. Hebdon	Served 1939/64	Died 27/04/01
Hill - Sig L. H. Hill	Served 1939/45	Died 17/02/01
Hibbins - LCpl J. S. Hibbins	Served 1940/46	Died 01/03/01

Hubbal - Sig, The Rev, R. W. Hubbal	Served 1943/45	Died
Johnson - Sig J. E. Johnson	Served 1942/47	Died 04/04/01
Kennedy - Capt P. G. Kennedy	Served 1942/47	Died 22/03/01
Knight - Maj T. Knight	Served	Died 13/05/01
Leatherland - Maj F. W. Leatherland TD	Served 1942/72	Died 09/03/01
Lees - Maj A. J. Lees	Served 1938/78	Died Aprl '01
Livesey - WO1 R. F. W. Livesey BEM	Served	Died 09/03/01
Marciniak - Sig B. Marciniak	Served	Died
Matthews - C. H. C. Matthews	Served	Died
McKenzie - Sgt J. McKenzie	Served 1960/78	Died 03/05/01
McNulty - Cpl G. W. McNulty	Served 1955/77	Died 24/03/01
Moody - Sig F. C. Moody	Served 1939/46	Died Aprl '01
Morrison - Lt Col R. R. Morrison MBE	Served 1938/62	Died 25/04/01
Nippers - WO1 F. N. Nippers	Served 1937/45	Died Apr '01
Parton - Sig G. Parton	Served 1949/56	Died 03/04/01
Price - Sgt P. J. Price	Served 1944/47	Died 11/11/00
Ross - WO2 R. G. Ross	Served 1951/73	Died 07/03/01
Shorter - Col H. G. Shorter TD	Served 1942/67	Died 04/03/01
Stapleford - Mr W. Stapleford	Served	Died 17/04/01
Sparrow - Sgt R. M. Sparrow	Served 1966/88	Died Feb '01
Spencer - WO2 J. R. Spencer	Served 1942/46	Died 01/03/01
Vincent-Smith - Brig C. Vincent-Smith TD	Served 1938/67	Died 26/03/01
Wellings - Maj D. V. Wellings MBE	Served 1941/62	Died 04/06/99
Wickstead - Sgt A. Wickstead	Served 1940/48	Died Mar '01
Williams - Pte E. Williams	Served NS '50s	Died 10/03/01

Pickard – Maj Roger Pickard 13 February 2001. He was born on 25 February 1935 and was commissioned into the Corps on 29 July 1955 and served for 29 years. **Roger** will be best known to the Corps of today in his capacity as the Curator of the Museum but his service started in 1 (BR) Corps/23 Signal Regiment and soon after in 18 Signal Regiment FARELF 1958-62. Here he met his wife, **Danny** and they married in Singapore. **Roger's** subsequent service was in BAOR or UK with one further tour in 253 Signal Squadron FARELF 1964-66. Having succumbed to technological education for two years at the School of Signals he served with the TA and at the heart of the Corps' training establishments. He completed his service with HQ 11 Signal Brigade (V). On retirement, from the Corps, Roger became Curator of the Museum for over 14 years. It was during this time that the Museum took great strides from being a domestic concern to becoming the larger business venture of today. It was due to **Roger's** dedication, and knowledge of the Corps and its equipment that the Museum now presents such a professional display of the Corps' heritage. **Roger** was well liked by all who knew him. He was a member of the Poole Branch of the RSA. His sense of humour, helpfulness and cheerful nature endeared him to us all. He died following a prolonged illness that he bore with fortitude. He gave the whole of his working life to the Corps and his funeral was attended by family, friends, colleagues, RSA members and Museum Trustees. **Cliff Walters** delivered the eulogy and **Tim Stankus** played Last Post followed by a jazz melody to end an emotional and uplifting service. **Roger** is survived by his wife **Danny** and his children **Tamsin, Martin** and **Michael.** He will be sadly missed by us all.

Roger leading the Troops in Singapore

Hibbins - LCpl John Shelford Hibbins died aged 91 on 1 March 2001 after suffering a stroke. He was a Life Member of the Royal Signals Association and a member of the Southport Branch for almost eleven years.
Jack, as he was known, was born in Lincolnshire in 1910 and worked for W. H. Smith Newsagents in Liverpool and Blackpool and then for the Prudential Assurance Co in Chorley. On 8 August 1940 he enlisted at Ossett and was trained with the Royal Signals as a Wireless Operator. He was then attached to Artillary Units serving in Iraq and Persia. He afterwards took part in the Italian Campaign, still working with Royal Artillary Units. After demobilisation, in March 1946, **Jack** lived in Southport and again worked for the Prudential until his retirement in 1972, when he took on the role of a retirement visitor for the Company.

Jack married **Hilda Caldwell** in February 1941; they had a daughter **Carol**. Sadly **Hilda** died in 1983.
Jack was a big man in every sense of the word. He had a major operation for cancer of the throat some years ago and recovered well, but found sustained speech tiresome. He had chronic bronchitis and emphysema needing constant recourse to inhalers and an oxygen cylinder and was unable to tolerate cigarette smoke. It was a pleasure to visit him and to witness his courage; we never heard him complain and he had a great sense of humour.
Jack's funeral service took place at Leyland Road Methodist Church in Southport on 12 March. Branch members attended and our Standard was paraded by our President, **Graham Krinks**. Fittingly the entrance hymn was 'Oh Valiant Hearts' and the minister, **The Rev D. M. King** spoke movingly of **Jack** and of the work he had done over the years. We send our sincere condolences to **Jack's** daughter **Carol**, son in law **Andrew** and all the family.

Woolston - LCpl Steven Dieter 'Stevie' **Woolston** passed away at Gloucester Royal Hospital on Sunday 21 January 2001, having been ill for some time with a lung disease. He joined 57 Signal Squadron of 37 Signal Regiment (V) at Cheltenham in April 1987. Possessed of a quiet, genuine and friendly personality he quickly became a popular and respected member of the Unit. Using his already well developed practical, driving and electrical skills he became a Driver Electrician, quickly attaining Class 2 standard and provided a first class service wherever and whenever it was required. His skills, ability, reliability and determination marked him out as a great example of the TA Royal Signals soldier, earning him promotion to Lance Corporal. It was sad when family and work commitments brought a premature end to his service in October 1992. Since leaving the TA he maintained contact with the many friends he made during his service and continued to demonstrate his generous and selfless nature to all that came in contact with him. His funeral, at Gloucester Crematorium, was very well attended with a sizeable contingent of serving and former members of the Corps there to pay their respects. He will be missed by his family and his many friends.

Delaney - George Edward Cann Myers Delaney. It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the sad loss of 'Del' **Delaney** as he was known to most of us. He died in Colchester hospital on 16 January after a short illness. 'Del' was born in Northumberland, joined the 12th Royal Lancers in 1945 and served for 14 years. He did tours in Palestine, Malaysia and Germany. In 1949 he married **Phyl** who managed to be with him in Malaysia and Germany. After leaving regular service he joined the TA in 1959 at Colchester and served with the Essex Yeomanry Squadron. He was very involved in the various re-organisations of the TA in particular in 1969 when 71 Signal Regiment was formed from a number of Yeomanry Regiments. Firstly as Squadron Sergeant Major of Essex (Y) Signal Squadron and later with **Alan Foot** and others as part of the training team at Bromley. He finally retired from the TA, in 1978 but has remained in contact with all the Old Comrades Associations - 9/12th Lancers, Essex Yeonmanry and the RSA both Brighton and Reading Branches. His funeral was well attended by representatives from all the OCAs and the Branch Standard was paraded. He will be sadly missed and our sympathy goes to his family.

White - George White passed away suddenly on 21 January 2001 aged 74 years. **George** enlisted on 16 March 1944 and served at Perth with the Black Watch. He was soon transferred from them and posted to the RASC Training School at Chesterfield. He left after training and was posted to India. He served in Burma, Singapore and Java and returned to the UK on demobilisation in 1947.
George was an Association Life Member and there were four Standard Bearers at his funeral The Royal British Legion, the RASC, the Royal Signals Association and the Burma Star Association. There was also a large gathering of members from these associations, his family and many other friends in attendance. He leaves his widow **Barbara** and a son, to whom we send our condolences.

Jones - Stanley Raymond Jones joined HM Forces in April 1940. He first served with the Welsh Regiment and soon after transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals as a Driver. He served in India with 32 Armd Div Signals and in 23 Brigade (Special Forces Signals) with the Chindits in Burma. At the end of WW2 he returned to Germany where he served until demobilisation.
Ray died on 20 November 2000, aged 84 years. His funeral service was at Chesterfield Crematorium on 27 November. Members of Chesterfield Branch and the Branch Standard Bearer were in attendance, along with members from the Burma Star Association, Fellowship of Services and the Royal British Leagion.

Hill - Sig Leonard Henry Hill was born in 1920 in Teignmouth and died on 17 February 2001. He joined the Corps as a Despatch Rider on 29 August 1939 and was mobilised on the 1 September 1939 into the 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals, a Territorial Army Division recruited from Hampshire, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire. Initially trained in the Salisbury area he served in many parts of the country and eventually landed in Normandy on 22 June 1944. His Division was involved in many of the battles in Normandy - Hill 112, Mont Pincon and the crossing of the River Seine at Vernon. In September the Division was involved in Operation Market Garden (The Bridge too Far) and then moved to Maastricht as backstop for the Battle of the Bulge. The Division was also involved in clearing the West Bank of the Rhine prior to the cross-

ing at Wesel. This was followed by the fighting into Germany with many small battles towards Bremen and the signing of the cease-fire on Luneburg Heath. **Len** was demobilised in 1946 and subsequently worked for the SEB in Southampton until his retirement in 1965. He was a member of several ex-service associations:-

- Royal Signals Association Southampton Branch - Committee member and holder of the 50 Year Badge and Certificate.
- Normandy Veterans Association.
- Market Garden Veterans Association - National Committee member and Regalia Secretary.
- France and Germany Star Association,
- 43rd Wessex Association. He was also a member of the West Country Association of Hampshire.

Hand – LCpl J. P. 'Jimmy' **Hand** who died 13/03/01; a tribute based upon an address by the **Rev Bernard Foulger**, Padre to the Royal British Legion. 'My first encounter with **Jim** was at a British. Legion meeting at the Ivy Leaf Club when he promptly told me, 'You're Church of England, I'm Roman Catholic, we both serve the same boss in slightly different ways.' A truly Scouse way of introduction for that was where **Jim** was born - Liverpool. He was one of the members of the Legion Choir Boys - choirs are known for their singing - these were known for their charity work, especially at Christmas in raising funds for the purchase of small food parcels for distributing among ex-service widows and widowers. The choirboys at the Branch Meetings always stood in the comer of the bar - it's never going to be quite the same again without **Jim** there. He was also involved in charity work at his local, the Ypres Tavern where a number of ex-service personnel gather on a Saturday lunchtime. The Tavern has supported many charities over the years.
Jim was born in Liverpool on 7 January 1936 one of a family of three children and .is now survived by his sister **Cathy** and brother **Tom**. **Jim** joined the army and the Corps as a Regular in 1953 at the age of 17 years. He was posted to Hong Kong Signal Regiment and later to 40 Div Signal Troop in FARELF. Having done three years and been promoted to Lance Corporal; **Jim** left the army in 1956 and returned to Liverpool and civilian life: He was to find employment with the Plessey Company at the Royal Radar Establishment at Great Malvern on Ministry of Defence work. It was during this time **Jim** was to meet his future wife **Pam** who was employed as a cook in Malvem College for Boys. They formed a friendship, fell in love and were later married in Malvern Roman Catholic Church on 4 June 1960. They had a very happy marriage having celebrated their Ruby Wedding last year. They had a family of three sons - **Christopher, Stephen** and **Robert,** two grandchildren - **Joseph** and **Megan,** daughters-in-law, **Nicky, Amanda** and **Vicky.**
He was an avid reader, a member of the Sittingbourne Branch of the Royal-British Legion. Also he was one of the earliest members of the East Kent Branch, Royal Signals Association in which he played a major part in the recruiting of new members and, with **Pamela,** took part in many of its activities. **Jim** in his earlier years was a very keen soccer player and cricketer and later for him it was to become a spectator sport but not before he had displayed his ability as a spin bowler and batsman in the East Kent Branch annual cricket matches. **Jim** could be seen in November time in various places in Sittingbourne with his poppy tray; he was a familiar sight to many. A Pakistani gentleman asked **Jim** for a poppy with the Star of David emblem. **Jim** promptly sent him to me for this emblem. **Jim** explained to me later that an Asian gentleman had gone to a Roman Catholic for a Jewish Star of David and **Jim** had sent him to a Church of England Padre: **Jim** could make a story from any small incident such as this.
Jim's health started to decline some five years ago - there was further deterioration in December last year when he was admitted to the Royal Marsden Hospital on 2 March. Sadly he died there on the 13 March with his wife and family at his bedside. **Jim** bore .his illness with great courage and dignity, never complaining, thankfully accepting each day as it came being able to spend it with his wife, **Pam** and family. **Jim** loved his family especially his grandchildren - in turn they all adored him. **Jim** was a very much loved and treasured husband, Dad, Grandad, brother, relative, friend, neighbour, service colleague and legionnaire who will be very much missed by all who knew and loved him.'

Amor – Sig Edgar Darlington Amor died aged 89 on 3 February 2001 in hospital. On 27 January **Eddie** was still busy finding guests for our Annual Dinner Dance but on 30 January he was taken into hospital where his life hung in the balance for some forty eight hours before he died. His funeral on 9 February was well attended and was a very moving experience for all present. We were joined by Burma Star members and both Standards were paraded, ours by our President, **Graham Krinks. Eddie** was born in Moss Side Manchester, the youngest of five children. He started work in removals with Walter Carter (Harrods) Ltd in Manchester in 1927. He was called up in 1940 and trained with the Royal Signals as a Wireless Operator and then sent to India where he served in Abbottabad in 1941 and then with the N.W. Frontier Force in Kohat. By this time **Ed** was a Special Operator. He then served with the 14th Army throughout the Burma Campaign. After the War he rejoined -Walter Carter and met and married **Margaret Calverley**. They lived in Manchester where their first son **Phillip** was born in 1949; sadly **Phillip** died in 1965. **Ed** was made Manager of Carters in Southport and moved there in 1950 where children **John** and **Margaret** were born. When the Southport Branch closed in 1972 he returned to Manchester until retiring in 1974. **Eddie** was widely known and well liked by all his friends. He was a debonair character, a gentleman with a great sense of humour. He was a fair man with a real sense of justice likely -to take the side of the underdog. He was a great reader with a depth of knowledge and wisdom that stayed with him until the end. For many years he was a member of the Wings Quiz Club in Southport and appeared on TV in '15 to 1'. He wrote successfully a number of plays and songs. He had an ability to talk and relate to people of all ages and it was rare to hear him raise his voice. He was a keen dancer despite suffering from arthritis and loved sport, especially football, cricket, bowls and snooker and whilst in India played in goal for the unit hockey team. **Eddie** was a member of Probus in Southport and of the Conservative Club. He was a founder member of the Southport Branch of the Royal Signals Association twenty-one years ago and was our first Secretary; he was also a member of the Burma Star Association. He was presented with his fifty-year badge on 21 May 1992. He was the embodiment of the finest spirit that we could possibly find in an organisation such as ours; we shall miss him. His principle interest was his family, he always inquired about his grandchildren and followed their progress closely. He leaves behind his wife **Margaret**, son **John** and daughter **Margaret**, daughter-in-law **Angela**, son-in-law **Dan** and grandchildren **Richard, Claire, Kate, Paul, Louise** and **Ruth**. We send our condolences to them all.

Emerson - Sgt John (Prof) Emerson enlisted in the Corps' Boys Training Company at Catterick in the September 1945 Intake and was caught up in the move to Harrogate (Army Apprentices School) for just one Term before joining man's service in January 1949. He trained as an Operator Keyboard & Cipher and then saw service abroad before completing his eight years with The Colours at Gloucester, 1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic), later to become UK Comcan Signal Regt. On leaving the Corps he studied for and was accepted by the Diplomatic Service, firstly as a Cipher Operator later to move upwards to become Head of a Department, based in London, involved with Finance and Overseas Assets. **John** described himself as a 'Travelling Man' and no wonder as his duties took him to our Embassies/Consuls everywhere on our planet. To keep some sort of record of his travels and to avoid confusion, **John** kept a Map Board of his visits. It shows a massive 247 pins - you name it **John** went there. Retiring in 1993, so unlike the majority of us who take our roots elsewhere, **John** continued to live with his family at Purbrook Hants, the place of his birth. John, a devoted family man who enjoyed life to the full, will be deeply missed by his wife **Iris**, daughters **Jackie** and **Susie**, sons-in-law **Jim** and **Andy** and his five grandchildren and his many friends of the 254 Old Boys Association.

Aston - Shirley Aston (ne: Webb) died, in Australia, on 15 March aged 77 years. She served with the Royal Corps of Signals from 1942-1946 as a Teleprinter Operator. The President of the Returned Services League of Australia visited her whilst she was in hospital and also read out her service history at her funeral. She was stationed in Bath, Bristol, London, Holland, Belgium Germany and France. **Shirley's** husband **John**, is behind her in the photo. He died two years ago. They met in Antwerp while **John** was awaiting demob, after spending six years in the Middle East.

Hornby - Maj John Hornby was a loyal and unbelievably dedicated serving soldier and officer for close to 40 years. During this time he and his family followed the flag and met all the demands and rigours of military service. A measure of this commitment was his successful career as a soldier culminating in his promotion to WO1 (RSM) and his subsequent commissioning and appointment to Squadron Commander. **John** served extensively in Germany and England and was awarded both the Member of the British Empire and Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. In recent years his duty brought him to the Salisbury area where he established his family home. He served as a Quartermaster in Blandford and Tidworth before moving to 3(UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt in Bulford in 1993. **John** suffered from advanced bone marrow cancer. It was the measure of his extraordinary determination and professionalism that despite extensive pain and debilitating drugs he worked whenever he could and continued to provide an extremely useful service to a hard pressed Operational Regiment. Throughout his illness he has continued to undertake tasks such as treasurer of the 200 strong Normandy Officers Mess, organisation for the Regimental Open Day, and rear party administrative support to operationally deployed Squadrons. **John** also worked tirelessly for the Church of St Mary and St Nicholas in Wilton. **John** was a widower, his wife having tragically died of cancer in 1993. He leaves three adult daughters and a 17-year-old dependent son. He remained steadfast in the maintenance of his own morale and in his responsibilities to his family. His life is a constant reminder to all members of the Regiment of the military values of courage and selfless commitment. 3(UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt wishes to express its heartfelt thanks for **Maj John Hornby's** devoted service.

This poem was written by **John's** son **Chris** and was read at the Memorial Service at Wilton on Friday 15th December 2000.

DIFFICULTY

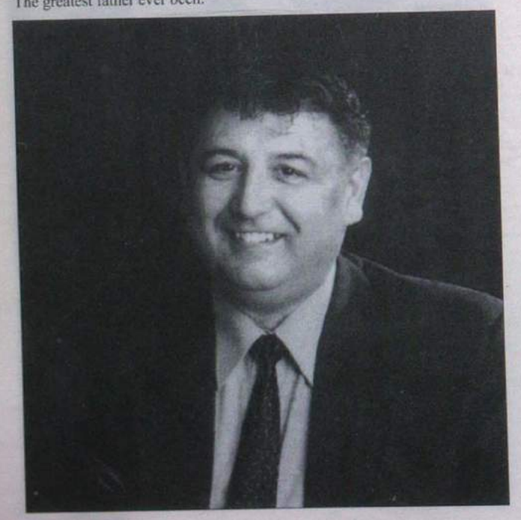
It's so difficult to see,
The things that are inside of me,
The little things that make me cry,
The things that make me ask why?

It's so difficult to see,
The choices which lay ahead of me,
The future is the dark cloud,
I just want my family proud.

Could do better is what they say,
What makes the demons go away,
I'm not crazy,
I'm not sad,
I'm having problems with my dad.

It's the little things that make me cry,
If you were me, you'd see why,
I don't want to say goodbye,
I don't want anyone to die.
I don't want to live in fear,
Knowing that death is near ….

Now that death, been and gone,
Now the fight to carry on,
I know he'll look down on me,
The greatest father ever been.



Parton - Sig George Parton died in Erskine Hospital on 3 April 2001 having entered the hospital in 1997. He was called up for National Service to Jardine Street , Maryhill, Glasgow in 1949, as a Signalman Driver in the Corps, and served until 1956 when he then transferred to the Parachute Regiment. In 1961 he transferred to the Royal Engineersand served until 1963. He served in Catterick the UK and Libya having dropped his rank of Lance Corporal in the Royal Signals to join the Parachute Regiment. **George Parton** was cremated at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley. The Parachute Association were represented with their Standard. Members of his family, including his son who lives overseas, and friends were at the service which was conducted by the Chaplain for the Paras.

Devine – Capt (Retd) George Devine, late Royal Signals. **George Devine** came to 216 Para Sigs in 1974 as a mature WO2 (YofS). The rest of our gang were all young Sergeants. We did our Airborne thing for two more years until I went to BAOR, and **George** became WO1 (RSMI) in the Signals Wing at RMA Sandhurst. 16 Para Bde folded its tents in 1976. **George** and I met rarely after that, our subsequent reunions usually under the haze of an Airborne Forces Day. In latter years we wrote or 'phoned, now and then, and we exchanged Xmas cards. On retiring from Regular service **George** became a PSAO with 31 Sig Regt (V) in London. He and his wife **Margaret** bought a house in Fleet, which remains the family home. **George** retired from TA service in 1997, aged 60.

George was a rare wee gem of a Glasgow-born Scot. He was quietly amusing, humorous, totally efficient, and a kind, tolerant leader. His was the voice of reason when masters **Marshall, McBirney**, and **Hamilton**, thrusting and aggressive young Sergeants, started to ricochet off the walls of authority erected by some of our then 'born-leaders.' When life became fraught we could always go to see **George**, who would calm us down, discuss an alternative assassination method, and pour water on the flames. For that alone, he earned our undying gratitude. I remember that **George**, a mature 37-year-old, struggled manfully to keep-up on road runs. It was a young and very fit Squadron. At the same time though he was heavily involved with the world of Military Display Free Fall Parachuting. He jumped with the internationally renowned Red Devils, and the Royal Signals own Blue Helmets. His team-mates then included **Maj Mike Forge**, who was killed in the Falklands War; **Sgt Jim Robins**, who died in a tragic parachuting accident, before **George's** very eyes; and **Sgt Steve Whittick**, a 216 Sqn member from the 1960s. I heard that **George** continued to Free-Fall long after he left 216, making his last jump in 1997. He was both well known and respected in that particularly elite world. As a footnote to his FF days … **George** was one of few to be presented with a Gold Lanyard by **HRH Prince Charles** at an ABF Day parade in the late 1970s. This award was made to Para Bde 'Troopers who had completed a minimum of 1,000 FF jumps. The story goes that when **HRH** stopped in front of **George** he noticed that, like himself, **George** was wearing a Queen's Jubilee Medal. 'How did you come by this?' asked the **Prince**. 'I was in the right place at the right time, Sir,' retorted **George**. 'Funny enough, so was I,' concluded **HRH**. Smiles all round. The tale was later published in a Readers' Digest 'Humour in Uniform.'

April 1975 - Escape and Evasion - Rannoch Moor, Scotland. One of the Running Teams consisted of **Lt Nigel Jackson, WO2 George Devine**, and **SSgt Dick Hamilton**. The Hunter Force was provided, vigorously, by Para Regt 'troops from the Vigilant (Missile) Platoons of HQ Coy, 16 Para Bde. Of course we were (all) eventually caught, and beasted, and interrogated at the infamous Kamp Tominsky Rehabilitation Centre (a nissen hut in Camp Cultybraggan). Years have dulled the pain suffered, but one relevant memory abides … a cunning plan was that **George** had secreted, about his body, a tiny tube containing a £5 note. Later, 'on the run', we attempted to buy food from a woman at an isolated cottage. In exchange for the rations George was encouraged to produce the cash. This he did after retiring behind a shed. The note was gingerly handed-over, and we took to our heels with the grub! The entire valley heard precisely what the woman thought of 'dirty *$£!! escapees, and their *$£!! money!' Rarely had I seen **George** move quite so fast!

For many years **George** and his wife, **Margaret** enjoyed themselves as active members of a Scottish Country Dance Society. A letter from **George** in 1997 says that they had been to St Andrews for the Society's Summer School week, and were due to visit Aberdeen for the Scottish Society's Annual Grand Ball. I heard that **George** was still dancing in February this year, against all medical advice of course. I also heard that, in January of this year, he successfully 'Addressed The Haggis' at no less than four Burns' Suppers. Determined, or what? In latter years, as a relief from the stresses of TA life and London, **George** took to the hills, quite literally. He would travel to the north of Scotland where he would join forces with an old Free Fall chum, **Alec Munro**, late 3 Para and The Red Devils. The pair would wander up hill and down dale, enjoying freedom and scenery, and reliving their youth. **George** had made plans to visit me in Shetland this autumn, for a walk along the 'banks' and seashore. His enforced absence, on other duty, grieves me dearly.

On 6 April a Requiem Mass was held for **George** in Church Crookham, followed by his Internment at Aldershot Military Cemetery. The Service was attended by very many family members and friends, from across the globe. Among the gathering were Para Sigs comrades **Nigel Jackson, Johnny Fielding, Steve Marshall, Jimmy Campbell, Craig Treeby, Guy Richards** and **Joe Fairbairn**; and **Malcolm Coupar**, late

of the Blue Helmets. **George**, as you move-off to the final DZ RV in the sky, I wish you the fond adieu of an airborne comrade, proud and privileged to have served briefly in your shadow.

The picture is a hook on which to hang my farewell **Capt (Retd) G. Devine** who passed away on 31 March 2001, after a short illness bravely borne.

1974 Photo
(L-R): Sgt Dick Hamilton, Sgt Steve Marshall, SSgt Dougie Baikie, WO2 (YofS) George Devine, Capt Craig Treeby
(all of 216 Para Sig Sqn)

Bell - Sig Herbert J. Bell was born in Holloway, N. London in 1919 and joined Standard Telephones and Cables in 1937. While at STC he joined the TA and was mobilised on the outbreak of War. He was sent to Europe and was evacuated from Dunkirk on the Destroyer Scimitar.

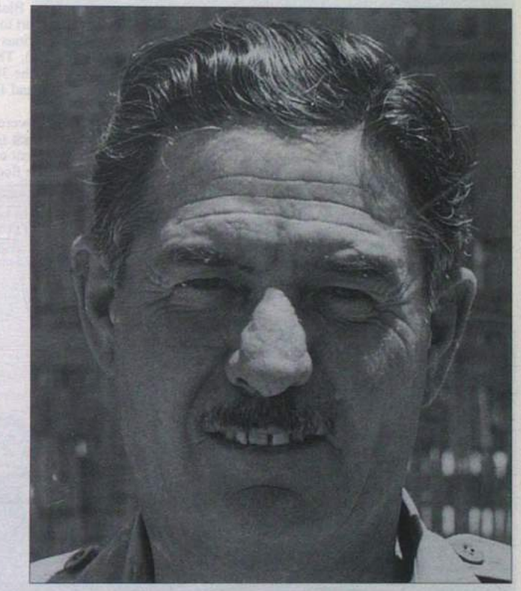
Later he went to the Middle East for the Syrian Campaign and joined the Para Brigade where he served in the Special Operations Group. His first drop was at the Greek/Albanian border where he spent nine months signalling for the Partisans. Later he was sent, with a **Lt Duffy**, to rescue 13 American nurses and aircrew who had crashed en route from Malta to Italy. They finally got the Americans aboard a British MTB and they were transferred to Bali in Italy. It is understood that he earned the MM for this mission. Later he moved to Sienna and was then dropped into Northern Italy to harass the Germans. On release from the Army he returned to STC and was eventually sent to Australia and decided to stay after meeting **Irene Taylor** who he subsequently married. They had two children, **Christine** and **Grant**. Their family was their great joy and they were delighted when their grandchildren, **Andrew, Christine** and **Jarrad** arrived. He was a modest man who was not only a hero but a man who led a useful and productive life.

Buirski - Maj Eric Joseph Buirski died on 27 October at Wrexham Maelor Hospital aged 84. **Eric** was born in Swellendam Cape, South Africa in 1916 and joined the British Army in 1935.

His initial training was at Catterick and then he went to India, which he regarded as the best part of his career, and often spoke of his time there with affection. He loved all sports, taking an active part in many for the whole of his army career. He represented the Corps at the highest level at rugby, cricket, hockey and golf. His Officer Training was at Bangalore and following his parachute training, he joined 50 Indian Parachute Brigade as a Major and head of the Signals Squadron. He served in Burma and was at Sangshak and Imphal - March and April 1944. Returning to the UK in 1947 his service included Malta, Kenya, Germany (Krefeld and Rheindahlen) and Cyprus (Akrotiri and Episkopi). His last six years service were in Chester at Saighton Camp, HQ Western Command. He retired in January 1970 and was then appointed, in July 1970, to the Telecommunications Office , Hanover, as a Retired Officer. He served there for ten years.

Finally, he retired in 1980 and returned to Marford, North Wales where he lived with his wife, **Margaret**, whom he had met in Cyprus 1959, where she was teaching Service children in Limassol, and his daughter **Kate**, who was born in BMH Hanover. Golf was a hobby which he enjoyed until he was 79. His health gradually deteriorated following a heart attack. He still kept in touch with many he had served with over his 34 year career. A life he loved.

His great joy was his family, **Margaret, Kate** and **Toni** and his grandchildren, **Thomas** and **Thea**. He was truly a soldier and a gentleman, loved and respected by many.



LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

XI

HEADQUARTERS
11 SIGNAL BRIGADE

Comd — **Brig C. L. Le Gallais OBE**
COS — **Maj R. P. Wilson**

HAIL AND FAREWELL

No farewells for this edition, there are only welcomes – Hooray! We welcome **Maj Bob Appleton** to the Headquarters as the SO2 Ops on an FTRS contract. It appears that the terms of **Bob's** FTRS contract run in decades as opposed to years. He joined us from HQ LAND (a previous FTRS contract) and in addition to his responsibilities as the SO2 Ops, he will be the principal link officer with the TA. **Capt Mick Purves** has also joined us on attachment to assist with Ex Saif Sareea. Welcome to you both and we are sure that you will enjoy your stay in Donnington.

CONGRATULATIONS

Brig Charles Le Gallais has been awarded the CBE in the Operational Honours List for his work in the former Yugoslavia. It is very encouraging for all of us to learn that one can be made a CBE, simply by attending a number of social functions; arranging for a piper to be present at one of them and being a 'thoroughly good chap'. Since the announcement prompted a further champagne celebration in the Headquarters, we are all hoping this is the style to which we can become accustomed. Seriously, whilst we are all delighted for **Brig Charles** there are some, less savoury individuals, in the former Yugoslavia who wish he had never visited.

PROJECT CORMORANT

Capt (TOT) John Hiorns continues to run with Project Cormorant. We are happy to update the last *WIRE* notes and report that the contract has been let – at last. The first slice of Project Cormorant is due to be declared operational in August 2002. In order to meet that time-scale, 2 Sig Regt is now conducting AS Op conversion training, which includes members from 30 Sig Regt. Once that conversion training has been complete, Cormorant underpinning knowledge training will commence in order that operators are able to meet the Initial Operational Capability 1. It is anticipated that Management Training and User Trials will be conducted from February 2002, with the first collective training

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conducted from April 2002. This should ensure that the first slice is indeed declared operational in August 2002.

EXERCISE SAIF SAREEA II

The exercise gathers pace. A high level briefing for the ex was conducted in Donnington on 29 March 2001 which COMBRITFOR, **Air Vice Marshall (AVM) Torpy** attended, accompanied by UK Ex Director AVM **Harris** and the UK Chief EXCON, **Brig Freer.** The J6 lead, **Brig Suleman** from the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces also attended, accompanied by two Omani staff officers. The briefing team, led by the Comd, **Brig Le Gallais** comprised **Maj David Somerville**, from PJHQ and **Maj Duncan Parkinson**. The intention of the day was to give confidence to the lead players that the J6 picture reflected, accurately, the J3 picture. The aim of the day was achieved and AVM **Torpy** was heard to say that he had learned more about the exercise in the 90 minutes brief in Donnington than he had been able to piece together in the preceding months.

COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS DIVISION (CPD)

PROJECT IZAR - by Cpl Steve Mottram

DE&I, DESIGN & INSTALLATION SERVICES BRANCH

So who are we? Communication Projects Division (CPD) based in Blandford was assimilated into DCSA's Directorate of Engineering & Interoperability (DE&I) during December 2000 and continues to provide support to the defence fixed communications systems worldwide.

Project IZAR was the commercialization of Op Silkman communications in support of the JTFHQ based within the Sierra Leone Army HQ on the outskirts of the capital, Freetown and Benguema Training Centre (BTC). The project, utilising civil satellite bearers and COTS equipment used in the Balkans on projects MIRA and CLEO, has now replaced the majority of the 30 Sig Regt communications equipment at both of these locations. All circuits and facilities including DFTS, PATRON, CUTG, JOCS, VTC, Internet and IMN circuits are routed through the UK Hub in Corsham providing a better qualify of service and enhanced facilities.

The project started in January. The three modified ISO containers were configured and fully tested by BAE Technicians from BAE Systems in Christchurch and members of DE&I's Design & Installation Service Branch (DIS) and Information Systems 7 (IS7), and 600 Sig Tp prior to deployment. An installation team was then assembled using personnel from five different units namely 30 Sig Regt, ACPO, 600 Sig Tp, DIS Blandford and HQ LAND to travel out to Sierra Leone to prepare the area for the equipment and then flood wire the HQ complex ready for the arrival of the containers.

Rear (L-R): Capt Jason Hazelwood, LCpl Chris Nugent, Cpl Lee Bearfield, WO2 (SSM) Mark Bullivant, LCpl John Brotherford, SSgt Kev Wosika, Capt (TOT) Tony Woolaston
Front (L-R): Sig Tom Hobson, Sgt Paul Landregan, Cpl Steve Mottram, LCpl Carl Stephenson, Sgt Joe Mcguiness, Mr Chris Ashcroft
(Missing from the picture are Maj Keith Pritchard and Sig Andy Hartshorn)

We flew from Brize Norton by Tristar on 29 March with an overnight stop in Dakkar and arrived in Lungi airport at midday on the 30th. After briefings and admin we set off via mexi-float for the other side of the bay, which was where the RFA Sir Percivale was docked. This was to be our home for the next four weeks. Travel from the docks to JTFHQ, the other side of Freetown, was in itself an experience! Two miles and one hour later having passed buildings riddled with hundreds of bullet holes from the troubles, open sewers, and the general appearance of overcrowding, where every piece of floor space was lived on, we emerged on the other side. From then on it was pretty much a straight run to the HQ.

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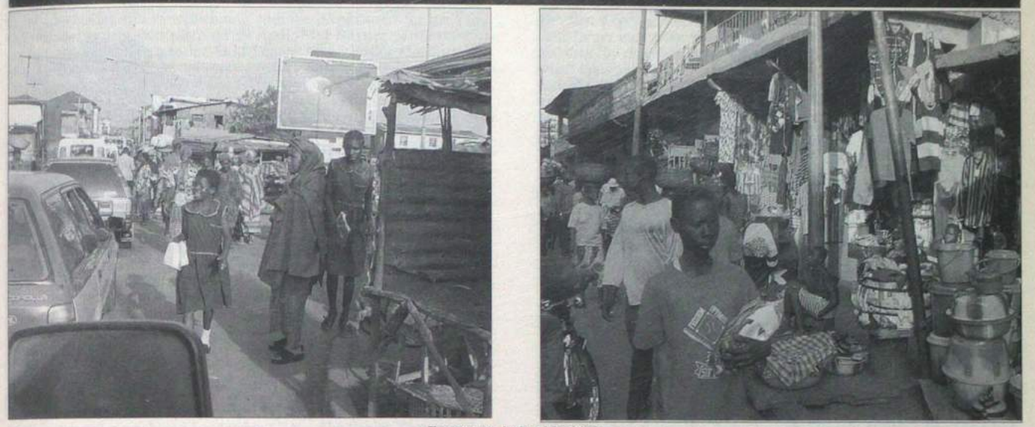
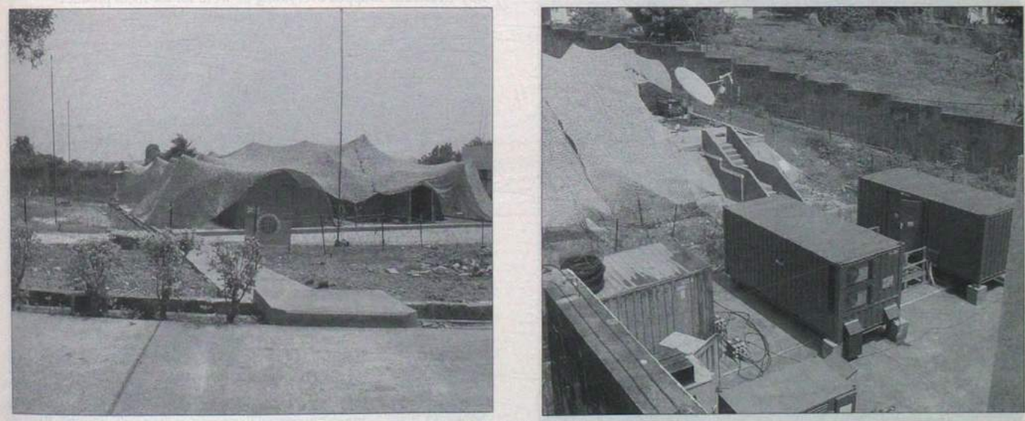


Freetown At It's Maddest

The main task for the first week was to flood wire the HQ and surrounding areas with all the cables, both fibre and copper, and fit trunking. During this time all work was overseen by **Maj** 'Chief Leaner' **Pritchard** whilst **Capt** 'Howdybuddy' **Hazelwood** and **Capt** 'Did I tell you I was posted to Gibraltar?' **Woolaston** worked on the handover package within the HQ. Obviously due to the heat the workload was very tiring and so the newly formed MTDPF (Mech &Tech Democratic Peoples Front) balloted for a day off; so Sunday was spent on the beach. This is were **WO2 SSM** 'SUPLEX' **Bullivant** came into his own, after countlessly being attacked in the sea by local kids who strangely mistook him for a new climbing frame he decided to hone his newfound wrestling moves on a couple of them. **Sgt** 'Parasasghurkacommando' **McGuiness** tried his hand at a recently discovered pastime called Fatbellied bodysurfing ably aided by **LCpl** 'Surfgod' **Brotherford**. Whilst all this was going on **LCpl** 'Winge for NATO' **Stephenson** continually complained that, 'The sea's too salty. The sand's to hot blah blah blah!' All the local beach traders were fended off bravely by **LCpl** 'Turkish' **Nugent**, unfortunately it was too late for **LCpl Chris** 'Local boy' **Stanley** who was forced to buy everything.



JTFHQ Complex

After the containers arrived the circuits were tested thoroughly and all settings were checked by the Chuckle Brothers, **SSgt** 'Senior Chuckle' **Wosika** and **Sgt** 'Junior Chuckle' **Landregan**. Loopback plugs were being thrown about like they were going out of fashion and 'To me, To you' was heard on many an occasion. All this was again overlooked by **Maj** 'Chief leaner' **Pritchard**, who had obviously encountered a serious earthquake in his past and now felt the need to lean against something all of the time!

Cpl 'I just drive' **Mottram** did what was best and cleaned the vehicles and **Mr Chris** 'Expendable Civvy' **Ashcroft** rubbed cream into the blisters that had now formed from sunburn. At about this time **Sig Andy** 'Half tour' **Hartshorn** had to return to UK on compassionate. At about the 3-week point, strange medical ailments became apparent within the team. **Sgt** 'Miximitosis' **McGuiness** developed conjunctivitis and **Capt** 'One eyed Willie' **Woolaston** developed problems with his eye (although it was noted that it remarkably healed itself as the wheels of the Tristar touched down in the UK and he got up off his club class AeroMed seat)!

Having successfully completed the JTFHQ the team moved to the Jungle location of BTC. Again the area was flood wired providing DFTS, CUTG and a four terminal welfare Internet café, much to the delight of the CO of 1LI who had just taken over the training establishment from 2RGR. During the installation, a few of us were lucky enough to watch the passing out parade of the newly Ghurka trained SLA soldiers, and what can be said, the drill and the general professionalism of their troops was amazing! They were a credit to their training.

STUCK FOR A GIFT? TRY THE MUSEUM SHOP TEL: BLFD 482248

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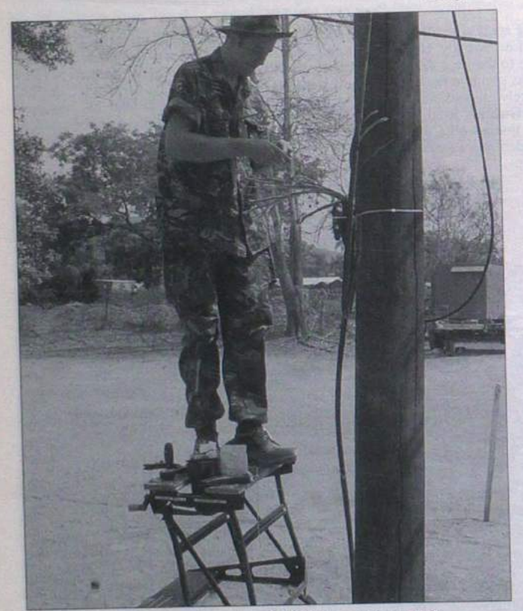
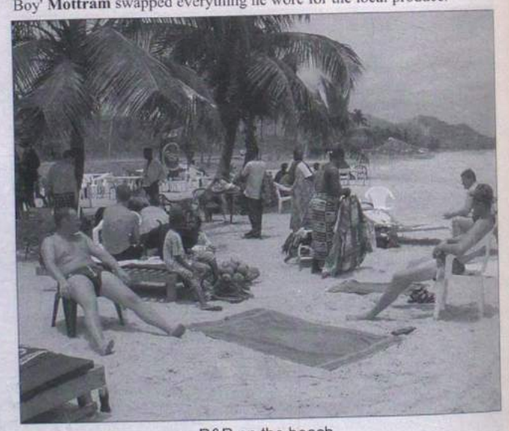
Benguema Training Centre



Pole Preparation - by LCpl Stephenson at BTC

With all the equipment in and working it was now simply a case of the team tidy and packing up at both sites. Whilst **Capt** 'Hey, Lets off-road / Madmax' **Hazelwood** and **Sgt** 'Paradigm Kid' **Landregan** sorting out the Cyber-café at BTC. As we had finished ahead of time and with two days left to spare we went to the beach and 'power-tanned'. On the first day **Cpl Lee** 'Whiteboy' **Bearfield** finally made it to the beach and consequentially burnt to a crisp, whilst **LCpl** 'Turkish' **Nugent** managed to achieve a tan that a German would be proud of. **Sig** Tom 'Lobster' **Hobson** bravely fended off yet more beach traders, Whilst **Cpl Steve** 'Del Boy' **Mottram** swapped everything he wore for the local produce.



R&R on the beach

263 (HARROGATE) SIGNAL SQUADRON ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj Mel Rayner**
SSM **WO2 J. Hogan**

SHQ has experienced a massive turnaround over the past few months, with the arrival of a new 2IC, **Capt Liz Warhurst** (nee Allan), **SSM John Hogan** and **SSgt Baker** as the new Sqn SQMS. As is always the case with arrival in new units, we have hit the ground running. **Maj Mel Rayner** has welcomed the return of both a 2IC and SSM in post and is looking forward to the extra time she will now have, not .... The Foot and Mouth disease has impacted significantly on our ability to train our Apprentices in realistic field conditions. However, in the fine style of the British Army we are finding solutions to the problem. (The Small Arms Trainer has never seen so much action!) There is no replacement for living in the field for a few days in the wind and rain. As the term draws

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to its conclusion, life is accelerating with the preparations for the Pass Out Parade, which takes place on 19 April. **Maj Rayner** is particularly excited about her return to the Drill Square as the Parade Commander, after an absence of over seven years. Looking forward to the start of May, the Senior Term, Rawson and Scott Tps, will move on to Blandford for their Phase 2 Training, while we welcome the arrival of the next Apprentices. A slightly smaller intake, means that we are able to get the NCOs away for vital instructional, career and educational courses. Finally, the Squadron would like to congratulate **Sgt Korchel** on her selection for promotion to Staff Sergeant, well done.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ATFC AND AN ATR?

Army Training Regiments (ATR) and the Army Technical Foundation College (ATFC) both conduct Phase 1 training, so what differences are there between the training? The Apprentices stay at the College for 28 weeks while a recruit will spend only 12 weeks in an ATR. The Common Military Syllabus Recruit, (CMSR) which every recruit must pass is completed by the ATRs in 11/12 weeks, so what do we do for the remainder of the 28 weeks? The key word in our title is 'College', we educate. The Apprentices (only Technician and Operator trades) complete a package called the Foundation Modern Apprenticeship (FMA), which is based primarily around Key Skills and NVQs. The Apprentices study a variety of subjects including Maths, IT, Military Science and Military Studies. All of which help to prepare them for their Education For Promotion (EFP) 1. The course includes two weeks of External Leadership and a weeklong Leadership Cadre. The Senior Term spend a week on exercise where they are tested in various command appointments and delivery of orders and finally finishing the term with a week of Field Firing at section level. In a nutshell, an Apprentice will move on to Phase 2 having completed the CMSR and a FMA (if they have worked hard enough) as well as having under his or her belt, command and leadership experience.

BRADLEY TROOP - JUNIOR TERM
Tp Comd **Capt Roddy Wilson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mark McMullan**

LIFE IN THE FIRST TERM AT ATFC ARBORFIELD
by AT Elgie

THE BLOCK

Not knowing anyone at the start was really strange, having to make a whole new group of friends. In a way it was familiar because of changing schools, but we all soon settled in. By the end of the first week we had all got to know each other. Doing the block jobs wasn't the best thing, nobody had any control or knowledge of command and everyone went in all directions. We didn't know how to iron or clean, to be honest it was like starting at primary school, not knowing the basics of what we were supposed to be doing. As time went on, friction became a major problem, because, we started to get to know each other more. We didn't agree on many things, and we argued constantly. Although we made good friends we became familiar with the more lazy members of the Troop. However, we are all working more as a team now and all members of the Troop are now pulling their weight. Now we all happily get along, doing all of our jobs up to standard and meeting the requirements. I think the whole Troop have bonded really well, however the motivation and team work never kicked in until after our exercise, Exercise Milks Teeth.

EXERCISE MILKS TEETH

This is the first exercise you will go on. It is a good exercise where you learn the basic military skills, such as cooking, administration, cam and concealment, map reading and learning more about harbour areas. On this exercise we had to do stag, which on the first night I stagged up and down my section line for an hour. On the second night I had to do stag in a shell scrap with another person. The second night, I went on twice. During the exercise the thing I really enjoyed most was firing blank rounds as it was first time and I also got to fire on automatic. The worst thing about Ex Milks Teeth was sleeping out in the freezing cold. All we had for shelter was a poncho, a bivi bag and our sleeping bag. The other thing I did not like was carrying my bergen around. (I think I might become an officer and get someone else to carry it for me). Cam and concealment was really good. You had to cam yourself up including webbing, hands and face. After you have cammed yourself up you had to hide while the Troop NCO's had to find us with the help of a spotter. We then went on various map-reading exercises, which improved our skills and in some cases found them to begin with. We also learnt the art of how to patrol around areas and the different techniques used such as staggered file and single file. With this came all the different hand signals used both in the day and night. Overall this exercise was really good, providing us with all the basic military skills.

EXERCISE DRAGONS TEETH

Ex Dragons Teeth wasn't as realistic as it should have been, because of the foot and mouth and a result we had to do all of the training on camp. However, what we did do in the two days was challenging, fun and hard. The first day was raining and cold but we soon seemed to forget about that. *Target indication* was our first stand followed by *judging distance* and then *fire and manoeuvre*. This day was simply for practice except for target indication, which was one of our main tests we all passed. At the end of the day we were all tired, but I knew if we had been on a real exercise we would have found it more difficult. The second day was better, it was raining on and off and we had a test on *fire and manoeuvre*. This was brilliant, to make it better it was really muddy. All of the Troop thought it was good even though all their bounds made them crawl through the muddiest patches. If we had been on exercise we would have found it more difficult but I think we would have coped. The bad thing about the two days was the weather and not being able to do the real thing. It would have been a lot better if we were able to go into the field and practice our military skills living and surviving in the field without the block comforts to rely on.

PENNEY TROOP - JUNIOR TERM
Tp Comd **Lt Miles Booker**
Tp Sgt **CSgt** 'Digger' **Gardiner** RGBW

MY AMAZING DAY OUT - *by AT Atkinson*

When I joined the Army I wasn't expecting to go to museums and to go bowling, but it just goes to show if you work hard, you play hard. Thursday 29 March, I woke up with a big smile for once and I was happy to get up that early. I didn't believe where we were going when Sgt Gardiner first told us. The artillery museum was enjoyable because when I first decided to join the Army I wanted to join artillery, because I like the idea of being in control of big guns. The most amazing piece of kit there, was the A590, British made and the best in the world. We got to climb over them and get inside, the A590 was really small inside, I couldn't imagine working on a hot day in there. The next place we went to was an armoury where we were told the history of British rifles. I couldn't believe how many weapons were in there and when we got the chance to look about the armoury I was overjoyed. All my mates were looking at the modern weapons and anti-tank weapons, but I went to look at the World War II rifles. I've always been interested in WWII. I've got loads of books on it back home. When I got to look at the Browning Automatic Rifle I couldn't put it down. Next was the main attraction, BOWLING! At first I couldn't hit a single pin, but as soon as I got warmed up I got four strikes in a row. After bowling I played on the arcades and ate burgers, back to my original civilian life eating burgers and playing on arcades. Overall it was a good day and it has made me work harder to go out again.

VISIT TO THE MUSEUM AT RMCS SHRIVENHAM
by AT Harper

On Thursday 29 March, our Troop staff decided to give us a break from our busy lives and took us out for the day! The day started off really well; it was a chance to put on our civilian clothes and relax for the day. We got on the road and everything was fine until Sergeant McLaughlin got a flat tire. It finally got fixed and everyone arrived at the Museum. We went into the armoury and looked at some really cool rifles. I've never seen so many and I never knew there were so many different types. We then moved on to the gun shed where there were a lot of really big guns. We got a chance to look around, and climb on some of the tanks. The WO2 who showed us around showed us one of the tests you do to join the Artillery. You had to be able to lift one of these really heavy shells, and it was funny catching the males in the Troop trying to lift it, and struggling, when the staff sergeant could lift it with one hand. I did learn something I don't want to join the Artillery! After that we all went to the Mega Bowl and I actually hit some of the pins! Everyone enjoyed themselves, whether they were good or bad, it was a laugh. After we had a few games we all had a go on some of the amusements. **Lt Booker** and **Sgt Gardiner** had a go on a horse racing video game and it was really strange to see our troop staff having a laugh and being civilians! The day was really enjoyable and a nice break for the Troop and the Staff. It gives us a reason to work even harder so we can do more things like this!

OUR DAY OUT - *AT Hamnett*

E Well, our day started a bit flat, literally, we had only been on the road for 15 minutes and we had got a puncture. However, it was a welcomed stop for all those who had gone a whole twenty minutes without nicotine. After a few of **AT Jenner's** jokes, **AT Eddon's** moaning about car sickness a few snacks, **LSgt McLaughlin** had changed the tyre and covered his suit in oil. We piled onto the minibus and set off on our way. We arrived at the Museum just behind the others and were ushered into the Gun Shed. We watched a short film about different kinds of weapons and ammunition. Then we went to look at the guns. We were let loose on the huge contraptions. **Eddon** and I were in our element. We took it in turn to get in the driver's seat and pretend to be driving in the Gulf. It was about that time that **AT Austin** came and spoiled our fun by telling us to get outside. Next we walked over to the Armoury. We were talked through most of the weapons there and were shown how they worked. It was then that I became grateful for the SA

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

80, as I would not like to be carrying some of the rifles from earlier centuries. We were talked through the ammunition as it was passed around. The Sergeant Major wowed **Sgt Gardiner** by telling him about the new technology, for the future. Then we were taken back to the minibus. **LSgt McLaughlin** turned on the radio and a few songs later and we were outside Megabowl. We all got into teams and swapped our shoes. We were allocated our lanes and the games began. The first game was won unexpectedly by **AT Edmonson**. We began to feel the tension between **Eddon** and **Austin** as they were both in last place with a very poor score. I was now enjoying the game and took my place at the start of the lane. I was determined to get a strike. I took a run up to the pins.... BANG.....no I didn't get a strike, I had actually landed on my bum and my whole team were rolling around laughing. I gathered myself together and finished the game in second place. We changed our shoes back and walked over to the arcade games where **Sgt Gardiner** and **Lt Booker** were amusing us all on the Derby horses.
Overall I thought that the day was great.

RAWSON TROOP - SENIOR TERM
Tp Comd **Capt** 'Pierre' **Farrimond**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Colin Gaul**

Coming to the end of a very busy senior term everyone is looking forward to pass-off day. With all the exercises cancelled due to foot and mouth the Troop has had to do a lot of improvising and making as much use of the camp real-estate as possible, this being no problem of course being R Signals we are used to improvisation. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the best to **Cpl** 'Clubby' **Clubb** and his girlfriend on the smooth delivery of a new communication system (yes a baby).

RAWSON TROOP BATTLEFIELD TOUR - *by AT Burnand*

Friday 6 April and we watched scenes from famous films about the D-Day landings. That evening we made our way to historical Portsmouth for the Troop's maiden voyage abroad. We had fun strutting our stuff on the dance-floor on the 'Pride of Portsmouth'. Eventually we arrived in France after seven hours of feeling not 100% We boarded our coach and made our way to Aramange and visited the D-Day museum. It was quite exciting and we all got sore necks from sitting in the 360 degree cinema. After tasting the local dish of steak and chips we made our way to Omaha Beach. At the beach the loss of life really hit us all. I think it is impossible for our generation to comprehend how many lives were lost all we could do try to imagine. This was time to reflect on what they gave their lives for. From Omaha we went to Point-de-Rock and went in the German gun emplacements it was an odd feeling knowing that you are walking in history this was the highlight for me. We then went into airborne country and to Pegasus Bridge, we enjoyed walking across the first part of France to be liberated by the allies. Then finally we went to pay our respects to British troops who had made the ultimate sacrifice. We held a mini remembrance ceremony where we laid a wreath on behalf of 263 (H) Signal Squadron. We then made our way back to Le Havre Port and home to the college.

SCOTT TROOP - SENIOR TERM
Tp Comd Lt Nick Galle AGC
Tp Sgt Sgt Amanda Korchel

NORMANDY BATTLE FIELD TOUR - *by AT Roberts*

After a day at the movies (watching old war films!) we finally set off France. Scott Troop being the senior Troop (and the better of the two!) we got the Gucci bus. After about two hours of boredom (getting a big film fanatic sitting next to you, doesn't make travelling a lot of fun!) we arrived in Portsmouth. Seeing the ferry raised a strange fear in the strangest people, eg: **AT Lorna** 'Taz' **Robertson** one of the more eccentric people in the Troop was nearly in tears with fear! After a hard night's boogying (alcohol free of course!) we awoke in Le Harve. After another journey with the same exciting company (this time sleeping!), we arrived at Arromanche, Normandy.

We then received a tour round a D-day museum by a French guide, whose English was quite patchy at times. **Cpl Ross** 'H' **Harmer** being the funny man of the Troop, seized the opportunity immediately and proceeded to attempt a very poor French accent. We learnt about how Arromanche was the site for Mulberry harbour, a man made monster dock made by the Allies. We then walked up an enormous hill to get to a 360degree cinema. 'How does that work?' I hear you cry, well it's a circular room with screens all around. It was one of the freakiest things I have ever seen in my life, it's like being drunk without the alcohol! After a quick spot of lunch we were off, this time to Omaha Cemetery. It was amazing, I never thought it would be as big as it was, but with the time against us we couldn't really get a good look around. We then quickly drove off to Ponte de Hoc, the cliff the US Rangers assaulted. Unfortunately the clock was ticking so we rushed off to the main British, (and Signals asset) Pegasus Bridge. This was where **Cpl Waters** made his famous 'Go to it' run (winning the MM). We then went onto Ranville Cemetery. Ranville Cemetery is predominantly British graves so we deemed it appropriate to hold a service there in memory of those who have fought before us. **Cpl Ross** 'H' **Harmer** had brought a CD player and a few fitting CD's. **AT Ben** 'Slobbo' **Roberts, AT LCpl. Newton** (Rawson Troop) and I (because we were the youngest in our respective Troops) had been selected to lay the wreath. We opened the service with the hymn 'I vow to thee my country' followed by a few readings from AT's. **AT Darren** 'Clueless' **Kewley** read the Corps collect. We then, thanks to **Cpl Ross** 'H' **Harmer's** excellent stills with a CD player, had the worlds quietest last post followed by a two-minute silence. We ended the service with the National Anthem. We then return to Le Harve to get the ferry back to good old Blighty. Yet again, Scott Tp led the way by dancing like idiots and requesting stupid songs like YMCA. After another night on *'The Pride of Portsmouth'* we arrived in Portsmouth where we got back on to the Gucci bus. The ride back I can't say much about because as soon as we got on, I fell asleep straight away, but I imagine it was extremely interesting! Looking back on the trip it was an excellent learning experience and the one major thing I have learnt is 'Dolce et decorum est pro patria mori' ('it is sweet and noble to die for your country') is a lie, there is no beauty in war only pain and suffering. Scott Troop would like to thank **2Lt Galle** for making the trip possible.

EXERCISE LONDON LEARN - *by AT Roberts*

We left straight after breakfast on the Saturday morning for Chelsea Barracks, London. After about an hour we were in Central London and passing all the attractions such as the London Eye. When we arrived at Chelsea we were briefed by the Troop OC, **2Lt Galle** (AGC) on the do's and don'ts of the exercise. Then we were off! The whole Troop had to go to Sloan Square tube station to receive a Gucci all day rail pass, then we left. My partner, **AT Peter** 'Mother' **Reveley,** and myself went to Westminster. As we left Westminster tube station, the first thing we came across was a huge clock! (Commonly known as Big Ben!) We realised that we had a slight problem, no camera! So we ran quite literally back to the station (why we ran I don't quite know but we thought time was of the essence) and bought one. It cost £10.99 for a little disposable camera, it's daylight robbery but we had no time to argue. We just bought it and went.

We then decided a trip to see the 'big man' was needed, so we took a walk to Downing Street. After five minutes of strolling down a road not knowing where we were, we found the back of Downing Street, now all we had to do was find a way in! We took a little walk though Horse Guards and picked up an answer to another question on the way! (What time does the guard mount?) As we walked out though Horse Guards Parade we faced the Guards Memorial, then to our left we noticed a police officer, we were there. With a little talking, I got **AT Peter** 'Mother' **Reveley** and I in. We walked in expecting the house to be part of the main street but were quite disappointed to find it round the corner from the rest, by itself. We got a police officer to take a photo of us outside the door. (One thing I noticed during that day was how helpful the police are).

AT Roberts and AT Reveley outside No 10 Downing Street

We then set our sights on the US Embassy, but there was a snag, we had no idea where it was. On our way there, (after getting directions from a traffic warden) we came across an open topped bus, which took us to the Dorchester Hotel, (Bonus, two extra tasks completed). We then arrived at the Embassy and it was closed. Disappointed as we couldn't complete the task of shaking a US Marine's hand, we took a photo anyway to say we had been on foreign soil. As if by luck while we walked back to Marble Arch station we saw another building, the US Naval HQ for the UK and inside was a US Marine. We went in and after about half an hour of phone calls we finally got to meet the marine, **Pte Davoy**. He had the photo taken and then left us, all that work for one picture! Happy with our effort **AT Peter** 'Mother' **Reveley** and I had lunch, but of course on the move! We got on the tube we thought might go somewhere close to Tower Bridge and we had no real idea where we were. We got lost, twice in fact, first was on the tube and the second time trying to get out of Embankment station!

AT Peter 'Mother' **Reveley**, who's first time it was in London, wanted to see a few sights so I took him on a little guided tour whilst trying to complete the tasks, we visited HMS *Belfast,* crossed Tower Bridge, visited the Tower of London and I polished a Beefeaters shoes! Unluckily for us he was ex-forces and had been a Coldstream Guard for 22 years, so when I just held the rag above his shoe so we could just get a photo and go he had a go at me telling me how to bull boots! So I bowed down to his demands but told him I wasn't really going to clean them and we got the photo and walk away briskly, very briskly! We then had the idea that we could actual do one of the two hardest tasks an the sheet, dedicate a song to our Squadron OC (**Maj Rayner**). Checking the time, it was already 1315hrs and ENDEX was at 1500hrs and we also had to get our camera developed. So on our way, we stopped at The Strand to get it developed and carried on to Leicester Square, home of Capital FM. After all our efforts when we finally got there we were told they couldn't tape it for us so we had just wasted an hour! But all was not lost, we managed to find a Chinese restaurant and get chopsticks which was another task down. We quickly collected our fiim and went. Arriving at Sloane Square with ten minutes to spare we thought we had done it, but then trouble hit us, **AT Peter** 'Mother' **Reveley** couldn't find his ticket! It took me five minutes to convince the lady in charge of the station into letting **AT Peter** 'Mother' **Reveley** through and with about four minutes to spare and a seven-minute journey we ran! Making it in at 1500hrs exactly, we got on the bus and yes, fell asleep!

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP 1 - *by AT K. Hooper*

It was EL 1 and Scott Tp were finishing off their first visit to Sennybndge in sunny Wales, pre-Foot and Mouth. During the week we had enjoyed walking in the Welsh mountains, canoeing in a canal, climbing one of the best artificial walls in the south of Wales, and had been down an extremely cold and wet cave. This was where after a few tears and some sulking, **AT Waters** had argued that '....he wasn't going down that bloody hole', in his shrill Geordie accent! **AT Rae**, had nearly got himself drowned after catching his belt going through a water filled hole, so in all, a good caving experience. On the Saturday we were given a free day where about 20 or so members of both Troops went paint balling. With **Cpl White** and **Cpl Harmer** were in charge of the Scott Tp Team and **Cpl Barker** in charge of the Rawson Tp Team. Scott Tp was confident of a win. **Cpl Barker** got himself 'killed' within minutes of each game so Scott Tp strolled along to success. **Cpl White's** SAS tactics and **Cpl Harmer's** madness, we blitzed them in almost every game. Then that night came the ultimate embarrassment, DRESSING UP! Most members of the two Troops made a good effort although the amount of males, **ATs Iddon, Roberts, Reverly** and **Lancaster** to name a few, dressing up as females was rather distressing! There were a lot dressed as Father Christmas and also one Rudolph! **AT Ross**, of Rawson Tp, beat the males with his chimney sweep costume, and **AT McDonald,** of Scott Tp, was top female as a 70's hippie. This was the end of a great EL experience, but unfortunately we had something to look forward to, arriving back at the ATFC!

14th SIGNAL REGIMENT (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)

CO **Lt Col N. J. Borrill**
RSM **WO1 Palmer**

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
Sqn Comd **Maj Jonathan Gillespie**
Sqn SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dave Watson**

The Squadron has been relatively busy over the past couple of months. Main events have included the visit of **HRH Prince Philip**, Spearhead personnel being on and off the bus (ultimately off!) to various unheard of locations around the world and the deployment of several LO teams as part of Op Peninsula, helping to combat the Foot and Mouth crisis. Our commitment to Op Silk is ongoing with **WO2 Denver Owens** and **Sig Langhorne** continuing to maintain a strong 226 Sqn presence on the EW Detachment. **WO1 Mick Jones** and **SSgt Al Grundy** (Int Corps) have also been busy running training in Sierra Leone.

SQUADRON HEADQUARTER'S TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 Amies**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Gemmel**

The Troop would like to give a big welcome to **Sgt Archie Gemmel**, his wife and their two children who join us from Blandford. **Sgt Gemmel** is well remembered by the OC from their days in Celle where the Regiment used to be based. The only departure from the Troop is **Capt Liz Warhurst** who has been posted to 263 (Harrogate) Signal Squadron at the Army Technical Foundation College in Aborfield. We wish her all the best in her new job as 2IC Squadron. Meanwhile **Capt** 'Rich' **Quinsey** has made a side ways move from 640 Sig Tp (EW) to take over the reigns as Squadron 2IC. Congratulations to **WO1 Mick Jones** on his selection for commissioning, they'll take anyone these days you know (only joking)! He can now look forward to a twelve month tour of the Falklands with his wife **Helen** and family.

EXERCISE DRAGONS WINTER ADVENTURE

Early evening on 21 February the mighty SHQ Tp, 226 Sig Sqn (Electronic Warfare), commenced on an epic 18-hour drive up north, heading to Scotland for Ex Dragons Winter Advenure.

One week of adventure training consisting of downhill skiing, trying to find the abominable Frank'. The whole week was well organised by **SSgt** (now SQMS) **Sorley.** Everyone eventually learned how to ski, even **Cpl Vicky Austin**, albeit with many hours of tuition from **Cpl Heath Stringer**, whose mission was to 'splat' as many kids as possible. The rest of the crew comprised of **Cpl Pete Byrne**, consistently maintaining the fact that he used to be able to ski, **Cpl Dave Brumfeld** (i/c posing), **LCpl Lee Manton, LCpl** 'Trec' **Trearty, Sig Liam Cade, Sig Clive Clayton, Sig Jonah Jones** and **Sig Lloyd**, who pretended never to have skied before. Get the beers in lads!

Pte Williams and LCpl Manton
enjoying the sunny slopes of Aviemore

The week was a huge success and a deserved break that came to an end with **Pte** 'Will' **Williams** not wanting to come home and heading back towards Edinburgh from Carlisle, to get to Wales!? Potential candidate for the Pathfinders, we think not!

640 SIGNAL TROOP (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
Tp Comd **Capt Richard Quinsey**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Eric Head**

Another busy period for the Troop, especially with regards to comings and goings of personnel. A big hello to **Sigs Donnelly, Hargate, Mooney** and **Coppack**, all fresh from the factory. Greetings also to **SSgt Andy Davies** who has made the long distance trek from 237 Sig Sqn (EW), which is in some place called Brawdy! Welcome back to **SSgt Dave Scanlan** who simply cannot get enough of that Sierra Leone nightlife. Tearful farewells to **Sgt Chris Dunn** and **LCpl Sarah Burton** who have moved to the dark side aka Romeo Tp, **Cpl Glenn Roberts** and **Cpl Chas Caley** who are both off to 11 EOD and a hurry on back to **SSgt Kit**

Clements, currently deployed on Op Agricola. January saw the Troop travel to tropical Templeton on Ex Whale Herd. The exercise was aimed at introducing the Troop's new vehicles and equipment to the relatively inexperienced personnel so that we are able to accomplish our role within 16 Air Asslt Bde and MND(C). Special mention goes to **Sig Dave Stevens** on his navigation skills and **Sig Adam Welton** who successfully found and nearly overcame **Sgt Si Green** who was doing a very good impression of a gorse bush until a land rover went over it. On a sadder note, as a result of the Foot and Mouth crisis, there is absolutely no way out of the Brawdy triangle. There is always next year!

ROMEO TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Jones**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Murray**

It has been a quiet couple of months in the Troop. Lots of arrivals and only one departure, recruiting is on the up! We would like to welcome **Cpl** 'Richie' **Canale**, who joins us from 11 EOD and **Sigs Danny Suggett, Alex Webb** and most recently **Dave Ward**, all straight from the factory. A big goodbye and good luck to **Cpl Edwards** who has been posted to 4 Armd Bde. The major event within the Troop was the visit of **HRH Prince Philip**. This brought about all the normal activities associated with such an event, but on the day it all came together and will be remembered by everyone involved. All planned exercises have had to be put on hold as a result of Op Peninsula and the on-going foot and mouth crisis. Fortunately though the wonderful Welsh weather is keeping our morale sky high, roll on the summer!

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj D. Drinkall**
Sqn SSM **SSM T. Frost**

A very busy period for the Squadron with the majority of the Squadron in Kosovo and many more tied up supporting Op Slubber/Peninsula across Wales. The remaining soldiers have come together into a single Rear Troop. Recent news from the Squadron include a baby for **Sig Thompson,** a marriage for **Sig Neale,** a posting to Australia for **WO2 Watters** and a posting to Oman for **YofS Thomas. SSM Frost** is soon to be posted to 2 Sig Regt as RSM, the Squadron is sure that 2 Sigs will appreciate his soft spoken non-confrontational attitude. Also recently in reciept of a child is **Sig Ryan Parker,** the Squadron wishes the mother and **Ryan** their best wishes.

SQUADRON BOXING TEAM

The Squadron side, led by **Lt Eddie 'Rockie' Maskell-Pedersen,** did the Squadron proud on the evening of the Regimental Boxing night, by being unbeaten in the Ring. **Sig Flook** and **Cpl Campbell**, who was forced to drop out of the competition due to a knee injury, much to the relief of his potential opponent, coached the Team. **Lt M-P** won both his bouts in good style, being the only fighter to fight twice on the night. **LCpl Biggs Hancock** was the other Squadron fighter and towered over his opponent, who withdrew from the ring with a leg injury. With two wins under his belt **Lt M-P** was the obvious choice for the best boxer and carried away the trophy for best boxer in front of an enthusiastic group of 237 Sqn supporters.

EXERCISE FINAL FLING I

Early morning on 10 February, hailed the start of another Monday morning. On this particular Monday morning Ex Foxes Fling was due to start and the participants boarded the bus for the short trip to the exercise location. Continuing the Sqn OC's policy to improve the driving skills of the Squadron, Ex Foxes Fling was a serious experiment to test each member of the Squadron and to find out who was in fact the best driver. The bus pulled up at BP Karting at approx 1100hrs. On arriving and various safety briefings, overalls and helmets were donned ready for the ensuing battles. Each member got the customary four-lap practice and we were then onto the first of 23 four-lap heats.

As the day progressed there became a clear picture that some people were in urgent need of help. The most obvious of these being **LCpl** 'Biggsey' **Hancock,** who was voted the worst driver of the day, managing to get the slowest lap time of the day, and creaming into every corner and consistently finishing in last place. Meanwhile the fight for first place was hotting up. The main contenders were **Sig Ryan** 'Featherweight' **Parker, Cpl** 'Spick - Skinny' **Lane** and **LCpl** 'Baz - Village' **Green**. At the end the not so surprising victor was our very own IC Sqn MT, **Sgt Brett** ' I do this for a living' **Newton**. Fortunately the only casualties of the day were the carts themselves, far from squaddie proof and having to sustain the not insubstantial weight from the likes of **LCpl Pete** 'Tinky' **Nex** and **LCpl Biggs** 'these things are designed for children' **Hancock**. They were subject to savage abuse from drivers including, but not limited to, **Sig Jim** 'What does that flag mean?' **Bradford** and **Capt Mark** 'I'll get you next time' **Davis**.

SIB are still investigating allegations of match fixing by **Sgt** 'Taff - Bet you can't knock the 2IC off the track' **Willumsen** and grotesque speeding by **Sig Russ** 'Lambretta' **Mowatt**. A very worth while day in which all personnel learnt a great deal, none of which they are allowed to apply to Army vehicles.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

VISIT BY MAYOR OF BEVERLEY TO ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS, BLANDFORD

His Worship The Mayor of Beverley, **Cllr Neville Holgate**, accompanied by Mace Bearer, **Mr Ken Loft** and members of the Beverley Ex-Boys Association recently visited the Royal School of Signals, Blandford in Dorset. The aim of the visit was to see the soldiers' new accommodation building named after the town of Beverley. This naming commemorates the five years spent at Beverley by 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, Royal Signals in the early 50s. The day started with the Mayor and BEBA members meeting the Commanding Officer of 11 Signals Regiment and exchanging plaques, and this was followed by a visit to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess for coffee with the Regimental Sergeant Major. Once again a Beverley plaque was presented to the Mess and the RSM presented the Mayor with a miniature Dress Sword. Following a trip to the Instructional Wing and to the Corps Museum, the party moved on to the Beverley accommodation block, where **Sig Graham McEwan**, a new recruit from Bridlington, was introduced to the Mayor, and a tour was made of the building. The visit was a huge success, and the Beverley Ex-Boys Association is very grateful to the Mayor, 11 Signals Regiment and all others who contributed to the occasion. The photograph shows His Worship The Mayor, The Mace Bearer, and **Sig Graham McEwan** at the entrance to the Beverley Building.

TRAINING OPERATIONS DIVISION
AREA SYSTEMS GROUP
OC **Maj Grant Hume**
SSM **WO2 Neil Roome**

The group comes under the command of **Maj Grant Hume.** In fact since the last entry most of the hierarchy has changed so welcome to anyone new! The group has had numerous visits over the last six months, keeping the 2IC busy if nothing else. A number of external visits have also taken place, including a trip to the French School of Signals, ESAT, Rennes by the OC, **WO2 (YofS) Paul Ruddock** and **WO2 (YofS)** 'Chalkie' **White.** The Group HQ says goodbye to **SSgt** 'How many hats' **Brand** and **WO2 (FofS) Riglar** as they progress to pastures new. Congratulations to **WO1 (FofS)** 'Football Guru' **Rutherford** on selection for commission – now you have to join us in the cheap seats of the Officers' Mess, never mind. Finally, these notes would not be complete without a word to say farewell to **Sig** 'No I'm not an officer' **Crossley** as he leaves the Army on his 22 year point. All the best, enjoy the party and let us know how you get on.

BATTLEAXE TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Phil Day MBE**

The past six months have been extremely busy within the Troop with lots of comings and goings. Welcomes to **Sgt Dear** from Wet and Miserable Cyprus (or is it the other way round), **Sgt** 'Scouse' **Creevey** from Sysex, **Sgt Andy Lockie** from TM Tp, **Sgt Andy Smith** from 19 Mech Bde, **Sgt Yvonne Jones** from PMB and **LCpl Emma O'Neill** from 21 Sig Regt. Farewells to **Sgt** 'Ski' **Nowosielski** off to 280 Sig Sqn, **Sgt Dave Potts** off to Naples!!! **Sgt Jackie Simpson** off to Special Recruitment in Birmingham, **Sgt Mark Tench** off to the flood capital of the North, 2 Sig Regt in York and **LCpl** 'Aggy' **Agnew** off to 30 Sig Regt. Also congratulations and farewell to, soon to be, **SSgt Dave Moore** to Northern Ireland and, soon to be **WO2 (FofS) Karl Scaife** off to 1 Mech Brigade. **SSgt Tol** will be leaving us in July and taking up his new post of WO2 SSM 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn. Also worthy of note is that **SSgt Krishna** has been given a third extension to his service, which now makes him the most senior Staff Sergeant in the QG SIGNALS. As well as all the new stuff the trainees are still coming through and making our lives worth living. On a sporting front **Sgt Lisa Openshaw** is being presented with Regimental colours for her cross-country exploits whilst **WO2 (FofS) Steve Davis** is busy with his marathon running and his shore fishing competitions, he even managed to win a Trophy for the years Heaviest Cod! Finally the Radio Relay section has some good news of their own. Firstly **Sgt Steve Pengelly** has been crowned the Army Open Doubles Badminton Champion, AGAIN, and congratulations go to **Sgt Ash Doe** and his wife, **Cpl Christine Doe**, on the birth of their son **Thomas Arthur**. Let's not forget to welcome **Fenton Wright** on his arrival in the Section.

'Men of Steel ' — or is that the gentlemen in the background?!!! (L-R): Sgts Gaz Eastlake, Mark Yuill, Scouse Creevy, Ash Doe, Max Wright, Mark Tench, Steve Pengelly

'SAY PANTS TO POVERTY' - *by Sgt Yvonne Jones*

On 16 March 2001 members of staff, military and civilian made themselves the laughing stock of Catterick building in Blandford. Seven individuals participated in 'say pants to poverty'. The aim was to raise money for Comic Relief by wearing pants outside the uniforms. The individuals **Capt (Tfc) Day, WO2 (FofS) Davis, Sgt Yvonne Jones, Sgt Mary Hessel, Sgt Ian Davis** and **Mr Ray Sharp** endured the constant giggles and blushes of the SUTs, upgraders and course personnel, as we carried out our normal duties of the day. These included standing in front of a class teaching and in the bosses' case processing six monthly interviews (could the troops keep a straight face!) **Capt Day** (OC Battleaxe Troop) paraded his silk boxer shorts to the Troop, obviously paid far too much money. Whilst **FofS Davis** destroyed his stud image by wearing 'Y' fronts that Homer Simpson would have been happy with. Me, I stuck to issue WRAC knickers, which dashed a few people's dreams. Thanks go to The Satcom section who gave 100% to the cause with **Sgts Hessel** and **Davis** wearing pants that conjured up a very different picture than their personalities give. At 1430hrs we all met up in the foyer for a photo and were joined by **Lt Col Batho** (Chief Instructor) in his boxer shorts (Bart Simpson) I might add, and a tray of money which he had collected from the guys and girls upstairs. Thanks also go to **Sgts Skidmore** (soon to be SSgt), **Sgt Meredith** and **SSgt Tipple** for the additional contributions made from their departments, all of which were greatly appreciated. In total we raised £196 without any physical endurance. Thanks go to all particiPANTS and people who contributed to such a worthy cause.

SATCOM SECTION VISIT TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM
by Sgt Ian Davis

Recently the Satcom Section, **Sgt Dave Davis** and **Sgt Mary Hessell**, took ten soldiers from Kohima Troop, 11 Sig Regt to the Imperial War Museum in London. The journey was a nightmare - negotiating London in a MT Minibus was not fun. For the Kohima Tp guys, the visit was a day out and an opportunity to see what the generations before them had experienced. The Trench Experience was visited by most, which is a life size reproduction of a real trench, even including the smells. It makes you realise that army life these days isn't quite so bad after all. The main purpose of the visit for the Satcom Section was to see the new Holocaust exhibition. Neither of us can say that we enjoyed the exhibition, but it was definitely an experience. The exhibition covers all aspects of the Holocaust, from the mid-1930s to the end of the Second World War. It is frightening to think that history seems to be repeating itself in certain parts of the world.

KUKRI TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 Paul (YofS) Ruddock**
SSgt **SSgt Mick Openshaw**

ESAT VISIT

As part of the ongoing liaison between the Royal School of Signals (RSS) and the French Army equivalent, Ecole Superieure Et D'Application Des Transmissions (ESAT) at Rennes, a visit was programmed over the period 27 February – 2 March 2001. The party included **Lt Col Malnuit** (French liaison Officer based at RSS), **Maj Coleman** (OC CISM Gp), **Maj Hume** (OC AS Gp), **Capt Boyne** (Comd Gp), **Capt Sutherland** (RS Gp), **WO2 (YofS) Ruddock** and **SSgt (YofS) White** (AS Gp). The aim of the visit was to learn about French equipment, techniques and instructional methods. The two Yeomen though they were involved to provide the technical knowledge, however, it soon became apparent that the officers needed two OR's to drive. As usual the MOD spared no expense for the visit. So, having set off from Blandford in a hired minibus, we arrived at Poole ready for the (cheap) overnight crossing to Cherbourg. From Cherbourg we drove for three hours to Rennes. Over the next two days we received presentations and demonstrations on various aspects of training covering Area Systems, Radio systems, Satellite and C2W. Unlike the RSS, the French only train senior NCO's and officers at ESAT, all junior rank training is conducted in units. In the evening on the first day the British party were treated to a meal (and the odd drink) at a traditional creperie by the ESAT instructors and **Lt Col Croft** R SIGNALS the British LO based at Rennes. Overall, the visit was a great success and we were particularly well hosted by ESAT personnel.

SYTEMS EXERCISE TROOP
Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Docherty**

This has been a busy time for the Troop with the usual back to back command courses combined with the operator and technician courses. We have said a lot of sad farewells from the Troop. Leavers are **Sgt Ritchie** 'We still have our copy of the photo' **Morgan, Sgt** 'Mad Mick' **Heathcote, Sgt Lee** 'I'll sort it out later trust me' **Ford, Cpl Rob** 'Old Man' **Burns, Cpl** 'I am sure I have uniform somewhere' **Hannon, Cpl** 'Si' **Stuart** and **Cpl Jules** 'I am sure there still a sport I have not done' **Portlock**. The Troop says hello to the new players **Sgt Ian** 'Shifty' **Rutland, Cpl Jimmy** 'Mad Jock' **Frew, Cpl** 'Hartley' **Hare, Cpl Leigh Necrews, Cpl Ritchie Savage, LCpl Jenkins, LCpl Masters, LCpl Steve Vose**, and special welcome to the Troop cake maker **LCpl Jayne Robinson**. The Troop are indebted to the RSE section who, on one of our rare days off this year, organised a very interesting day out to Bovington Tank Museum. This was followed up by an inter-section bowling competition, which was won by the Radio Relay (Gods children) section. The Troop would like to say a special farewell to **LCpl Suryabahadur** 'Zig' **Thapa** who is leaving the army at the end of his service, taking long leave in Brunei first. We wish him luck 'down on the farm' back in Nepal.

COMBAT SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Krishna Bahadur Gurung**

It is with sadness that we have to announce that God's chosen tradesman, the TeleMech has now officially ceased to exist and instructors within Cable Systems Section are now busy training and moulding the Installation Technician to take it's place. Now officially recognised as a full member of the Technician trade group it is hoped that pay 2010 will redress the oversight of its predecessor. A fond farewell also to the Lineman trade that is no more, we have had to counsel and console our six linemen in the George III bar on a number of occasions. It

is said that the line team had a limited time left in CSS as they have been confirmed as the source of the latest 'foot in mouth' disease. CSS would like to say hello to **Sgt** 'Taff' **Lougher** and his 'iblinks' who arrived from 39 Inf Bde, **Sgt** 'Tosh' **Pope** from 3 Inf Bde, **Sgt** 'Yorkie' **Sowden** from 642 Sig Tp (currently trading his slipper for combat boots), **Sgt Gaz** 'I wont be stopping here too long' **Sinclair** from 1 Div and finally **LCpl** 'Pecks' **Ramsden**. We wish a fond farewell to **Sgt** 'Bing' **Crosby** who is posted on promotion to 16 SR. SSgt Crosby will quickly undertake an operational tour of Tenerife and Kosovo. Also leaving are **Sgt Trev Croxon** who is going on to do green stuff for the TA deployment and **Cpl** 'Windy' **Miller** leaving for life on the other side of the fence. CSS has also seen the departure of members of its civilian instructor contingent and best wishes go to **Les Collins, Martin Jessett** and **Richard Taylor** who will leave us in a state of calmness and serenity. Finally, congratulations go to **Sgt** 'Fudge' **MacPhee**, deputy chief fairy who has been selected for promotion and posting to 16 SR, his wings will be passed to **Sgt** 'Yorkie' **Sowden**.

BACK TO SCHOOL

CSS have been busy involved in a voluntary project to assist St Leonards School in Blandford with a large project to enhance the IT facilities throughout the classrooms. The initial start of involvement was in December 2000 when **SSgt Paul Gorman** was approached to design the Network expansion. Once the school had procured all of the equipment CSS were able to gather a volunteer team who worked in the evenings and weekends headed by **Sgt** 'Tosh' **Pope**. Given that structured Wiring is the latest cabling technology employed within the Installation Technician trade environment, it is down to the commitment of the Line staff (**Cpl** 'Goose' **Newman**, **Cpl** 'Windy' **Miller** and **LCpl** 'Pecks' **Ransden**) that the project has progressed to its current stage. The entire project is now in its final stages and barring any further visits from the Dorset Police to find out who has set off the alarms when the school is closed (a difficult one to explain away with a handful of computer equipment), we should be finished in time for next term. The expansion along with the increased bandwidth availability should assist the school in meeting the government targets for IT in education.

TC 49 EXERCISE MOGUL DRAGON

The Officers of Troop Commanders Course No 49 awoke on the morning of Saturday the Third of February, to begin our journey to Austria for a week's adventurous training in the mountains. The course members were required to plan and organise the expedition as an integral part of their training.

You would have thought that with the knowledge that Radio Group was now behind us and the slopes of Austria were beckoning that we might have shown some enthusiasm to be up and on our way – not a chance. In true Army fashion, despite a three-hour journey, we made it to Stansted Airport three hours early! At the happy hour of 0630hrs we attempted what was to become the seemingly impossible task of getting to Austria. The check in girls, impaired by the early hours no doubt, were not on top form. After booking in about half of our kit, they decided that the weather was too bad in Munich – our intended destination – for any flights to leave; so, they recalled all the baggage and booked us onto flights to Frankfurt. But wait, alas there are now no flights at all to Europe due to bad weather! After a further hour and much discussion, pleading and downright begging by the expedition organiser **2Lt Laura Clark**, we were once again booked onto a flight that now existed to Frankfurt (very freak weather conditions in Europe!) Third time lucky, we made it to the departure lounge but as we began to board, (after the final boarding call had been made) it transpired that **2Lt Steve Davis** had, amongst the confusion, not been booked on to the flight. The difficult (?) decision was made to leave him! However, in his usual style, he chatted the airhostess up and made it onto the flight. Once we landed in Frankfurt we faced a nine hour train journey with five changes (would **2Lt Davis** make it?) in order to meet up with **Capts Stu Boyne** and **Paul Merry**. The intrepid pair had been ordered at the last minute to go on an exchange adventure training exercise with the French Army the previous week; again, in arduous mountain terrain. Eventually at 0200hrs the expedition made it to our humble accommodation in Zell-am-Zee, Austria. Not much was said except to acknowledge breakfast timings of 0900hrs before all personnel crawled to their much longed-for beds!

The first morning was spent admiring the amazing mountains, detailing of groups and hiring out of kit. The expedition was lucky enough to have four ski instructors meaning that all abilities had an instructor to help them improve. The four groups then spent the afternoon either learning on the nursery slopes (how embarrassing!) or improving on various runs around the pistes. The afternoon was finished with a bit of après ski before returning to the chalet in the evening

Days Two and Three were spent higher up in the resort for all groups, with everyone agreeing that their skiing had come on brilliantly. An introduction to snowboarding package had **Capt Stu Boyne, 2Lt Ben Norton** and **2Lt Steve Davis** having a 'radical' time bouncing around the slopes and creating their own jump off the side of a mountain – purely for the purpose of showing off! The most improved award for these days went to **2Lt Ben Psaila** who no longer posed a threat to other skiers due to his natural kamikaze approach to skiing. It was also around this time that the den of inequity that is 'Crazy Daisy's' was visited. The Troop Commanders being as refined and well behaved as they are, had a couple of quiet cokes in this establishment before returning for an early night at the chalet. (Well, that's our story!)

(L-R): Capt Jim Boyle, 2Lts Ailsa Labran, Pete Jones, Karen Moore, Adam Clowes, Bridie Henderson, Jim Barber, Ben Psaila, Laura Clark, Paul Merry

By the end of day four it was decided that the snow was becoming too thin (due to very warm temperatures – how awful for us). Therefore on day five and six, the group ventured out to Kaprun to ski on the Kitzsteinhorn glacier. The snow here was so much better and everyone found that their skiing improved and we all definitely had more fun. (Faster more cooperative snow you see!) The last days' skiing was spent in a snow-storm, but this couldn't put off the talent on snow that was Troop Commanders Course No 49. (Budding James Bond stunt doubles actually!)

(L-R): 2Lts Adam Clowes, Bridie Henderson, Ben Norton, Cath Jardine, Steve Davis, Pete Jones, Ben Psaila

The journey back to Blandford was just as depressing as the outward journey, taking almost as long. However, we chose not to take the scenic route and went direct from Munich instead. Many thanks must go to our external instructors, **Gareth Pope** and **SSgt Cal Bruce** without whom the expedition would never have been as successful. Thanks also to **Capt Jim Boyle** and **2Lt Alisa Labram** for sharing their expertise and finally to **Capt Stu Boyne** and **2Lt Laura Clark** for all of their hard work to make the expedition happen. All involved have taken some superb memories away with them and more importantly are now inspired to organise adventurous training for the troops back at their parent Regiments – you know who you are – BEWARE!

(L-R); 2Lts Adam Clowes, Cath Jardine, Karen Moore, Vanessa Galloway

EXERCISE GRAND PRIX 01/01 POST EXERCISE REFLECTIONS - *by Padre Roy Hemmings*

Introduction: There I was quietly preparing for Christmas when the DACG for 43 (Wx) Bde phones up looking for someone to go to Kenya in January/February. Well good experience for **Padre David Moss** I think, lucky old thing not long back from `Long Look' and here he is off to Africa. `Well actually we meant that perhaps you might go'. So the surprise I thought I was being asked to deliver to **David** was all mine. Well, quick word with the family, the usual flattering comments about doing without me for a few weeks,., and general agreement that it was too good an opportunity to miss. Not that I think the 'they' who were `looking for someone to go' were actually engaging in an exercise in `family democracy'. Now since I had only barely dipped my little toe into the African continent before, and that only if you count a quick 36 hour R&.R package to Cairo and the pyramids after an Ex. Lion Sun, I began to see Kenya as both an exciting adventure and an educational opportunity. So I had last worked directly with infantry 8 years ago, and never directly with artillery, but perhaps the IRRF Battle Group wouldn't notice a little rust around the chaplain's gills, and at any rate aren't we all saying now that we have to be more adaptable and mobile. Well you'll have to ask 1RRF if they noticed, but I can furbish my more serious reflections on the adventure and experience that was my January I February in Kenya.

Basic Chaplaincy Cove - Sunday Services: A brief chat with the 1 RRF chaplain gave me an overview of what to expect, and the advice that instead of poorly attended services in the canteen I might like to follow his example and link in with the local Anglican Church across the golf course. I took a more ecumenical view - (although 1 offered a service in the canteen on the first Sunday in Nanyuki I had no fellow worshipers though I had earlier ventured across the golf course with a couple of chefs in tow whom I had left after 90 minutes still involved in the service at St George's) - and preached by invitation at the local Presbyterian Church, attended the Roman Catholic Mass of **Father Carlo**, as well as preaching and celebrating the eucharist at St George's. It was quite a humbling experience to celebrate communion amongst the staff and mostly geriatric patients in the local hospital, a reminder of times gone by when my flock was not so young.

Memorials: I had two requests for memorial services whilst on exercise, the first from the Royal Engineers' Troop Comd and the second from OC `X' Coy 1RRF. The Engineers' service took place outside the classroom built at the Nanuyki Children's Home in memory of **Sapper Stuart Clarke**, killed in a road traffic accident in 1999. The 1RRF service took place immediately on the Company's return to Nanyuki from Dol Dol company exercise area at the military grave of **Fusilier Munster**, killed in 1956 in the Mau Mau rebellion.

Visits: The usual round of visits to each location to see each company began with a quick visit with the CO and BGSM to Mpala Farm ranges and the RHA Battery at Ol Pejeta: a first view of giraffe, baboons and zebra; and first awareness of the heat, hills and thorns that would face the infanteers on their company live firing phase. Other visits, some overnight, would follow at Lewa Downs (company acclimatisation) with an excellent chance to get closer to the animals (I do mean elephant, rhino, giraffe, zebra, warthog, and ostrich - and am not making a comment about the level of exercise aggression being shown), Dol Dal, Mpala, and for adventure training to Navasha, as well as to Archers' Post for the final exercise (at 40+ degrees and only comfortable by 11pm, quite hot enough for me,not to mention the soldiers who had to stay longer and mount attacks).

Welfare: Fortunately we had no major dramas or tragedies during the exercise, the Regiment was well aware of the commitments they had already fulfilled in 2000, and they had an impending move to Celle. The inevitable home-based compassionate cases were dealt with in the normal way, and the exercise was sensibly adapted to the conditions. The final exercise inevitably led to some cases of heat exhaustion, though the medical cover was on hand and very few cases had to be hospitalised. Of the few that were, several were down to the inevitable stomach upsets/viruses picked up in new and foreign locations. Welfare as with illness and injury is one of those areas where success is measured by less activity. Notwithstanding the complaints that come from cumulative days away from home, and mid-exercise blues, this exercise was thankfully relatively trouble free.

ITDII-Moral Understanding: It was good to be asked by `E' Battery of 1 RHA and the 1 RRF Mortar Platoon to talk to them on the ITD 11. The 'downtime' inevitably created, when they were at their range phase at Mpala Farm provided the ideal opportunity for discussions in the bush. A discussion exercise on the need for a moral code and some of the choices facing us as people led to lively debate even in the heat of Africa.

GS – 'Hearts And Minds': Perhaps this wouldn't usually warrant its own section, but as I said I viewed the exercise as an educational opportunity as well and since many of us have seen the importance of local community contact in modern operational areas I found on my return to an infantry exercise local contacts gained a higher significance. We were involved in distributing the clothes collected by 1 RRF, and chose quite intentionally to widen the choice of beneficiaries. There are always competing rivalries even for the receipt of 'aid', so we decided to give to the four locations where we were doing small projects. We still did some repair work and built a new porch at the Nanyuki Children's Home, which many of you will remember is near to the NSG camp. We also worked at the Laikipia Rehabilitation Centre far Street Children, Likii School that serves the nearby shanty town and the Kiranga Primary School at Ontulili a village just outside Nanyuki. Re-roofing and repairs were done by the domestic pioneer aided by the Padre, AGC det, and members of HQ Coy. The Engineers Troop as well as providing exercise support undertook very good and much appreciated work providing a covered cooking area as well as levelling and erecting posts for a football pitch at Kiranga School. They also repaired a river bridge on the way to Mount Kenya, graded roads for the ranchers, and built a much needed football pitch at Likii School to be used by **Fr Carlo's** 'Street Kids' Team. All in all the projects and clothes were much appreciated, as witnessed by the various 'thank you' dances that were performed by the schools. True we are primarily there to exercise, but as the QM of the LI suggested as they were taking over `perhaps some of our G5 projects could be better co-ordinated'. He's right I'm sure, and amongst our other duties chaplains with battle groups may well find time to help locally, and find it very rewarding and enlightening - I certainly have.

Educational Sponsorship: Through church and school contacts I became aware of the intense desire amongst even the poorest that their children should receive education. Since the state system ceased to offer free education at any level the need for sponsorship has increased. In discussions with the CO and others the overall benefit long-term of education to a developing nation like Kenya was a point where we obviously were in agreement. Although many of us as individuals probably already sponsor a child through education in the developing world, we did think that a closer link with Nanyuki children might prove worthwhile. As a result I have made contact with several local Christians including Franciscans involved in sponsorship through an organisation in the area. I hope to pursue this as a project, with the benefit of low overheads, direct personal contact, and a local link maintainable through chaplains and local churches between the army and Nanyuki (our training centre). The benefit of education is obvious, as is the benefit of such a personal pastoral link. Anyone interested in sponsoring the education of a local Nanuyki child, personally or as a church, regiment or garrison please contact me on e-mail: RyGHemmU&aol. com for more information.

Adventure training: Yes the padre did take the same time off as other members of HQ Coy. Two enjoyable days at Lake Navasha which included mountain biking through Longanot National Park and Hell's Gate, a walk down the Hell's Gate gorge to the hot springs and Masai village, and afternoon tea at Elsamere (the home of the Adamsons). Also I spent an enjoyable 24 hours with TA members of the permanent range team at Sweet Waters Safari Park in a tented camp by the river: yes more animals including a lioness looking for supper very close to the truck. A 24-hour camel safari with AAC, which included a night in a traditional Somali nomads' but with camel for supper, and on pancakes with honey for breakfast, concluded my adventure training package. The regimental package also included diving and sailing options at the coast, a strenuous high altitude climb up Mt Kenya and for a few enthusiasts an eight day expedition up Kilimanjaro. The Regiment had set out to provide adventure training for relaxation and to encourage interest in Kenya, and had subsidised all the activities. The companies rotated through, and all personnel were able to take advantage of a good package. The only blip possibly the ex-Korean War two-man tents provided by BATLSK at Navasha.

Conclusion: As I said in the introduction I saw my brief exercise with the RRF BG as an opportunity for adventure and education. I was not disappointed, and enjoyed it. Africa does get under the skin; and seeing wild animals in their natural habitat, albeit in game parks, hunting or grazing, not fed by humans and living natural lives, is impressive (Longleat just does not compare). I enjoyed the visits to other churches, and the African's style of worship. The Roman Catholic girls' choir and their liturgical style was very impressive. The Christian faith plays a very important role in Kenya, but they have the difficulty of many schismatic denominations (2,000+ are registered by the government) whose leaders are often motivated by financial gain. However, they also remain a tolerant people whose constitution places value upon freedom of religion. We must honour this and encourage both ecumenism within the church, and tolerance with other minority faiths, whilst ensuring that Christianity is properly taught. Yes the local's pressure selling attempts and outright begging can be irritating, but who can blame them? Every European is rich by their standards. Yes, they do have a serious 'AIDS' problem, a resultant orphan problem, and as a consequence a substance abuse and crime problem - especially amongst the street kids. No excuses, but nevertheless no Christian can fail to appreciate the need to help them. It is true that their attempts at democratic government need constant encouragement, and that we need to emphasise the need for free speech and a multi-party system. 'Laid back' they certainly are, hakuna matata - no problem, but they are moving forward and they are trying to help themselves. Yes, militarily Kenya provides excellent exercise areas, but more than that the Kenyans

are our friends. We have a duty to encourage peace and democracy there, and to facilitate a fairer deal for their poor by encouraging more compassion. I certainly hope to keep in touch with some of my contacts over there, and hope to be in touch with some of you, my colleagues, to see if we can help more

11 SIGNAL REGIMENT
BLANDFORD SUPPORT SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Ray Patrickson**
SSM **WO2 Chris Naylor**

There have been a number of changes in the Squadron since the last set of *WIRE* notes were submitted. **Maj Ray Patrickson** has taken over the hot seat from **Maj Mick Pawlak**, who has not managed to escape Blandford, but simply moved upstairs to take over as the 2IC 11 Signal Regiment. **WO2 Chris Naylor** has recently taken up the SSM post, replacing **WO2** 'Spike' **Haynes**, who has moved down the corridor to be SSM 2 Sqn. It would appear that there definitely is no escape from Blandford! Much to the relief of the Sqn 2IC, **Capt Bob Stanton, WO2 Mark Brunning** has taken up the LSL post of Unit Welfare Warrant Officer, where he will be working alongside the rapidly ageing Unit Welfare Officer (AKA Families Officer). Finally, SHQ has a new clerk, **Miss Sheree Russell**, replacing **Miss Maxine Lloyd** who has gone off to work as a holiday rep (Hi-de-Hi). Welcome and good luck to you all.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP
Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) C. N. Mackay**

The Troop has been losing military personnel on a grand scale. Firstly, a fond farewell to **Sgt** `DJ` **Lockie** who has moved to Area Systems Group to teach Ptarmigan after failing to master Clansman. On the civilian front we congratulate **Mrs Lynda Burn** on her promotion and wish her all the best in her new job with DHE. We will miss her efficient work and volatile temper - honest! Farewell and bon voyage to **Sig Knight** and his family on departure to 3 (UK) Armd Div in Apr 01. Finally, good luck to **Cpl** `Shergar` **Dobson** who leaves for his T1 course. We wish him lots of luck especially when he has any contact with electricity. We welcome **Sig** `Dangerous` **Davis** on completion of his T3 course. Welcome also to our new R & I clerk **Mr** `Kipper` **Fish** who has come from the QM's to do some proper work. Also to **Sig** `Digital` **Smith** who arrived and departed all in the same month. We wish him good luck finishing his Class 3 course.

TROOP GO KARTING - *by Cpl Mileham*

As a leaving function for **Cpl** `Shergar` **Dobson**, an afternoon of Go Karting was organised. Teams of two were randomly drawn out of a hat as follows: **Cpl Mileham/Mr Mower** **Sgt Eaves/Cpl Dobson**
Cpl Whitmey/Mr Pounds **WO1 (FofS) Mackay/Sig Smith**
Mr Rick Tilley/Mr Del Arnott **Cpl Shree on his own**

Once the qualifying race was complete, it was clear the 1-hour race was going to be a close run event. **Sgt** `Keanu` **Eaves** and **Cpl** `Shergar` **Dobson** closely followed the East Anglian dream team of **Mileham/Mower** on the starting grid. Also in the running was **Cpl** `JR` **Whitmey** and the Troop's Michael Hutchings lookalike, **Mr Ted Pounds** (without the noose and lemon), **WO1 (FofS)** `Highway Code` **Mackay** and **Sig** `Digital` **Smith**, **Mr Rickardo** `Speed Meister` **Tilley** and **Mr** `Del Boy` **Arnott** and finally **Cpl** `Too short to see over the steering wheel` **Shree**. As the first ten minutes elapsed, the first driver changeover started with **Mileham/Mower** leading by a whisker. Unfortunately, **Mr Mowers** changeover from Zimmer frame to Go Kart was not as slick as planned. This was further compounded by his insistence on presenting a bus pass for inspection! This opened the way for **Eaves/Dobson** to take the lead. When **Sgt Eaves** took the reins on changeover it was clear that he meant business. (Sighs of relief went up thanking the heavens that he had just recently stopped moonlighting as a taxi driver. Only a few minor incidents happened during the hour-long race. Three black flags were produced - **Sgt** `Keanu` **Eaves** for having an overloaded vehicle, **Cpl** `Bomber` **Mileham** for taking the Foreman out of the game-plan, and finally one for **WO1 (FofS)** `Sunday Driver` **Mackay** for using **Cpl Shree** as a brake and managing to stall an automatic Kart! As the race continued, the **Eaves/Dobson** team used their weight advantage to pull away from the rest and took the chequered flag. An award ceremony afterwards gave a chance to receive liquid refreshment and to give the winning duo their trophy. A special achievement award (a large wooden spoon) was presented to **Cpl Shree** for last place. However, he had difficulty in prizing it off **Mr** `Black Widow` **Tilley** who is the normal recipient. A great time was had by all and it was an ideal way to say farewell to **Cpl Dobson**. Enjoy your T1!

5 DIV SKIING CHAMPIONSHIP - *by Cpl Andy Mileham*

The Regiment sent a four-man team to compete in the Divisional Skiing Championships. **Capt Steve Jones** lead a motley crew of **Sgt Dave Uttley**, **Cpl Laurie Askin** and **Cpl Andy Mileham**. The leisurely 24 hour drive to the French Alps did nothing to dampen the teams enthusiasm, and after three hours practise we went straight into the first race. As the initial seedings came out, **Sgt** `Muttley` **Uttley** headed the crazy gang, followed by **Capt Jones**, **Cpl Askin** and **Cpl Mileham**. As the races came and went the nearest we came to an avalanche was the descent in the ranking made by the novice of the team, **Cpl Andy Mileham**. However, gains were made by the rest of the team and their overall performance improved during the two weeks. Well done to **Cpl Askin** who finally managed to get away for a skiing competition at last, even though he is in the latter stages of resettlement. Also, well done to **Cpl Mileham** who survived some hideous collisions with only a broken nose. Finally, better luck next year to **Sgt Uttley** and **Capt Jones** who narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Army championships.

AMATEUR NATIONAL HUNT COURSE - *by Cpl 'Andy' Dobson*

The Army runs two horseracing events per year, both being held at Sandown. The races are organised under National Hunt rules but all riders must be serving personnel. This year 11 Sig Regt sent a soldier to the British Racing School Newmarket. The course was organised specifically for the Armed Forces with the aim of qualifying individuals to enter these races. The lucky soldier was **Cpl** `Andy` **Dobson** who has always had a close affiliation with the horseracing industry, as both his brother and cousin are Flat Jockeys. The course covered topics such as fitness, race position, style, safety, diet, and the rules and regulations pertinent to racing events. The course was an intense five days and involved riding every morning, with lectures, tuition and fitness assessments being carried out until late evening. Having completed the course **Cpl Dobson** is now undergoing further preparation and training with an aim of representing the Corps for the first time at the events held in 2002. Watch this space for further developments.

QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT
Quartermaster **Lt Col Peter Whitehead**

It's a long time since the Blandford Quartermaster Department news has appeared in print so, inevitably, much has changed since the last report. The appointment of Quartermaster has been handed over from Lt **Col Mick Ledwards**, leaving the army after 37 years of service, to Lt **Col Peter Whitehead**. **Col Mick** has achieved a great deal during his reign in Blandford and we wish him and **Sue** well for the future, which we believe does not yet involve true retirement! Congratulations are in order for **WO2 (RQMS) Tony Barry**, who has just been selected for promotion to WO1 and will be moving on to Corsham to take up post as GSM, as soon as a suitable replacement can be identified and despatched to Blandford. Congratulations are also due to **Sgt Steve Newman** who has just been selected for Staff Sergeant, his posting is already overdue and he is willing to be posted anywhere to escape the rigours of the MSA account! **SSgt Mick Dullaghan** will be left to soldier on with the ET and says he is looking forward to 'breaking in' the new RQMS (Whatever that means!). **LCpls Karen Tarry** and 'Geordie' **Rees MBE** are both continuing to carry out the ET SSgt's bidding, looking after Demands, Receipt Vouchers, Backloading, the Armoury – in fact, they do everything else! At present the Tech Stores are being ably managed by Acting Stores Officer **Eric Tai BEM**, a former RQMS in the Corps, until a permanent Stores Officer is appointed. The stores team are bearing up well under the strain of a famine of staff but the Civil Admin Office have assured us that reinforcements are on the way! **WO2 (RQMS) Gaz Cole** and his general team are still striving to keep up with the ever changing demands of maintaining Blandford Garrison and its environment in good order. The latest challenge to face Garrison SQMS, **SSgt Nick Oldcroft**, and his assistant, Senior Storekeeper **Mark Tai**, is the fitting out of yet another brand new soldiers accommodation building, built on the site of the dreaded Anson and Benbow blocks, both demolished during the last 12 months. Meanwhile, at the Blandford Accommodation Reception (it used to be called a Bedding Store!) **SSgt (SQMS) Chris Hood** and his team of building managers control the ever-changing population of soldiers that continually flood in and out of Blandford on basic, upgrading and military courses. Never has so much been QM'd by so few!

PROVOST SECTION - *by Cpl Nicki Buckley*

Just a few hellos and goodbyes from the Provost Section, Blandford Camp. First of all a big goodbye to **Cpl Dom 'Homer' Cox**, who has just completed his 22 years service with the Corps. To honour the occasion, the Squadron arranged a dining out for **Dom**, which took place in Humph Bahadur's Restaurant and was attended by the Commanding Officer 11 Signal Regiment, **Lt Col Roddy Nicholson** and the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Harry Kemp**. The evening was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended, although the heirarchy did politely decline an invitation by **Cpls Nikki Buckley** and **Laura Shaw** to continue the movement down at the local Blandford night spot! **Cpl Cox** was sent off in style and the event was also an ideal opportunity for the Squadron to say farewell to the unit Quartermaster, **Lt Col Mick Ledwards**, who is leaving the Corps after 37 years of distinguished service. A sad goodbye also to **Sgt** `Brummie` **Perks**, who has been the Garrison provost Sgt for the past two years and has done a 'brilliant job'. Who writes these *WIRE* notes? Seriously, 'Brummie' will be sorely missed and he can now rest his vocal chords as he takes up his new post as a recruiter at ACIO Brighton. Good luck to 'Brummie', **Linda** and family from us all. A big hello to **SSgt** 'Chalkie' **Meek**, the new Provost SNCO, who has joined us from 4 Squadron. and is raring to go (no respite for the Phase 2 trainees!). Finally, well done to **LCpl Paul Kemp** on passing his pre parachute course. Unfortunately, he has had to return to Blandford before continuation training has been completed, due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak (hope you get well soon Paul).

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

HARROGATE CUP
INTER-SQUADRON SWIMMING COMPETITION
by Sig Finnie (3 Sqn)

The evening of 21 March 2001 saw two bus loads of swimmers from Blandford, (and one volunteer who gave a correct answer to the 'sink or float' question), descend on Bovington Pool for the Harrogate Cup Swimming Competition. The evening produced an exciting and very close run competition with some outstanding performances from all three Squadrons. With only a limited opportunity to train beforehand, 3 (Harrogate) Squadron managed to provide tough opposition for the other squadrons. **Sig Phillips** swam outstandingly to win the Mens 50m freestyle, aerodynamically assisted by his wonder trunks. **Sig** 'Fish Boy' **Lovell** also won the 100m freestyle allegedly smashing the one minute barrier (is this physically possible?) and **Sig Patterson** produced an exciting finish to win in the finals of the Women's 50m freestyle. However, it was the Men's 50m Butterfly that provided the evening's moment of top entertainment. **Sig McEwan** (1 Sqn) stormed to an easy win with **Sig Mason** (3 Sqn) and **Sig Dunno** (2 Sqn) gaining impressive second and third places respectively, about a minute behind, but both showing true grit and determination having done much of the final length underwater! Despite 3 Sqn leading after the individual events, the Squadron were pipped at the post by 2 Sqn in the relays with the final scores as follows:

2 Sqn 44 pts
3 Sqn 42 pts
1 Sqn 40 pts

The Regimental 2IC, **Maj Mick Pawlak** congratulated **Sgt McAlister** APTC and his staff who organised an excellent event and all the competitors (especially the two male 'Butterfly specialists') who took part in a gruelling but enjoyable evening of sport. The following individuals represented 3 (Harrogate) Squadron:

MENS TEAM	WOMENS TEAM
Sig Clamp	**Sig Finnie**
Sig Lovell	**Sig Hennis**
Sig Phillips	**Sig Patterson**
Sig Marsh	**Sig Rokavada**
Sig McSween	**Sig Anderson**
Sig Cooke	**Sig Worthington**
Sig Mason	**Sig Ingram**
Sig Howarth	**Sig Coonan**
	Sig Lomax

1 SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. G. J. Howes** CANADIAN SIGNALS
SSM **WO2 A. J. Harriott**

Lt Col Scantland CANADIAN SIGNALS visited the Squadron and more importantly the OC on 27 March 2001. The short visit by the senior Canadian Officer in this country involved briefings on the Squadrons responsibilities and meetings with cadre personalities. The visit went well and provided the OC with a reminder of home. The Squadron says goodbye to **Capt Guy** 'Scruffy' **Bowdler** (civilian) who will be missed by all, especially the badminton players amongst you. Congratulations must go out to **SSgt Dave Bousfield** who recently came off the Staff Sergeant to Warrant Officer's board and will take up his post in an office 20 metres away as SSM 3 Sqn on 7 May 2001.

KOHIMA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt P. Connor**
Tp SSgt **SSgt D. Bousfield**

Life in Kohima Tp has maintained its usual hectic pace at the start of this year, with the Troop topping 200 **SATTs** throughout February. The restrictions imposed by Foot and Mouth have severely curbed our usual activities for employing the soldiers, as all adventurous and military training has been put on hold. Question: how do you keep 200 17-20 year olds constructively employed whilst maintaining their interest and spending no money when you are not allowed to step near anywhere resembling countryside? Step forward **SSgt** 'Last in, first out' **McCulloch** and his magical mystery tour of military museums of the South Coast. If it ever sailed, submerged, flew, rolled, fired, stabbed or sliced then Kohima Tp have been there and done that but didn't buy the T-shirt (due to monetary constraints).

Charity work seemed another fine way of keeping the lads busy, whilst this also has the added bonus of putting something back into the community and giving Blandford Camp a good name. We are working on two projects at the moment: Swanage Railway and Holton Lea Respite Home. I cannot say much about the Swanage Railway project as it is still in the planning phase, but hands on work is due to start in April. So by the time you read this we should have helped out and left our mark on a fine piece of Dorset's heritage, a very worthwhile and enjoyable project.

Holton Lea is a respite home for disabled people and their full time carers. It is set in 350 acres of beautiful Dorset countryside overlooking Poole Bay, and as long as we dip our boots and drive over disinfected hay we can work on the grounds without restrictions. There are lots of little projects going on in Holton Lea, ranging from building bird-hides to constructing wheelchair-paths around the grounds. The staff are delighted with our help and the soldiers find the work hard but enjoyable (unless it rains) as they can not only see the fruits of their labours accomplished, but can also see the benefit gained by those less fortunate than us.

TRIP TO GIBRALTAR 15 FEBRUARY - 19 FEBRUARY 2001

On a cold and frosty morning seven budding Technicians from 11 Signal Regiment set off on an attachment to Gibraltar organised by Kohima Tp. In the usual fashion the RAF were up to their tricks and the flight was delayed, but after a few hours wait we were off. The few days in Gibraltar involved a visit to the host Signal Troop so we could see what we would be doing if we were posted there (oh yeah, really!). The next day we wanted to see how the locals lived, so a trip around the town was called for. Never before has the town seen such a strange bunch of tourists, as T-shirts and silly hats were the order of the day. A trip around the rock, both inside and out, was also arranged. The walk to the top was very tiring, (even though we were in the back of the Land Rover). The monkey's thought they could get the better of us and **Sig Chimp** was attacked, but we all parted as good friends. This was followed by a look around the submarine in the harbour, which was very interesting. **Sig Chimp** even got his own tour guide… To end it all the RAF met our previous expectations and it took three days for us to get back to the UK. (Not that any of us were complaining, the more days in the sun the better!). Overall we all had a very enjoyable and informative time.

7 SATTS in the sun
(L-R): Sigs Gemson, Demwell, Grayhurst, Thompson, Budd, Holmes, Grindle

4 (MILITARY TRAINING) SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj K. A. Owen**
SSM **WO2 K. Read**

4 (Mil Trg) Sqn continues onwards despite the ravages of Foot and Mouth. The Royal Signals SNCOs Course (new name for the Sergeants' Course) and the RSJCC have continued with the exception that all field training is now taking place within the confines of Blandford Garrison. Unfortunately the Leadership courses are all currently cancelled, as the demands of the course on external training areas cannot be replicated at Blandford. The new SNCOs course has been initially well received by the students. Its development follows on from the changes made to the RSJCC and the course programme now reflects more leadership and management modules. What 'no more coffin drill, it was not like that in my day' I hear all the die-hards cry – well things are even worse than that as the requirement for NO2 Dress has also been removed from the course! Course attendance levels are improving and the number of students failing the BCFT on Day 1 of the RSSC and RSJCC averaged only one per course, which is encouraging. It must be emphasised that this entrance test is conducted by the Garrison gym over a eight mile course in two hours and is no harder or easier than a 'normal' BCFT in any R SIGNALS Unit. This BCFT is included not for the sake of having a test for a test's sake but as the minimum level of fitness that a student requires to take part in the field and command phases of the courses. The TA team continue to turn out TA Recruits and Corporals in a succession of two week courses while the remainder of Mil Trg Tp churn out Phase 2 Recruits hoping that they leave at the end of the week retaining slightly more Military Knowledge than when they arrived. There are always posts for instructors within the Squadron, from Corporal to Staff Sergeant, and

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in all disciplines. The Squadron has instructors from most trade groups and includes female and Gurkha soldiers on the staff. If any potential instructor is keen to find out more about the job here, then they should ring **WO2 Kev Read** on Blandford Mil 2501.

ROYAL SIGNALS SENIOR NCO'S COURSE
A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE
by Sgt Kev Heaton & Sgt Nicky Francis

On 18 February 2001, the Royal Signals Senior NCO's Course No 66 assembled and began with a brief introduction to Blandford Camp and its training areas via an eight mile CFT route. The course began with an easy-going pace commencing with command tasks and some notional Troop management exercises. Just about everyone was waiting for the sudden change in the DS, from good cop to bad cop. The expectation was that the course would be run in the same manner as the Detachment Commanders/Junior Commanders courses, but the bomb shells never dropped, and the course were treated as 'adults' (to a degree). The course was split down into three sections, which later fought for section competitions. One such competition was the Assault Course, which saw blood and sweat as Section 1 (airborne, SAS, Duty Bird and Ghurkha Section, (not that anyone thinks that the division of Sections was unfair,) just pipped Section 3 to the post. The competition also saw Section 3 loose a key player due to an injury to **Sgt Pete Preece** that no one wanted to clarify - say no more. The Burden Retrieval competition (a march and shoot but picking up HEAVY burdens on route) was again fought tooth and nail seeing Section 3 stride out to win. Other competitions were just as hard fought for, with the points totalling up to mean that Section 1 were the 'surprise' winners, Section 3 a credible second and Section 2 bringing up the rear. A memorable point on the course was during the Command Tasks, when Sections 2 and 3 battled head to head using rope tensioning systems and brute strength to overcome the usual electric fences and crocodile infested swamps. Section 2 managed to get slightly ahead in the race with 11 of the 12 members at the finish, whilst Section 3 had three finished. The outcome was that Section 3 still managed to win and thanks go to **Sgt Dave** 'Arnold Schwarzenegger' **Potts** of Section 2 who couldn't quite find the energy to pull himself all the way along the rope, but did manage to clear the water. The course was continually changed during the five weeks due to the current Foot and Mouth crisis, and thanks must go to all the DS because of all the hard work they put in to keep the course running smoothly. Lots of hard work obviously went on behind the scenes to keep the course afloat. We just hope that not too many complaints were received from the Married Quarters about the Battle of Pond Bottom!

OC San's comments: *This article was produced by two students who have just completed the RSSC (formerly the Sergeants' Course) in its new format. It continues the series of articles about the courses run by the Squadron which have been written by the students themselves.*

2 SQUADRON
WIN THE HARROGATE CUP SWIMMING (AGAIN)
by Sig Helen Stanyer

On Wednesday 21 March, Bovington Camp was the venue for the Inter Squadron Swimming Competition, a part of the Harrogate Cup. 2 Sqn had a strong team following the extensive (two visits) and wonderful training by **Sig** 'H' **Stanyer** and **Sig** 'Krissy' **Rodway.** There was however lots of moaning by the men (boys) saying they were getting physically abused in the pool, claiming their arms were falling off - however the girls seemed to be coping well enough.

Sig Jock McNab in the backstroke

Sig 'Spanish' **Savory** started us off in the 100m freestyle, and although it was under protest he did well and came Third, setting the tone and the men carried on to do us proud claiming an impressive number of points. The most credit must go to **Sig Camiss**, who was bullied into doing the 50m Butterfly, even though he had never swam it before in his life. He came in Second, which was brilliant, as he swallowed half the pool and swam vertically down the second length. He certainly got the atmosphere going and almost had **Maj Tomkins** (OC 2 Sqn) in the pool dragging him along. The girls were fantastic as they cleared the board, being beaten in only one race. The winners of the girls individual events were **Sigs** 'Krissy' **Rodway, Cath Mitchinson, Becky Bosher** and **Sig** 'Is the bar open yet' **Stanyer.**

The last race was supposed to be the chain of command race, which was mysteriously cancelled - who knows why? However, we have come to the conclusion that **Cpl** 'I'm desperate' **Aitchison** and **WO1** 'I still turn heads' **Coffin**, were convinced that the girls wouldn't be able to keep themselves under control when seeing them in a pair of skimpy Speedo's. A special thanks to all who took part for their hard work and enthusiasm and the organisers for making it happen. It was a real team effort for us to lift the Trophy and take the Squadron total to three wins in three Harrogate Cup competitions.

THE HARROGATE CUP NETBALL - *by Sig Rankin*

I had never played netball before so when I was volunteered I was rather surprised. The rest of the team hadn't played much either so I was not alone. Before the competition took place we had a few nights practice which improved our game considerably. One of the opposing teams had three players who represented 11 Signal Regiment at the sport, which obviously gave them an advantage. The first night of the competition went well, with Iron Tp scoring 13 – 7 against Ulster Tp, getting us into the semi-finals. On the second night, with our confidence soaring from the evening before, we played even better with Iron Tp scoring 10 – 7 against Kohima Tp. This endeavor got us into the final. After getting this far it was clear it was going to be a 2 Sqn final, and it was. The team members involved were **Sig Bosher, Sig Dukes, Sig Houghton, Sig Rodway, Sig Lyon, Sig Douglas, Sig Withers, Sig Kelly,** and myself. By this stage in the competition we were working well as a team, listening to each other and our skills had improved considerably, so I thought we were in with a good chance of winning. Unfortunately we lost to Beaufighter Tp our sister Tp 11 –7 in the final, but had a good game. The competition was a lot of fun and we had played well throughout the event. As an added bonus each of us received a runners up medal for our efforts. From a Squadron point of view the competition was a great success with both first and second place. Following on from the volleyball which the Squadron had already won we are well placed in the Harrogate Cup so far.

Beaufighter Troop winners of the Harrogate Cup Netball
Back Row (R-L): Uluivuya, Gros, Harrison, Sanders, Pheasey
Front Row (R-L): Reid, Westcorr, Edwards, Collins

VERTICAL LIMITS FOR GARRISON CHILDREN

During the half term school holiday period, the gymnasium staff carried out activities introducing Garrison children to some new and exciting pursuits. This consisted of indoor games of touch rugby and skills, co-ordination exercise and an introduction to rock climbing on both the gymnasium climbing wall and the huge climbing rock located outside. The children were a bit apprehensive at first, but very quickly gained the necessary confidence to take their bodies and minds to the limits. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves with some of them requesting when was the next activity week? A very special thank you goes to **WO2 QMSI Bob Whitaker** APTC who organised the activities, **Mr Jim McDougal** the rock climbing instructor and **WO1 Gary Waters** who ably assisted.

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EXERCISE SOUTHERN TARTAN CHALLENGE
SAILING THE SOUTHERN OCEAN
TO SCALE SOUTH GEORGIAN PEAKS - *by Capt Tania Noakes*

The poster that I had initially seen in the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre Ballachulish Drill hall concerning Exercise Southern Tartan Challenge more than demanded a cursory glance. The exercise was to be a joint sailing and mountaineering adventure with the ultimate aim of placing a Service mountaineering team on the Sub Atlantic Island of South Georgia. A yacht would set sail from the United Kingdom in September 2000 down to South Georgia breaking the journey into legs and changing crews after each. The Leg from the Falklands to South Georgia and back would also embark a mountaineering party onto the island for a month as the yacht circumnavigated the island before regrouping and returning to the UK via the Falklands in a further series of crew changes. It is difficult to say when and where I first heard of South Georgia but at that stage I knew it to be one of the most remote and challenging mountaineering destinations the World over. It has attracted climbers of the highest repute some of who have succeeded and some have failed in their ambitions to scale the snow and ice clad peaks of the island's interior. As a keen mountaineer the opportunity for about a month in such a unique location seemed too good to be true. Reading further I learnt that the plan was for the team to sail to and from the island on a 50ft yacht hence encompassing another keen interest of mine, sailing. The Southern Ocean is justifiably renowned for its fierce storms, huge seas and profusion of treacherous icebergs. I simply couldn't imagine a more ambitious or challenging undertaking, or one that I wanted to be a part of more! That left me with two small problems, firstly how to convince the expedition Leader **Maj Bill Bilous** RE that he needed me on the team and second how to convince my unit to release me. In the end the fact that I was Royal Signals cap badged helped with both. The team needed a communications officer and I was soon identified as the lucky winner of that coveted post and my sympathetic Commanding Officer recognised the expedition as simply a chance in a lifetime and gave the go ahead for my release.

I have since spoken to **Maj Bill Bilous** the expedition Leader at length about what spurred him on to organise the expedition. Many years ago he read Sir Ernest Shackleton's book 'South' within which he recounts the disastrous yet miraculous events of the expedition he lead to the Antarctic with the aim of making the first crossing of the Antarctic continent. The expedition was a failure in that it did not achieve its aim. However, set against the background of the First World War and succeeding as it did in such feats of bravery, skill and strength. Shackletons story recounts how after their ship was crushed in pack ice they drifted on the pack for four months. After the pack ice began to break up he lead his men to Elephant Island, a barren rocky island at the tip of the Antarctic peninsular using the life-rafts that they had salvaged. From there he led a small party to sail in one of those life rafts to South Georgia across the Southern Ocean in all its winter fury. His party succeeded in landing on South Georgia's uninhabited South side with no hope of sailing round the island against wind and tide. The old Norwegian Whaling stations on the more sheltered north side of the island were their only hope of raising a rescue party and so they crossed that glacier bound with no equipment to speak of and little physical reserves after such a long and arduous ordeal. Shackleton and his party reached Stromness Whaling station and were hence able to raise a rescue party for their comrades on Elephant Island. It is a true story of such humanity and courage against the odds that I recommend anyone with an adventurous bent to read it. The fact that Shackleton and his men achieved what they did without the loss of a single life is further evidence of this man's great Leadership qualities. **Maj Bilous** had been understandably inspired by the truly adventurous nature of this story and also Shackletons recollections of 'a mountainous island fortress guarded by glaciers on all sides which reach down to the very shores of the Southern Ocean'. The plan was spawned shortly afterwards and together with the help of **Maj Nigel Williams,** another Royal Engineer, but this time with a passion for sailing, they brought the exercise to fruition. The majority of the preparations for the expedition had to be made in my own time, however, I am lucky to be in a job which keeps me in good physical shape anyway and allowed me time to pick up certain essential items of communications equipment. The expedition start date was fast approaching, every week the yacht, a civilian chartered high latitudes 50 called *Ice Maiden* sailed closer to the Falkland Islands where the South Georgia Leg crew would changeover with the crew from the previous leg. I checked and rechecked the communications aspects of the planning and checked and rechecked my own packing for the mountaineering phase. South Georgia simply isn't one of these locations where if you've forgotten something it doesn't matter. The team had to be completely self reliant including its own means of getting off the island (the yacht), its own satellite communications in duplicate and its own doctor. The amount of organisation that the Expedition Leader **Maj Bill Bilous** undertook and succeeded with is truly astounding and deserves every credit that can be given.

The day of the South Georgia legs departure from Brize Norton on 27 December soon arrived and for many it was the first meeting of the team. What I have often found to be the beauty of Service expeditions is that you can select a group of people who hardly know each other, throw them together in some fairly arduous circumstances, give them a common aim and they will not only succeed but they will often leave the best of friends. In this respect Service expeditions are excellent vehicles for demonstrating the power of teamwork and the necessity of facing up to and dealing with interpersonal issues. If two people have a problem with each other in the Southern Ocean or on the mountain they must resolve it and work together or they may put their own lives and others at risk. The Flight to the Falkland Islands via Ascension Island was uneventful enough and soon the team were pulling out all the stops in a effort to get the yacht ready for its gruelling passage to South Georgia. In that time the number of people that said that they thought we were mad for sailing 'down there' in 'that' grew daily. Although we might have harboured concerns when we took the yacht over, by the time we had finished in our preparations we all knew how ship shape *Ice Maiden* had become. The voyage down was supposed to be the easier sailing leg due to the fact that the prevailing winds and surface currents would be behind us. The reality proved otherwise. The first few days were good sailing, but beating to windward so quite energetic and I spent a good 36 hours feeling decidedly unwell. It leant extra credence to the Shackletonian quote 'Some of the men are over their sea-sickness and no longer want to die'. On our second day out from the Falklands we saw our first Icebergs, huge majestic snow covered plateaux and strangely carved pinnacles glowing turquoise in the sun. The radar was simply littered with them and we felt very relieved that the seas were so calm at that time. The third day was our first glimpse of southern ocean fury and a South West force 7 blew up against us slowing our progress considerably. Following that we had a day where the Ocean was like a glass mirror it was so still and the sun was so fierce we were all asking for extra sun-block, that day we passed the half-way mark to South Georgia, now just over 400 miles left! After such a marvellous day of sunshine we drove on into our first Force 8 again from the West and this time since we had passed the Antarctic convergence zone whipped up over seas as cold as 2 degrees centigrade. Even in our modern protective clothing our hands and feet were frozen and I was more deeply impressed than ever before with what Shackletons men must have lived through. Having said that with all the advances that man has made over the years the sailing wellington is simply the pre-historic of all adventure clothing. The idea of a thin shell of rubber being somehow insulating against Southern Ocean temperatures is quite clearly ludicrous and far too many times I lay in my bunk massaging my lifeless feet after a three hour night watch had sent them into hibernation. 'Roll on the mountain phase' I found myself thinking, along with every other mountaineer on the trip. That is not to say that the sail down to South Georgia didn't have moments of pure pleasure. Our first sight of the wandering Albatross was really something special, they are amazing birds as they silently glided on their huge wingspan over the waves behind the yacht in the evening light. One thing that really struck me was that even in the midst of a raging Force 8 storm the bird-life never left us. There were always Anarctic petrals, Albatrosses and gulls racing the waves or sheltering in the wind shadow of the yacht. However, when on the morning of the seventh day I woke from dreaming that I was in Hell only to find out that I was on watch again I knew my enjoyment of the sail down was wearing pretty thin. I was more than a little relieved to make landfall that evening and for the first time in a week enjoyed a full nights sleep without having to brace my body against the bunk to stop falling out of it. We made Landfall at King Edward Point, the only permanent settlement on the island. The military presence is also here, although by the end of March the hand-over to the British Antarctic Survey should be complete and the Military will withdraw from the Island. There was a great deal of construction work going on when we arrived and it was a relief to be on the rigid raiders with all our mountain gear ready for insertion onto the beaches below the Nordenskold Glacier. I have never started a mountaineering expedition before in immersion suits wading ashore in the shadow of a massive glacier. It was a surreal experience, to land not ten meters from several Elephant Seals who barely batted an eyelid at our presence. As soon as the rigid raiders turned tail and sped away from the beach the sheer size of the glacier became apparent. Huge parts of the ice face were calving away into the sea on a regular basis and the seashore was littered with ice debris. Myself and my climbing partner **Captain Stuart Macdonald** had delayed our insertion by a day from the rest of the team so as to ensure all the communications batteries were fully charged. This meant that we had the beach to ourselves in one of the remotest spots in the world. That afternoon we load carried of all our equipment and the Team's communications equipment up through the moraine onto the edge of the glacier. It was backbreaking work as were the subsequent days hauling sleds of gear up the glacier to base camp.

In total we spent three weeks on the island, climbed several new peaks, one of which was our primary target Mount Roots, which at 7483ft had been the highest remaining unclimbed peak on British Territory. I also took part in an attempt on a new route on Mount Paget, the unclimbed East Ridge. The team started out in superb weather and reached an

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altitude of 8500ft before severe weather forced a retreat. I personally learnt a great deal from that trip, perhaps more on a human level than on a technical one. The views from Pagets East Ridge were phenomenal. The Allardyce mountain range is the main spine of the island and we were climbing on its very edge with massive glaciers falling away to the Ocean at either side of us. The snow petral followed us up into the mountains too, and even at altitude were darting about the skies above our heads, it is apparently in these mountains that they make their nests. The weather was one of the things that struck every member of the mountaineering party most profoundly. It really is a place where you can experience four seasons in one day. I remember one evening going for a walk across the glacier by moonlight when the air was so cold my teeth hurt and the following morning our snow cave began to melt away in a thaw. The winds can come from nowhere, and go from complete calm to 100mph winds in a few hours. We would lie awake in our tents and listen to the roar of the wind approaching, it would build to a crescendo then suddenly strike the tent, grabbing it and shaking it with all its might. We called it the inter-city wind and it was as regular as clockwork.. When the pressure started to rise we would suddenly have the worst weather of the entire trip, and then when it fell again we would have perfect tranquil weather. The changeable nature of the weather meant not only the added danger of being caught out in an exposed position on the mountain but also several enforced snow-cave bound days which were terribly frustrating. After three weeks up in the mountains the team regrouped and headed back down the glacier to rendezvous with the yacht and find out about their adventures. We had pre-arranged a pick up date with them back on the beach many weeks ago. Returning to the beach, where the Elephant seals still loafed about and the glacier calved its ice at us with even greater frequency, was really quite satisfying. We had achieved a great deal as a team, seen parts of the island that only a very privileged few have seen and become good friends. We enjoyed our final evening before the rest of the world would intervene and pick up the pace.

Ice Maiden sailed up to the glacier snout to greet us and we were picked up by Gemini with our kit and loaded on board. The Sailors had succeeded in their aim to circumnavigate the island and we exchange our stories with renewed enthusiasm - a fresh audience for each other's tails of daring do! There had been an intention to attempt to cross the island as Shackleton had done to reach the whaling stations in his rescue bid from Antarctica. The time remaining, and the fact that the return sail to the Falklands would be so much more difficult and time consuming meant that we simply could not attempt it. With the decision made the team spent several days turning equipment round and re-stowing for the return sail. I must admit that I was not particularly looking forward to the return sail. Having spent no small time throwing up on the voyage down and the rest of the time tired, cold and wet, the small activity and excitement of an Ocean passage no longer measured up against the discomfort endured. We made short day sails up the coast to Husvik harbour and then Prince Olav harbour and this did nothing to reassure me as I spent most of the day trying to stop myself from retching. I have never been seasick before, and I have done some considerable sailing, however, the motion of *Ice Maiden* was more than a match for the toughest of stomachs. Both Husvik and Prince Olav harbour are also old whaling stations and yet are now in some considerable state of disrepair. It is amazing how quickly nature has reclaimed the island. The fur seal population has rocketed in recent years and both harbours were teeming with wildlife when we visited. The innocent little fur seal is certainly deserving of a mention here, if not a complete reassessment of its character. I had always been lead to believe fur seals would be gentle harmless creatures, but I am now firmly convinced they are the rottweiller of the seal fraternity! They have nasty yellow fangs and run at great speed towards you snarling like an angry dog. One local 'expert' suggested that they were only playing but this received the scorn that it deserved. Our sail back to the Falklands in the end turned out to be really quite enjoyable, if a little drawn out. It took us eight days in total where as five would have been enough, thank you. We enjoyed some very fine sailing weather and then experienced our first force nine of the trip. We watched an iceberg glide past not thirty meters away and Albatrosses followed us most of the way home. We eventually sailed in to Mare Harbour to the most wonderful sunset of the entire trip. It was almost as if the weather knew that the sun was setting on our expedition as well. There is so much more that I could write about this trip. I have not written about the people and perhaps that is a great mistake, for it truly was the expedition members who made the trip so special. I could write a short story on each of the characters in this story and what we learned from each other. Rather I hope that I have given you a taste of what the trip was like. South Georgia is a truly amazing island and it leaves an impression on you like nowhere else. I for one wish that the military presence on the island would continue, if only to give other military personnel the opportunity to see such a wonderful place. Sadly the opportunities to visit are reducing and increasingly the privileged few are there because they have the money to get there. Ex Southern Tartan Challenge was a superbly successful expedition in an intensely challenging area of the globe. A place where unpredictable weather and its remoteness combine to necessitate good decision-making and resourcefulness if you are to survive let alone succeed in what you aim to achieve. Not only did we achieve climbing the third highest peak in British Territory, but we circumnavigated the island too, and you can count on one hand how many yachts have done that. Yet the exercise is far from over, even as I type the yacht *Ice Maiden* is sailing back to the United Kingdom with various different crews. Part of me wishes that I was still aboard…

1ST (UNITED KINGDOM) ARMOURED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

EXERCISE FULL MOON

212 Signal Squadron conducted their battlecamp 12-16 February 2001. an arduous and informative package covering all aspects of military skills and drills required of the soldier and junior commander.

LCpl Bird and Sigs Beazley and Douglas receive their orders

LCpl Stables demonstrating 'a grip firm enough to support the rifle'

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SPORT - INTER SQUADRON BOXING COMPETITION

During the first few months of the year the Squadron boxers have been undergoing a gruelling fitness regime in order to prepare themselves for the Inter Squadron Boxing, organised by **Lt Madgwick** and 211 Sig Sqn in March. All the boxers showed immense courage and heart in both the preliminary rounds and the finals. The night of the finals was excellent with considerable skill and determination shown by all. The evening ended in a draw between the two Armd Sqns 211 and 212 Sig Sqns.

LCpl Whiskey - 212 Sig Sqn shows his power on his way to winning the Light Heavyweight title against Sig Simpson of 211 Sig Sqn

Sig Kibble on his way to victory in a hard fought fight

With every reason to be proud all the boxers display their Trophies, kindly presented by Brigadier Shaw

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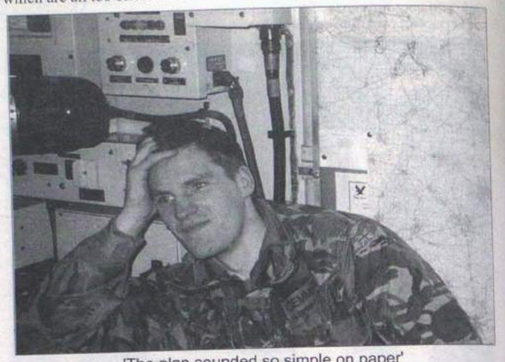
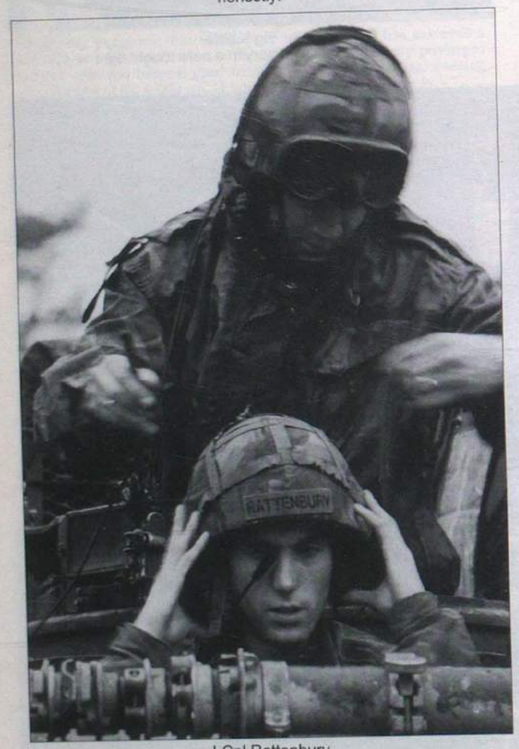
EXERCISE PREMIER LINK ONE

Soon after the Christmas break Ex Premier Link 1 was conducted. This was a Squadron level exercise for 201, 211, 212 and HQ Squadron with some common training. The emphasis was on movement and low level drills and skills which are all too often over looked on the bigger exercise commitment.

Sig Marshall claiming, 'My cam cream blew off on the way down, honestly!'



'The plan sounded so simple on paper'
Cpl Gemmel 201 Sig Sqn



LCpl Rattenbury
tries to remove his headset from his eye after a six-hour move

Cpl 'I am the firestarter the twisted firestarter' Ridgers
plans to burn down Sennelager Training Area

BEEN IN THE ATTIC RECENTLY?

Some of the displays in the museum are to be upgraded. We have purchased some new cabinets and are looking for donations of exhibits, paraphernalia, images and information on the following subjects:
The Corps Band; The White Helmets; Prisoners of War (particularly Colditz); Commonwealth Corps of Signals - Australian/Canadian/New Zealand/South African; The Cary Theatre and Troop Entertainment
Anything you might find on these subjects could make a big difference! If you can help please contact **Stella McIntyre** or **Cliff Walters** at the Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH.

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

ROUTINE

Due to the concern about the possible spread of Foot and Mouth disease Premier Chain was cancelled. In its place some good quality comms training was conducted in barracks and there was an intensive maintenance period.

After two and a half years in the unit Sig Sue Brydon
finally discovers where the radios are

Sig Rigg
desperately trying to pretend that he knows what he is doing

Comms Troop on a good day. Successfully demonstrating the various orders of dress available to today s modern soldier

WO1 RSM CHRIS HYMAS'S SEND OFF

The Regiment said goodbye to **RSM Hymas** who left the Regiment on commissioning in March. The day started with an RSM's Parade followed by some robust, but enjoyable, PT and then an All Ranks function in the evening with ticket sale money, fittingly, going to charity.

As the CO and RSM inspect 212 Sig Sqn for the last time
LCpl 'Bonecrusher' Whiskey shows that he has the eye of the tiger

The RSM
on his daily commute into the office

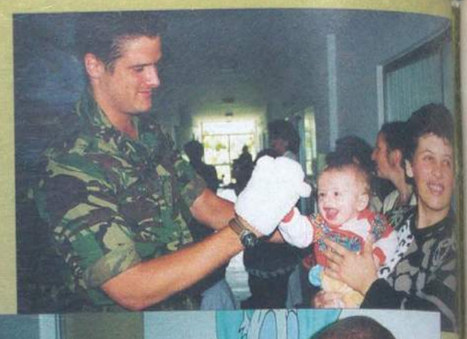
'Highly polished boots' that will be bulled then

The RSM on being told that he doesn't have to buy a Volvo and a labrador

THE Wire

August 2001

The Royal Corps of Signals



MULTI-NATIONAL BRIGADE (CENTRE) HEADQUARTERS & SIGNAL SQUADRON OPERATION AGRICOLA 5

CIVIL MILITARY OPERATIONS - 209 Signal Squadron have undertaken a number of CMO tasks. the above photos show members of the Squadron engaged in an assortment of activities. *(For further details see unit notes on page 279)*

The Royal Signals Magazine

August 2001 Vol. 55 No: 3

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 Blandford Mil 2087 STD 01258 482087

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Remittances should be made payable to Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Editor Lt Col (Retd) P. Valder

Deputy Editor Mrs J. A. Herring

Member of the Association of Service Journals

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FRONT COVER
Stonehenge at the Summer Solstice 2001 taken by Mr N. T. G. Patrick who is an ex-member of the Corps and a serving member of the MGS at Blandford Camp

BACK COVER
30 Signal Regiment - Exercise Hurghada Conquest
(L-R): WO2 (SSM) AL Keen, WOCdt Jenny Page, OCdt Phil Way, Sig Stu Hemming, OCdt Adam Dawson

The closing date for copy to REACH this office, in order to go in the OCTOBER issue is 15 AUGUST 2001

THE CORPS EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE EDITOR OF THE WIRE LT COL (Retd) PETER VALDER ON THE RECENT DEATH OF HIS BELOVED WIFE 'ANNIE'

Authors alone are responsible for the content of their articles. The opinions expressed in the articles of this publication are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Royal Signals or the Ministry of Defence. This publication should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

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YOUR ONE DAY'S PAY - WHAT HAPPENED TO IT IN 2000

INTRODUCTION

Your One Days Pay is the main source of income for Corps Funds. It is very encouraging that in excess of 90% of the Corps makes this generous annual contribution. Officers pay an additional 0.75 of One Days Pay each year into the Officers Fund. The latter is a mandatory subscription under QR's and is used in support of Officers activities only. Retired Officers may volunteer to pay an annual subscription of £25 or more and this also entitles them to receive *The WIRE* and certain facilities funded from the Officers Fund. SNCOs and WOs may subscribe a further 0.25 Day's Pay for their own Sergeants' Messes fund.

PURPOSE OF CORPS FUNDS

A Trust Deed is registered with the Charity Commission and sets out the main purpose for which Corps Funds may be used. These are:

The relief of poverty for all members of the Corps, serving or retired, their families and dependents. This is the main area of expenditure.

To maintain and improve the physical efficiency and morale of the Corps at large, e.g.: Funds for sport and Adventure Training etc.

The payment of donations to charitable organisations concerned with the welfare of Signallers and their dependents.

HOW ARE CORPS FUNDS STRUCTURED?

There are three main funds known collectively as the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. These are:

The Corps Fund (Soldiers activities)
The Officers Fund (Officers activities)
The Association Fund (Welfare and Benevolence)

Expenditure can only be made in accordance with the Trust Deed and in compliance with Charity Law.

The chart below shows the combined income and expenditure of all funds for the Financial Year 2000.

INCOME

The total income for the year was £873K. The main source of income was from the subscriptions of Officers and soldiers (£517K). In addition most subscribers support their subscription by means of a Gift Aid Declaration, previously known as a Covenant, which enables the Corps to reclaim tax on subscriptions received at no cost to the subscriber (£138K). Income from our investments amounted to £160K and donations accounted for the final £58K. All legacies and donations are allocated to the Association Fund for reinvestment in order to meet the cost of future Benevolence. Tax may also be reclaimed from individual donations, however small, supported by a Gift Aid Declaration.

EXPENDITURE

Some £335K, or 38% of income, has been spent on benevolence in support of both the Serving and Retired Corps. This includes a grant of £26K to the Army Benevolent Fund that gives the Corps tremendous support in meeting its financial commitments to those in need.

The Corps employs a number of personnel including for example the Corps Accountant and Welfare Officer and incurs running costs all of which amount to £101K. The Royal Signals Institution and Heritage costs were £33K, and this includes the cost of Lectures and Corps Prizes and the Insurance and Maintenance of both Corps Silver and Paintings. The Royal Signals Corps Band was subsidised by £12K. This was mainly used to support the Band in a professional way with sheet music, instrument repairs and uniforms. The Band of 34 Sig Regt (V) and the Corps Pipes and Drums were also subsidised by £11K and £2K respectively.

The Games Club authorised expenditure of £47K in support of Corps Sport and the Royal Signals Yacht Club received £5K. The Wire was subsidised by £43K. Capital Grants of £12K were approved by the Heritage Committee for the purchase of Corps Paintings and Silver and The White Helmets received a loan of £30K towards the cost of new motorcycles.

The funds allocated £43K to Corps Entertainment for such occasions as Royal Visits to Units and the Annual Reunion of the Royal Signals Association. Provision of £152K (See Note 1) was made to the Serving Corps and included £24K for Adventure Training and £54K in grants towards various Millennium celebrations. Finally, £58K has been invested to help to ensure we can meet our future commitments.

SUMMARY

The One Day's Pay Scheme continues to be extremely well supported by the Corps and Regimental Headquarters is most grateful to those who contribute. However, the call on Corps Funds is an ever increasing one and every subscription received is both valuable and important to enable the current level of support to be maintained.

It is hoped that this brief explanation of our accounts for 2000 satisfies the interest of Subscribers and is an encouragement to the few who for whatever reason, do not currently subscribe. If anyone requires any further information please ring **Mr Alan Wilkinson**, the Corps Accountant, on Blandford Military extension 2086.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND 2000

Where did the money come from?

INCOME	£k	%
Soldiers' Subscriptions	347	40
Soldiers' Covenants	93	11
Officers' Subscriptions	170	19
Officers' Covenants	45	5
Investments	105 / 55	18
Donations	58	7
£873k		

NOTE: The Association is shown in shaded areas

How was the money spent? (All figures are in thousands)

EXPENDITURE	£k	%
Association Welfare and Benevolence	305	35
Association Grants (Army Benevolent Fund etc.)	30	3
Salaries	47 / 23	9
Running Expenses	14 / 17	4
Institution	8	1
Heritage	13	1
Band	25	3
Sports	52	6
Wire Subsidy	43	5
Capital Grants	42	5
Entertainment	9 / 35	5
Other (Note 1)	152	17
Investment or Carried Forward	58	6
£873K		

NOTE 1:	£k
Adventure Training	26
Grants	2
Millennium	3
Recruiting	33
HQ Officers' Mess	19
HQ Sergeants' Mess	5

THE LONDON MARATHON 2001

(WO2 Carl Tucker Royal Signals)

THE TEAM
Sir Steve Redgrave
Lady Anne Redgrave
WO2 CSM John Tovey (Para) (V)
WO2 SSM Carl Tucker (R SIGNALS)
Sgt 'Blue' Cole (Para)
JUO Nick Wigram (ULOTC)
JUO Ben Coxon (ULOTC)

The head of security of the London Marathon approached **WO2 John Tovey** in February, asking if he could field a team to support **Steve** and **Anne Redgrave** in this year's London Marathon. **John**, a CSM at the University of London Officer Training Corps then selected a team from the OTC to assist him.

Two months later and after much negotiating by **John** for free Adidas equipment and not nearly enough long training runs the team embarked upon their task with unprecedented vigour.

Due to **Steve's** busy schedule since the Olympics he and his wife **Anne** had not trained nearly as much as they would have liked, for the marathon.

They had on average been running every 2-3 days with one long run of two hours per week. However, with a 2-week skiing holiday, the week before the race and the fact that he and his family were all living in a caravan, whilst their house was being re-built, they were optimistic of achieving their goal of a 4-hour marathon.

The day of the race started well, the team had spent the night in a hotel in Greenwich courtesy of the sponsor's of the marathon.

The team was escorted to the VIP enclosure, where they mixed with the likes of the **Redgraves, Steve Rider, Neil** 'Foxy' **Fox** and personalities from the BBC sports and news teams as well as the 'elite' athletes.

At 0900hrs **Steve** started the wheelchair race and at 0915hrs the ladies race. After a quick photo call, see photo) **Steve** then started the main race at 0930hrs, before the team inserted themselves behind the club runners for their race.

The team started at a 91/2min mile pace far the first half of the course, before the distance started to take its toll on **Anne** so the pace was cut to a steady 11mins pace for most of the remaining course. The crowds on the day were fantastic. Wherever the team was running the crowds were cheering us on, in particular **Steve** and **Anne** who had time to speak, have their photos taken and shake hands with anyone that came running along.

The team completed the marathon in a respectable 4hr 56mins before heading off with aching legs for a photo and interview session, then onto a well deserved leg massage given by **Nick Wigram's** girlfriend and her physiotherapy colleagues. **Steve** and **Anne** kindly signed a Union Flag for the OTC before heading back to their hotel, whilst the remainder of the team were brought back down to earth with a bump and had to resort to public transport to get themselves home. The team would like to congratulate **Sir Steve Redgrave** and his wife **Lady Anne** after **Sir Steve,** named in this year's Honours List, received his Knighthood on 1 May at Buckingham Palace.

THE MAN FROM MANNING AND CAREER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

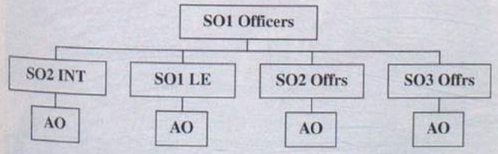
rsignalsintcorpsmcmdiv@dial.pipex.com
(Major S G Hutchinson MBE R SIGNALS)

With summer arriving in Glasgow (yes it does shine for two days a year up here) there have been some significant manning changes within the Division. On a sad note we bade farewell to **Maj Bill Cochrane** who finally retires after serving the Corps for over 40 years. **Bill** joined the Army on the 24 April 1957, aged 18, The Tories were in power (how things have changed) and Harold Macmillan was the Prime Minister - rumour has it that **Bill** has a glass cabinet put aside in the Corps Museum. Our loss though is others gain and no doubt the golf courses around Edinburgh will be doing brisk business following **Bill's** retirement. We do however welcome **Capt Colin Vaudin** who takes over from **Maj Steve Turnbull** as the new SO3 Officers (more later). **Steve Turnbull** leaves us for the CISM Course, being lured to the South by warm weather, mental challenge and sailing. As I promised in the last Edition, I will devote the majority of this iteration to the Divisional Reorganisation.

Since its inception in December 1996 R SIGNALS/INT CORPS MCM Div has remained largely unchanged, with the current establishment continuing to reflect the concepts inherited from the M&RO and PB organisations. As a result, we have a divisional structure that is not ideally suited to either the current or future needs of the two Corps. The last few years have also seen a significant increase in the emphasis on the active management of officer and soldier careers which, whilst welcome, has increased the pressure on this Division. It was to address these factors, together with a desire to provide a far more cohesive and responsive form of career management, that **Col Dyer** made a case to the Military Secretary for additional staff in the Division, a case that has been largely successful.

OFFICER WING

The revised structure for Officer Wing is as follows:



SO1 Officers – SO1 Officers will be responsible for R SIGNALS Lieutenant Colonels, from Pink List through to the Blue List or retirement. He will provide direction and co-ordination to Officers Wing as needed to achieve a more cohesive service to units and organisations. He will lead on all policy issues and will deputise for the Divisional Col as necessary.

SO1 (LE) R SIGNALS Officers – No change – responsible for all R SIGNALS LE Officers.

SO2 R SIGNALS Officers (from 28 Aug 01) – The SO2 Officers will support the Majors community whilst having additional responsibilities for both the Beige List and Staff Selection. This will give a critical community better dedicated support at a time that they most need it.

SO2 INT CORPS Officers – No change – responsible for all INT CORPS Officers up to Lieutenant Colonel.

SO3 R SIGNALS Officers – The SO3 Officers takes over responsibility for the Junior Officer Community, but the majority of boarding responsibilities will be retained by the SO2 Officers.

SOLDIER WING

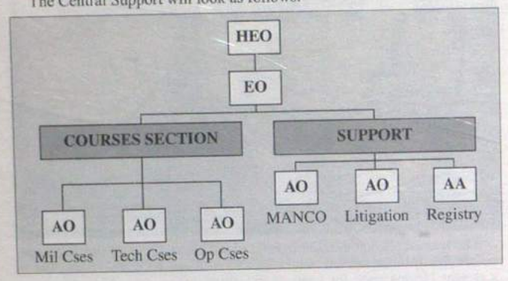
Within Soldier Wing, all R SIGNALS Operator Career Employment Groups (CEG) will be managed from one section, with the Support CEGs being incorporated into another. Overall, a taut but more flexible structure will be introduced with responsibility for functional areas being passed to the three new Executive Officers (EOs). Retired and Regular Officers will still provide essential military judgement and up-to-date expertise with Administrative Officers (AOs) acting as the direct interface between the Division and units on the ground. Allocation of trades to Wings is as follows:

Op Trade Section	Support Trade Section	INT CORPS Section
Capt Knight	**Maj (Retd) Campell**	**Maj (Retd) Warlow**
Area Sys Op	Instl Tech	Op MI
Radio Sys Op	FofS	Op MI(L)
YofS	Dvr	
IS Op	Elec	
Supvr IS	Tech Sup Spec	
Spec Op	RD	
Supvr R	Unspecified Posts	
Ling Op (until all have transferred to the INT CORPS or left the Service		

Direct responsibility for the day to day management of the R SIGNALS Soldier Wing element within the Division will pass to SO2 Soldiers with the SO1 having over-arching responsibility for both the R SIGNALS and INT CORPS components therein.

CENTRAL SUPPORT

The Central Support will look as follows:



Where feasible, administrative tasks, particularly those not requiring military judgement, have been centralised within a new, enlarged Central Support Wing. The Wing will be headed up by an HEO and will consist of three sections: Courses Section, Support Section and the Divisional Registry. The Courses Section will continue to be run by an RO2 until the current incumbent (Maj (Retd) Adamson) fully retires in July 2002, after which time, the post will be filled by an EO. Responsibility for course loading will fall to three AOs: AO Military Courses, AO Trade Courses and AO Operator Courses.

The majority of amendments will come into effect on 25 Jun 01, although the new SO2 Officers will not be in post until 28 August 2001. Likewise, the HEO has yet to be recruited although by the time the next Edition of *The WIRE* is published there should be a name in the frame.

In summary, the new structure - which sees a significant enhancement of extra 'horsepower' at the middle management level - will meet current needs and, we hope, provide the depth and flexibility necessary to respond to future manning and career management challenges. Above all else, it should allow the career managers to concentrate more fully on the detailed career management of our people. As such, this is extremely good news! For those of you who have not yet realised, R SIGNALS/INT CORPS MCM Div has been brought into the 21st Century and now has its own E-Mail Address which is as follows:

rsignalsintcorpsmcmdiv@dial.pipex.com

HCPT *The Pilgrimage Trust*

Patron: HRH The Duchess of Kent GCVO

JUBILEE A.D. 2000

JOINT SERVICES HOSANNA HOUSE GROUP IN LOURDES

Recently, **Cpl J. Hodson** of the Medical Centre - 11 Signal Regiment, was able to go to Lourdes with the Joint Services Hosanna House Group that took a group of disabled ex-servicemen and woman for a week of respite care. This was organised in conjunction with the International Military Pilgrimage. The 43rd International Military Pilgrimage in Lourdes is a spectacle to behold. Over 20,000 servicemen and women descended on the tiny hamlet in the foot of the Pyrenees, France, on the weekend of 18-21 May 2001. All came under an umbrella of peace.

The International Military Pilgrimage began in 1958 when the French authorities, as a way of celebrating the centenary of Lourdes, and an act of reconciliation after the Second World War, invited the German Military to Lourdes. Over the years the pilgrimage has expanded to include over forty nations from Croatia to Australia, Latvia to America. Every year more than 3.5 million pilgrims travel to Lourdes from around the world. A unique meeting place, it is for the Christian revival of his faith, for the sick a hope of recovery and for the heart a reason to hope. For the Joint Services Hosanna House Group there is no exception as a group of disabled servicemen and women were taken to Lourdes in conjunction with the International Military Pilgrimage. They were taken for a week of respite care and for some with a hope of renewed faith or some form of healing whether in body mind or spirit. The guests were cared for by volunteers coming from all of the services both serving and former serving.

The Joint Services Hosanna House Group was formed five years ago as part of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust. The guests that formed the group represented Broughton House, Combat Stress, St Dunstans and the Burma Star Association to name a few. The RCPT is a charity group, which gives respite care to disabled children and adults throughout the year. Again the Carers are all volunteers and are from all walks of life. This year, the JSHHG joined the British contingent of the IMP at the opening mass at St Joseph's chapel in the main domain. The service was lead by the Catholic Bishop to the Forces, **Francis Walmsley**. We were also reminded of our baptismal vows when **Alec Wilson** was baptised by the Bishop.

For the next couple of days both groups would join together and parade through the streets to the main Basilica for various services ranging from Mass to the Blessing of the Sick. Hotels emptied along the narrow streets as people rushed out to watch and clap - 'Les Anglais Les Anglais' they exclaimed as they stood in wonder and admiration at the spectacle of it all. For the first time the JSHHG guests proudly marched with the British contingent displaying medals won in previous conflicts. The Royal Tank Regimental Band rounded off the spectacle we had experienced throughout the weekend with a marching display and BBQ at Hosanna House. Stories from serving and former service people were shared in the relaxed atmosphere at Hosanna House that over looks Lourdes, which is down in the valley.

The British contingent was waved off from Lourdes station by some of the guests before the rest of the JSHHG continued in Lourdes for a further five days. The guests were treated to visits to the seaside, Lourdes visit with a history tour and shopping. Visits to the shrine of Our Lady were also incorporated into the programme for those who wished to go. Evening entertainment's were laid on for the guests at the house and humour became the order of the day. At the end of the week a solemn ceremony took place at the Cenotaph in Lourdes where two wreaths were laid in honour of all past fallen comrades both foreign and British Armed Forces. One was laid by **Ann Pulman**, and the other by **Maj Gen Peter Chambers**, who is also President of the Joint Services Hosanna House Group. As the Last Post was played and the silence swept across all those stood at the cenotaph, people stopped in wonderment at the respect being paid. A moving moment for the Servicemen and Women, who were honouring the past that day. After a pleasant and uneventful return to the UK the group parted with the swapping of addresses and telephone numbers with friendships being forged, and old friendships being enhanced.

The group is always looking for willing volunteers, so if you would like to volunteer for this outstanding week, with the opportunity to help former serving men and women then contact **Cpl Hodson** on Blandford Mil 2446. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help offset the cost of next years trip, then please make cheques payable to HCPT (JSHHG), and send them to **Cpl Hodson**, Medical Centre, 11 Sig Regt, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8RH. Your support for this worthwhile charity will be greatly appreciated.

Cpl Hodson - 11 Signal Regiment, SOSI Hartley - ex-RN with members of the Czech Republic Army

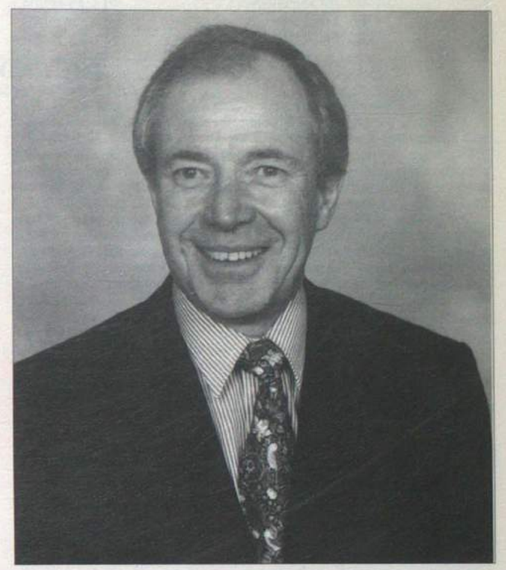
Should you make a purchase as the result of seeing an advert in *The WIRE*, please let them know that you saw their advert in your Corps Magazine

British Heart Foundation

THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION 40th ANNIVERSARY

(Maj (Retd) R. J. Goddard MBE)

TAKE HEART FORTY YEARS OF PROGRESS



I joined the Royal Corps of Signals as a boy soldier in September 1962 at Kinmel Park Camp, Rhyl in N Wales. A few years later, May 1996 to be precise, I decided it was time to begin a second career. So having had one job for the previous 34 years, I stepped into the unknown and applied for a job as an Area Organiser for the British Heart Foundation (BHF). I knew very little about the charity. However, the job description seemed to be just what I had been looking for. Here are a few details about the Foundation.

The BHF is trying to solve the questions surrounding heart and circulatory disease - the UK's biggest killer. It could affect any one of us regardless of age, status or occupation; from mothers and fathers to teenagers and babies. Heart and circulatory disease is responsible for four in ten of all deaths in the UK, (one person every two minutes) which has one of the highest death rates in the world. We have learned a great deal over the past 40 years - for instance, we can now identify babies with heart defects even before they are born. We now know about the damaging effects of smoking, eating fatty food, obesity and lack of exercise. However, there is still a great deal to learn about the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. The BHF receives no government funding and is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. Thanks to the generosity of the public, the BHF has been able to play an important role in such advances as improved heart valve replacements, pacemakers and 'clot-busting' drugs.

I know from my time in the Services that many demands are made upon your free time (what free time I hear you cry) and that there are many equally deserving charities to raise funds for. With your support, however, we can advance research into the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. Therefore, if you would like to help by giving a little of your time to organise or take part in a fundraising event, you can be sure that your efforts will make a difference, that will benefit a great many people today and for generations to come. Contact **Rod Goddard MBE**, British Heart Foundation, Community Fundraising, 239a High Street, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 6SS, Tel: 0121 382 3168 or 0800 169 3672, E-mail: Goddard@bhf81.demon.co.uk

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE S. C. KEILTY
ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

WO1 (CRSM) Keilty joined the Corps as a Junior Signalman at Albermarle Barracks, Ouston, in September 1978. He trained as a Combat Radioman at 8 Signal Regiment Catterick and was subsequently posted to 22nd Signal Regiment, Lippstadt in April 1980. During his time with Echo Troop, 2 Squadron he was promoted to Lance Corporal and posted to 7th Signal Regiment, Herford, in May 1983. During this tour he trained on the newly introduced Ptarmigan system and carried out an operational tour in the Falkland Islands.

In 1986 after promotion to Corporal he was posted to 3rd Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment in Soest, serving as a Detachment Commander and Reconnaissance Corporal for Trunk Node 043. Having gained promotion to Sergeant he returned to 22nd Signal Regiment in August 1990 whereupon he deployed on Operation Granby attached to the Army War Graves Service. Returning from the Gulf he joined 1 Squadron as Troop Sergeant of Major Access Node 002. He took up the post of Troop Staff Sergeant of Trunk Node 015 in 16 Signal Regiment, Krefeld, in July 1992. He remained with 230 Signal Squadron in Krefeld as it amalgamated with 7th Signal Regiment in January 1994. In April 1995 he was selected for promotion and posted to 15th Signal Regiment Northern Ireland, where he served as Squadron Sergeant Major of Headquarters Squadron. He was subsequently posted to 30th Signal Regiment, Bramcote, in February 1997 taking up the appointment of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Technical). In May 1999 he was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of 2nd Signal Regiment, York. In January 2001 he attended the Late Entry Commissioning Board in Blandford and was selected for commissioning during the year April 2002 -March 2003.

He assumed the appointment of Royal Signals Corps Regimental Sergeant Major on 7 May 2001.

WO1 Keilty is married to **Raphaela**, they have two children **Allison** aged 14 and **Scarlett** aged 10. He has a passion for adventurous training, which has taken him to places as varied as India, Chile, Argentina, Africa and the South Downs competing keenly every year at the Trailwalker (UK) 100km Challenge.

The registered Domain Name for the Beverley Boys' Archive - beverleyboysarchive.co.uk

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM HERITAGE LOTTERY DRAW

WINNERS

1st	Mrs Hayler	5th	60(H) Sig Sqn	6th	Lt Col J. Dryburgh	Mr J. Carruthers
2nd	Mr Homewood		Mr P. E. Hall		Mr B. Budden	Lt Col Martin
3rd	Mr Chapman		Mr P. D. Parker		Mr D. A. D. Smith	Miss E. Greenwood
4th	Mrs Coates		Mr S. Swinfield			
	50 (H) Sig Sqn					

THE END OF AN ERA

Lt Col J. Steed - Chief of Staff The Royal School of Signals

Today saw the end of an era with retirement of **Roy Howe**, Carpenter and Joiner. **Roy's** association with the Corps started on 27 September 1971, when he joined the then named Training Aid Workshop, as a Carpenter and Joiner. Prior to this he had trained and gained experience working for a caravan manufacturing company, a local building firm and the Forestry Commission.

A 'Training Aid' and the title 'Carpenter and Joiner' were flexible definitions, as he was soon to discover because his skills were soon put to the test. As were his skills of being a cabinet and model maker! **Roy** quickly became a valued member of the woodwork team as his craft skills developed and he gained in experience. He was also more than willing to undertake projects other than those considered routine. Four examples of his range of abilities follow:

Box Bodies: One of the largest training aid projects produced for the RSS was identified in 1989 and finaly came to be manufactured in 1995. The box bodies, located in J Corridor area, are a mock-up FV 430 series of vehicles to provide the students, together with the Radio systems fitted and connected to the Racal simulator a feel for working in the back of a 432/436 in simulated 'field' conditions. A coup for the RSS which many other Units have viewed and copied. All the carpentry was completed by **Roy**.

Flag Pole: A flag pole in the Roosevelt Garden required replacing and surprise, surprise the item was unobtainable at the time. With an eight metre long sapling supplied and with just the means of an adze knife (a crude axe) and a huge amount of skill, **Roy** produced that which was required. It lasted many years until the Camp had a refurbishment in 1997.

Roll of Honour Display Units: Cabinet making skills were required to manufacture the units for the Garrison Church in order to display the 'Roll of Honour Parchments'. **Roy** completed the task to his high standards.

17th Century Model of a Signalling Tower: The Museum was another customer to benefit from **Roy's** work. Originally requested to act as a musical cigar box, for an outgoing Commander. It was seen and a second box was requested, to be manufactured and housed in the Catterick Museum. Today the model can be seen in the Royal Signals Museum in Blandford.

'Woodwork - Evening Classes apart from his daily duties **Roy** embarked on a second career, that of a woodwork instructor for students in the evenings. The post, sponsored by the Dorset Education Authority (DEA) provided finance that enabled woodwork to be taught to military and civilian students from within the Blandford area. **Roy** gave woodwork instruction to students of all abilities, some of the completed projects were exhibited by the DEA who held **Roy's** instructional abilities in high esteem. The classes ceased when Blandford Garrison was upgraded in 1997 and the Workshop was deemed not to continue to function.

A request was made by his colleagues to mention the Workshop Tea Fund. The Workshop Tea fund has been managed by **Roy** for a number of years, at a cost of 50p per person per week. This fund provided the workforce with at least 15-20 cups of tea or coffee, it also financed the Christmas Lunch, at no extra cost. There are ways and means of achieving this.....periodically **Roy** would go 'walkabout' to check on customer relations'.....

Since the rebuild in 1997 it is fair to say that **Roy** has been pacing himself for retirement, handing some of the carpentry responsibilities to the other carpenters and concentrating on other duties. These included, in the last three years, substituting for the SW Tech Officer, during his absences, and ensuring that the expenses, paint and metal requirements were demanded on time. He also considereed 'going early' as rumours that PPP would happen during his time on the Camp. As most people are aware it will happen in the near future!

Seriously, if you take a walk around the School through classrooms and offices, in fact nearly all the buildings of the RSS, you will see ample evidence of **Roy's** skills. All completed to a very high standard with just a few hiding a 'feature' (a past workshop euphemism for cock-up).

To finish on a personal level, **Roy** is a loving caring husband to his wife **Carol** and father to his children **Darren, Sarah** and **Claire** and a recent addition to the family grandson **George**. Over the years **Roy** also found time to visit an ex-colleague on a regular basis, now in his 90s **Harry Howells**, who I am sure has taken great comfort from these meetings, reliving the good old days. The words gentle giant, reliable, responsible, capable, dependable, sometimes grumpy (it must be said), gives his best, willing to help, to please and most important a skilled craftsman, all these apply to **Roy Howe**.

We should all applaud him for his 29 years of loyalty to the Workshop and the RSS through the 'old days' and recent changeable times, **Roy** thank you for your time with the Corps. Congratulations **Roy** the Corps wishes you a long and healthy retirement.

MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
JUNE 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Capt L. J. Calderhead	HQ SOinC (A)
Capt B. A. Knight	CPD CIS SVCS Gp
Capt N. H. Smikle	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Capt D. J. Williams	16 Air Asslt Bde & Sig Sqn (216)
Capt A. G. A. Woolaston	642 Signal Troop (Gibraltar)

OFFICERS
JULY 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Maj L. J. Plumb	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Capt N. P. Fanning	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Capt A. T. Kelly	660 Sig Tp 11 EOD Regt RLC
Capt D. G. Skimming	16 Signal Regiment
Capt K. T. Wilson	I & S 238 Signal Squadron
Lt K. P. Simonds	Flying Wing SAAVN

WOS AND SNCOS
JUNE 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
A/WO 1 RD T. W. Comyns	The Royal School of Signals
A/WO 1 P. F. Gardner	Joint Services Support Unit Digby
WO 2 RD G. Dewar	249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L))
WO 2 RD K. Marsh	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
WO 2 RD D. Thornton	2 Signal Regiment
WO 2 FofS K. P. Curtin	30 Signal Regiment
WO 2 FofS M. C. Duff	Joint Services Support Unit Digby
WO 2 FofS D. G. Jones	BMATT
A/WO 2 RD S. R. Morgan	7 Signal Regiment
A/WO 2 RD D. I. Sloane	1 (UK) Div Signal Regiment
A/WO 2 FofS J. W. Chambers	16 Air Asslt Bde & Sig Sqn (216)
A/WO 2 FofS R. L. Clifford	12 Mech Bde & Sig Sqn (228)
A/WO 2 FofS M. A. Paveley	7 Signal Regiment
A/WO 2 FofS K. Robinson	Joint Services Support Unit Digby
SSgt RD M. A. Brown	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
SSgt J. W. Graham	Joint Services Support Unit Digby
SSgt B. Green	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
SSgt S. A. Jacklin	11 EOD
SSgt T. R. G. McIntyre	36 Signal Regiment (V)
SSgt S. D. Moffet	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
SSgt M. G. O'Doherty	HQ DSSS
A/SSgt YofS P. T. Ashford	UKNMR SHAPE
A/SSgt C. P. Ashworth	225 Signal Squadron
A/SSgt J. R. Brooke	225 Signal Squadron
A/SSgt D. Butler	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
A/SSgt D. B. Longmuir	921 EOD
A/SSgt L. J. Mason	Army School of Ammo
Sgt S.D. J. Banks	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt M. Clayton-Batty	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
Sgt S. C. Curry	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt S. R. Gurney	HQ DSSS
Sgt S. R. Lewis	259 Signal Squadron
Sgt I. L. Overal	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt M. G. Poyning	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt A. R. Sims	7 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (207)
Sgt S. J. Willumsen	Joint Services Support Unit Digby
A/Sgt I. Kirkland	JHQ North

WOS AND SNCOS
JULY 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
A/WO1 RSM D. Rook	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
A/WO1 FofS L. D. Marshall	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
A/WO1 FofS K. Sturman	LSP Oman
A/WO1 A. B. Marchant	Joint Services Support Unit Digby
A/WO1 T. Phillips	Joint Services Support Unit Digby
A/WO1 P. A. Tretheway	HQ DSSS
WO 2 RD D. G. Inman	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218)
WO 2 RD S. B. Shepherd	7 Signal Regiment
A/WO 2 RD M. P. E. Angove	16 Signal Regiment
A/WO 2 RD G. C. Smith	16 Air Asslt Bde & Sig Sqn (216)
A/WO 2 RD G. Steel	15 Signal Regiment
SSgt C.F. Bruce	16 Signal Regiment
SSgt S. Dewhurst	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt S. M. D. Fairfield	NACOSA SHAPE
SSgt J. M. Gorman	31 Signal Regiment (V)
SSgt C. Hinderson	NATO Comms School Latina
SSgt P. S. Latimer	DISC Support Unit
SSgt S. E. Littlefield	7 Signal Regiment
SSgt M. Sala	280 (UK) Signal Squadron
A/SSgt M. J. Cowlard	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt A. W. Dutton	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
A/SSgt J. E. Kielty	16 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt K. P. Lawton	30 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt G. A. Sorley	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
A/SSgt P. Stroudley	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt S. C. Bottomley	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Sgt A. J. M. Giddens	19 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (209)
Sgt R. I. Hawkins	3 Inf Bde Hq & Sig Sqn (203)
Sgt A. P. Minorczyk	32 Signal Regiment (V)
Sgt C. M. Ramsden	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt K. J. Roberts	30 Signal Regiment
Sgt S. S. Sanderson	Rocchan (Balado Bridge)
Sgt D. J. Thwaite	101 Log Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (261)
A/Sgt P. A. Grundy	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
A/Sgt A. Nuttall	249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L))

RO2 CIS CO-ORD POST AT ALDERSHOT

Due to the forthcoming retirement of the present incumbent, Major (Retired) David Stubbs, an RO is sought for the G6 CIS Branch of HQ 4th at Aldershot with effect from 8 August 2001. The officer will be responsible to the Commander G6 CIS for staffing Divisional Communications issues, including telephony, radio and cryptography policy. He or she will be required to act as the Branch co-ordinator and to oversee IT issues and frequency and Mould Radio issues. Other duties include telecommunications advice on ICP, MACA and ops, to act as HQ and Branch Security Officer, to give support to Comd G6 as CO HQ 4 Div and to substitute for him as required. Specific responsibilities include the co-ordination of HQ Military Training and Accounts Inspections, the supervision of IT Staff and the co-ordination of Royal Signals Corps issues in the Division. He or she will be required to perform military duties appropriate to his or her rank, including Duty Staff Officer.

The officer should preferably be an ex-Royal Signals officer with both regimental and staff experience. No formal technical qualifications are required but a broad knowledge of military communications and information systems is essential. The officer must be IT literate. Interested persons should contact CM (Pers) 2c (RO) at Bath on 01225 449113 or **Lt Col P. J. Hryhoruk** R Signals on 94222-2448, DDI, 01252-347448, as soon as possible.

FOR SALE

The following items, belonging to **Mr Phil Clifford** (ex-Corps) are offered for sale. Prices subject to 'bartering' with current owner, but expected to be **extremely** reasonable.

(1) Royal Signals Mess Dress Tailored by Michael Jay Ltd, complete with Captain Rank. (Jacket 40/42 chest, Trousers 36 waist/inside leg 31) (Includes waistcoat).

(2) Service dress tailored by Michael Jay Ltd (Jacket 42/44 chest, Trousers 36 waist/29 inside leg) (Includes Captain rank insignia)

(3) Service Dress Hats x2 (Brown & Blue, size 7)

Enquiries in the first instance should be made to **Maj R. Patrickson** on Blandford Mil 2893

WANTED

No 1 Dress (Blues) to fit 42/44 chest

Please contact **Maj R. V. J. Brannigan**
SO2 CD & V
Royal School of Signals
Blandford Mil 2421 or Civil 01258 482421
01258 459452 (Answer Phone)
or Fax: 01258 482664

IF YOU'VE LOST CONTACT WITH AN OLD FRIEND, WHY NOT SEND AN ENQUIRY TO *THE WIRE*

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

ROYAL SIGNALS INSPECTION TEAM HEADQUARTERS LAND COMMAND

HQ LAND G6 POLICY & PLANS
SAILING WEEK 23 – 30 APR 2001

As part of an IIP/Adventure Training package HQ LAND G6 Policy & Plans Branch embarked on the Royal Signals Sail Training Week. The 7-day trip began at Gosport where we boarded our Victoria 34 – Yacht ENSIS from JSASTC. Over the following week we sailed to Lymington; Weymouth; across Lyme Bay to Dartmouth and back on an overnight passage to Yarmouth for dinner in the Royal Solent Yacht Club. Finally we sailed in 40-knot winds to Ocean Village in Southampton before finally returning to Gosport for a 'quick' wash and brush up of ENSIS.

Four members of the team - **Majs Rupert Janes, Mo Cooper, Mark Billingham** and **Capt Katrina Reynolds** successfully qualified as RYA Competent Crew. **Majs Sharon Nesmith** and **Charles Bishop** both extended their experience as RYA Day Skippers. The R SIGNALS Sail Training Week was a superb adventure sail training activity and details of future R SIGNALS sailing events are available on the Internet at 'www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/yacht_club/homepage.htm'. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all although the weather was a little unkind at the beginning of the week. Our thanks to our skipper, **Maj Richard Quinlan** who ensured we became familiar with every sail onboard! We flew the Spinnaker more often and more successfully than any other Yacht in the Flotilla!

HEADQUARTERS 2 (NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS) SIGNAL BRIGADE

It has been a busy few months for the Brigade and the Headquarters in particular. Whilst the focus has been on Op Peninsular and the foot and mouth crisis the HQ has also hosted visits from the Master of Signals and DCinC LAND, deployed on Ex Horsehoe Eagle the Brigade HQ annual CPX and on Ex Appalachian Horseshoe the HQ adventure training exercise in the USA.

OPERATION PENINSULAR

The Brigade operational main effort since March has been Op Peninsular, although at the time of writing (start of June) the commitment is beginning to scale down. The initial Brigade role was to assist the Regional Brigades who were providing MAFF with a supporting command and control (C2) infrastructure capable of co-ordinating the civil and military assets employed in the process of carcass disposable. LAND directed that the C2 for the deployment should be conducted utilising the existing fixed civilian and military communications infrastructure. In the event of additional ICS support being required, 2(NC) Sig Bde was tasked to be the co-ordinating HQ for the provision of ICS to the Regional Brigades. However at the outset of the deployment mobile phones were the chosen form of comms for the military teams on the ground. This was due to the ease of connectivity that mobile phones offered, as the military on the ground were required to liase with a number of disparate civilian agencies such as MAFF, NFU, contractors and farmers. Additionally MAFF were funding the use of mobile phones hence there was a greater reliance on the mobile network rather than utilise military systems. However limited use of MOULD was made in the 143 (WM) Brigade and 160 (Wales) Brigade areas for which 37 Sig Regt (V) deployed additional MOULD assets. Most of the CIS provided below Brigade level during the establishment of joint military unit/MAFF C2 nodes was supplied and funded by MAFF. This included comprehensive suites of PCs formed together to the MAFF LAN and faxes. These systems were found to adequately provide the capability needed to conduct routine business. However, at each C2 node established by the Regional Brigades, 2 (NC) Sig Bde deployed an Electronic Messaging Service (EMS) laptop, this allowed forward deployed military elements access into the Defence IT systems, principally ISIS, increasing their operational effectiveness, as they were able to capture, disseminate and share information quickly. The Brigade deployed a total of 21 EMS terminals to support the deployed C2 nodes throughout the Regional Brigades who reported that they were extremely useful tools to have. Additionally the TA National Communications Regiments and ACISG Squadrons provided EMS technical and training support to the C2 nodes. The Brigade also arranged for 24 hour ISIS cover for the static headquarters that were involved in the Op Peninsular effort.

EXERCISE HORSESHOE EAGLE

The FA Cup Final weekend in May will be remembered by many for very different reasons. It was the scorching hot weekend during which Liverpool won the Cup (but don't remind the Commander who is a staunch Arsenal fan) but for the Brigade staff it meant Ex Horseshoe Eagle, a Brigade HQ CPX which took place at South Cerney. The Exercise was designed to be a training exercise for the HQ staff as well as practice and further integrate the Regular and TA components of the staff branches within the HQ. The scenario was a simulated deployment to Poland as part of a fictional European Force. For Chief of Staff, **Maj Paul Kelly** it was to be his final exercise as COS after two and a half years with the Headquarters.

Brigade Staff gather around the Bird Table during Ex Horseshoe Eagle

EXERCISE APPALACHIAN HORSESHOE

Ex Appalachian Horseshoe was a Brigade HQ adventurous training exercise which saw five members of the HQ deploy to the USA for 2 weeks in late May/early June. The lucky five being **Lt Col Mike Stevenson, Maj Iain Brownlee, Capt Gareth Marsh, Capt Andy McCole** and **Cpl Pete Sears**. The aim of the exercise was to walk the Shendandoah National Park section of the 2000-mile long Appalachian Trail.

The Shenandoah National Park, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, is world-renowned for its natural beauty (the area was also where the film *Deliverance* was filmed) as well as being the location for the highest concentration of Black Bears in North America. Despite assurances from the HQ resident North American, **Maj Paul Kelly**, that Black Bears aren't that dangerous when compared to the Grizzly variety we fortunately only came across one bear, heading in the opposite direction, during our time in the National Park. The size of the bear remains the subject of much debate in the HQ and very much depends on who you talk to (and the amount of alcohol consumed), with estimates varying between seven and twenty-five foot tall! The assurances regarding the relative cuddliness of Black Bears fell on deaf ears as when the bear was spotted four members of the team ensured that they were moving rapidly in the other direction. The notable exception being **Lt Col Mike Stevenson**, who despite his best efforts, couldn't make the bear sit still for a decent photograph.

The second part of the exercise saw the Commander and Chief of Staff flying out to join us in order to visit the 1108th (US) Signal Brigade in Frederick, Maryland. The 1108th are our sister brigade in the US and 31 Sig Regt (V) and 1111th (US) Sig Bn (who are one of the two major units in the 1108th) have particularly strong links. As well as being given an opportunity to visit the unique and enviable US communications facilities we were also given a thorough tour of the Gettsyburg Battlefield and the opportunity to see the sights of Washington DC. The exercise also gave us the opportunity to marvel at the shopping ability of **Maj Paul Kelly** whose choice of designer brightly-coloured casual shirts purchased at the Potomac Mills Discount Mall can be best described as 'very North American' in style!

NEWS OF TRAINING

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

11 SIGNAL REGIMENT
1 (OUSTON) SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. G. J. Howes** Royal Canadian Signals
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Andy Harriott**

RHINO TROOP
Tp Comd **WO1 Bob Clubb**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Dave Smith**

During the month of May the Troop has been relatively quiet. **Cpl Bob Lovell** has successfully passed his Royal Signal Detachment Commanders course, and I'm sure he has enjoyed the time away from the normal work environment (a well deserved rest), congratulations! **SSgt Dave Smith** is looking forward to his R&R before he starts his EFP2 at the end of May. **Dave** has been busy reading and putting into practice the contents of the Drill manual in preparation for the RSA weekend in June.

SSgt Dave Smith showing he is not really cold!

Dave has also started his new hobby of sub-aqua, a sport he discovered whilst on holiday in the Maldives back in February. However, the coastal water around the south of England are not quite the same, though not so bad now that he has purchased a dry suit!

The Troop performed well during the Harrogate Cup Athletics competition despite the size of Rhino Tp, which is out numbered by three-fold. We achieved some fine wins throughout the day. Particular congratulations go to the effort of both 4 x 100m-relay male and female competitors. The male team was **Sig Hodge, Sig Stardy, Sig Wood,** and **Sig Westmoreland**. The female team was **Sig Mc Mann, Sig Ball, Sig Hollandot** and **Sig Stodart**. The culmination of the athletics day was an inter troop Tug of War competition. Representing Rhino/Kohima Troop were **Sig Marshallsay, Sig Thomas, Sig Nurse, Sig McLoughlin, Sig Marshall, Sig Evans, Sig Saunders** and **Sig Forrester**. They performed outstandingly on the rope and found a new sport to pursue. Well done.

WO2 (SSM) Andy Harriott just before using his stick to encourage!

2 (CATTERICK) SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Louise Tomkins**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Spike Haynes**

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CRICKET TOUR 2001 - *by Sig Cull*

You have all seen the pictures, people lying on the beach, having fun

playing a bit of cricket. That was me 18 months after joining the Army. At the end of January I was asked to tour Trinidad with the full Army cricket side. I was delighted to hear this as the furthest I had ever toured was Holland when I was 15. I was sure this tour was going to be a bit different in more than one way. It all seemed unreal for a couple of weeks then things started to get rolling. Letters started coming in with details of the tour, flights, accommodation etc. There was a training session in Taunton arranged for the weekend before we left. This was for the team to get to know each other. Most of them knew each other from last season but for me this was the first time I had met them. I knew a couple of them having played for the Royal Signals and Army under 25s. The two other Signals players were **2Lt Senneck** and **LCpl Ford**, both had experienced army cricket before. Some of the real characters of the team stood out on this weekend, some for their cricket and some for social reasons. On this weekend all the tour kit was issued. It was worth going on the tour just for the kit we received and many thanks to must go to **Capt Grinonneau** who organised all of it. Now we were all ready for the tour. It still seems unreal, one week I was on guard the next I was in Trinidad.

The eight and a half-hour flight seemed a long time but you knew the tour had started when we tasted the local beer for the first but not the last time. On arrival at the airport drinks awaited us and already we could feel the humidity of the place. The first day brought us our first game and our first victory. The police force proved easy opponents and we ran out easy winners thanks to a good 49 not out from **2Lt Senneck**. The second day took us to the Queens parks Oval home of the West Indies for a net practice. It was great to be here as the West Indies had been here the week before playing South Africa. It was the first time I had ever been to a place like this. We were to return here in the next few days to play against Queens Park CC. The team had really started to bond and we notched up four wins from four games. Some outstanding performances coming from **2Lt Senneck** and **LCpl Ford** bringing us through the games. Our fifth was against Wanderers CC that contained West Indies A trialists. With some very good cricketers they proved too strong as they ran out close winners. Our final game proved easier as we ran out easy winners to end the tour on a high and end up with five wins from six games.

A long tour had nearly come to an end, exhausted but still enough energy for the last night, a team meal followed by a great evening out. On returning I was pleased to find out that I had been sponsored by BAA. Now I look forward to the Australia tour in November. Many thanks to **Maj Frost**, **Maj Ross-Hurst**, **Lt Col Jukes** (tour manager) and **Capt Kenyon** who all made the tour possible.

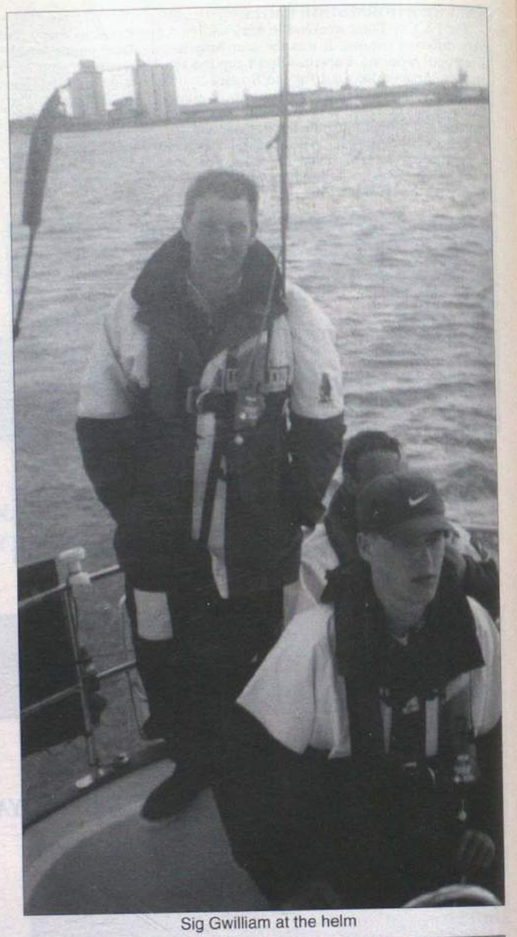
THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB SAIL TRAINING WEEK
by Sig Gwilliam

The crew were; Skipper **Maj Rob Gibson**, Mate **Maj Andy Whitmore**, Cook/Ents **Capt Dave Kenyon**, Duty Colonial **Lt Col Dan Farmer USA**, Skippy (broken ankle) **Maj Jim Langly**, and fellow novice **Sig** 'Ships cat-always asleep' **Rick Llwellyn**. It was a normal Friday afternoon in the rest room waiting for knockoff when **Capt Kenyon** walked in and said, 'Who wants to go sailing for a week?' **Sig Rick Llwellyn** and myself eagerly put our hands up and that was it, what was I going to let myself in for?

We paraded at the MT at 0700hrs Monday morning and travelled down to Gosport on one of those lovely army coaches, but it was a nice day. We did all of the usual safety briefs and then went and got our wet weather kit, (praying we wouldn't need it) and stowed the rations and kit on board. After that we then set sail for Leamington with the sun on our backs and the wind in our faces. At Leamington we all ate thanks to culinary genius of **Capt Dave Kenyon** and then **Sig Rick Llwellyn** and myself went out for a few beers (not a good idea). In the morning the destination was Weymouth and that is when the seasickness kicked in. That day I wondered why I ever even bothered coming and the hangover I had from the night before just added to the problem. At one point I was hanging over the side feeling rough as rough wondering why I had volunteered for this. As we got into Gosport **Maj Rob Gibson** assured me that it wouldn't be the same the next day but I didn't believe him. On Wednesday we set sail into a south westerly for Dartmouth and it was really rough just past Portland bill, and with the wind coming from the wrong direction we decided to put on the 'iron sail' but we still didn't get in till late that night. From Dartmouth it was on to Yarmouth which took all day and all night and we had to anchor just outside of Yarmouth and wait for the tide.

At Yarmouth **Sig Rick Llwellyn** and I went out for fish and chips and then it was time for the dinner at the yacht club. After a nice meal we went to a couple of pubs and then the trouble started. Just as we were getting on the boat **Maj Jim Langly** decided to jump from the side of the pier onto the boat twisting his ankle, it was funny. In the morning, after breakfast, **Sig Rick Llwellyn** and I both did our competent crew tests that involved a race in a rubber dinghy across the harbour and we all got terribly wet. Then off we went to Cowes for lunch and then back to Gosport, to hand the boat back in. It was a week enjoyed by all.

DON'T SEND US DIGITAL PHOTOS
as most of them are only saved at 72dpi,
for publication they must be a minimum of
300-400dpi


Sig Gwilliam at the helm

Life on the ocean wave

3 (HARROGATE) SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Andy Duncan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dave Bousfield**

DRAGON BOAT RACE 2001 - POOLE HEART APPEAL
by Sig Ingram

On a sunny Sunday morning in May, members of 3 (Harrogate) Sqn, 11 Signal Regiment climbed aboard two 4 tonne trucks and headed off to Poole Park to take part in the Poole Heart Appeal's annual Dragon Boat Race. Thirty-three members of both Lightning and Ulster Troops took part in the day's events alongside such teams as the Royal Marines, Tesco, Asda and other assorted civilian companies. All in all, twenty-seven teams took part in a very competitive event. 3 Sqn entered three teams and each team was as good as the next (bearing in mind that no team had done any prior training) and produced some very creditable times in the morning trials. Coupled with some dubious time keeping and lack of experience, the 11 Signal Regiment team narrowly missed out on the Final, but took a well earned fourth place. A Phase Two soldier captained each team, and they all managed to produce the goods; they were **Sigs Atkinson**, **Harper** and **Hennis**. I would like to mention everyone individually, but that would take too long, so with that thought in mind I would just like to say thank you to **LCpl** 'Chelsea' **Reynolds** for organising the much enjoyed day. Each member of the team accosted the Regiment with sponsorship forms and we raised over £1000 for charity.

HARROGATE CUP SWIMMING COMPETITION
by Sig Finnie

The evening of 21 March saw two buses of hopeful swimmers, plucked from the cookhouse after giving the correct (or incorrect?) answer to the 'sink or swim' question, descending on Bovington Pool for the Harrogate Cup swimming competition. The evening produced an exciting and very close run competition with some outstanding performances from all the squadrons, with limited training 3 Sqn managed to provide tough opposition and did themselves proud. **Sig Phillips** won the Men's 50m Freestyle, aerodynamically assisted by his wonder trunks. **Sig** 'Fish boy' **Lovell** won the 100m Freestyle, allegedly smashing the 1 minute barrier (is this physically possible?) while **Sig Paterson** gave an exciting finish to the Women's 50m Breastroke. The Men's 50m Butterfly provided the evenings top entertainment as **Sig McEwan** (1 Sqn) stormed to an easy First with **Sig Mason** (3 Sqn) and **Sig Dunno** (2 Sqn) giving very impressive Second and Third places, about a minute later, after what looked like two very painful yet determined performances. 3 Sqn were in the lead after the individual events. Unfortunately the chain of command race didn't take place due to absences. I suspect that if 3 Sqn had managed to get **LCpl** 'Chelsea' **Reynolds** into a pair of speedos and kept the Norwegian whaling fleet at a safe distance, we may have gained another victory. The final scores were impressively close: 44 – 2 Sqn, 42 – 3 Sqn, 40 – 1 Sqn. **Maj Pawlak** was quick to congratulate all those taking part for an eventful evening and presented prizes to the successful competitors. Many thanks to the QMSI and his staff for another well organised and well run event.

The 3 Sqn swimmers were: Men's Team **Sig Clamp, Sig Lovell, Sig Phillips, Sig Marsh, Sig McSween, Sig Cooke, Sig Mason** and **Sig Howarth**. Women's Team **Sig Finnie, Sig Hennis, Sig Patterson, Sig Rokavada, Sig Anderson, Sig Ingram, Sig Worthington, Sig Coonan** and **Sig Lomax**.

4 (MILITARY TRAINING) SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Alan Owen**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Kev Read**

The Squadron has seen a number of changes over the last few months. **Capt John Williams** has left for his QM's appointment in 216 Sig Sqn and **Capt Rod Cowan** has taken over, having arrived on commissioning from 33 Sig Regt. New arrivals also include **SSgt Tara Pun** who joins the SNCOs' Course as a section DS. Other changes include **SSgt Andrea Burdus** moving across to the RSJCC now that **SSgt Richie Long** has moved to JSIO. **SSgt Bill Butler** moves on to become the SQMS in RSG and **SSgt Chippy Pomfret** has taken his place in Mil Trg Tp. Congratulations are in order for **Sgts Richie Ayling** and **Nick** 'Grumpy' **Ulley** for their recent selection for promotion to Staff Sergeant.

COURSE UPDATES
RSSC/RSJCC

The notes for RSSC and RSJCC (TDT 4005 and 4006) have been rewritten as of May 2001. These documents set out the course aims and objectives and define the starting standards. Hard copies have been sent out to all Royal Signals Units in order for students to read them prior to attending. If any student does not have access to a copy then they should call the 4 Sqn Clerk on Blandford Mil 2191. The joining instructions for both courses have also been rewritten to reflect the new course content. There is no longer a requirement for No2 Dress or best boots to be brought on the courses. Course Admin Cell in the RSS send out individual copies of the joining instructions to students, however, in the event of your Adjt or 2IC losing them (heaven forbid) then ring the Sqn Clerk for another copy.

LEADERSHIP COURSE

The next Leadership course will start in October 2001. Course loading will be for 20 students.

TERRITORIAL ARMY COURSES

The TA team continue with their round of TA recruit courses. Due to the pressure of numbers **WO2 Mick Senior** and **Sgt** 'Tank' **Sherman** were detached from their TA units to assist with the last course. Despite recruit numbers being lower than expected it still took 'Tank' three weeks longer than anyone else to write his reports.

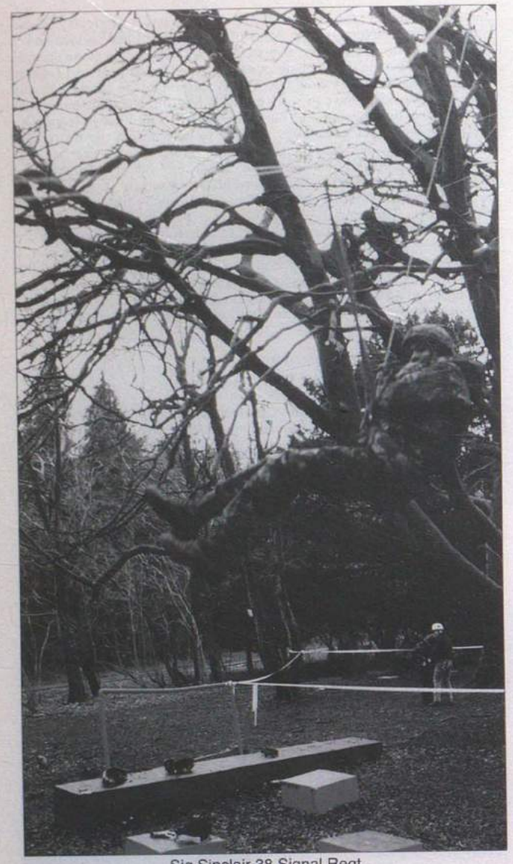
TA RECRUIT COURSE 09/00 – A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE
by Sig Dorrian

Before arriving at Blandford I thought a working day was 9 to 5 (maybe 8am on a long day!), 5am was certainly the middle of the night and I had no idea how much one could fit into a single day. These concepts were shattered within 24hrs of arriving and I had no idea how I was going to survive the next two weeks. I was not in this alone though, there were 32 other souls being punted from pillar to post and I never imagined what help they would be. I soon realised that to succeed on this course we would all have to work together. My unit had done quite a lot of pre-course training with me, but there was still a lot I had to learn. The classroom work was sometimes difficult to take in, but the instructors made it all enjoyable. I was really looking forward to the exercise, but was not fully prepared for the seasons of Salisbury Plain; I thought I had hypothermia on more than one occasion! The exercise itself was hard work, but as section 2IC I enjoyed the added responsibility and found it challenging. The course culminated in a Parade, which had to be practised for hours. I was really proud to march onto the Parade Square with the rest of the course, knowing just what we had achieved in such a short period of time. Overall I found the course enjoyable and rewarding. It was well organised, demanding and forced you to reach for your limits then try to go a bit further. The only thing I am not in a hurry to repeat is the gas chamber, but I do look forward to returning to Blandford on my Corporals Course.

MILITARY TRAINING TROOP
Tp Comd **WO1 F. G. Waters**
Tp Sgt **Sgt R. A. O'Neil**

On taking over as the Troop Commander of the TA Corporals and Recruit Course last August I wanted another challenge, and by God I got one! I have to admit I have inherited a very professional and adaptable team that require a special type of instructor, with high standards of discipline and a sense of humour. In March this year course 0010/00 took place in Blandford. Due to Foot and Mouth Disease it was touch and go as to whether the course was still going to take place, but again as ever being the British Army we were well adaptable and changed the programme with a flick of a coin. All training was conducted around the Blandford Garrison area with a number of different pursuits thrown into the programme to make the course a little more interesting. The Development team erected a High Wire course to build confidence in the recruits and all of them fully enjoyed it (probably). Special thanks go to **Sgt Dave Uttley** and **Cpl Tony Brown** for their support with this activity. Everyone who passed out is to be congratulated and welcomed to the Corps. The Top Student of the course went to **Sig Ramsay** of 63 Signal Sqn who, as an individual, performed exceptionally throughout the 2-week intensive course. A very special thanks goes to **Lt Col A. P. R. Roberts MBE**, CO 40 Sig Regt, who carried out the duties of Reviewing Officer.

Sig Jenkins 33 Signal Regt
being assisted by Sig Sinclair 38 Sig Regt



Sig Sinclair 38 Signal Regt
on descent from High Wire confidence course

THE LONDON MARATHON

by WO2 P. Tindal, Infantry Advisor - 11 Signal Regiment

Having watched the London Marathon every April, it has always been a goal of mine to complete this fantastic run. Being posted to Blandford with the Royal School of Signals, this was too good a chance to miss. The application form was sent off with both fingers crossed, but by December the bubble had burst and it became obvious that I would have to wait until at least next year. Then, speaking to a couple at one of the many Christmas parties, I was offered a place to run for the Lords Taverners' charity. **Sgt Danni Thwaite** was unable to run because of injury, and so suddenly I was in. I made a silent oath to start training right away.

Christmas came and went, as did New Year. Back to work after leave and I still had done nothing. The Lords Taverners' sent me my running pack: running vest, shorts, sweatshirt, tracksters and baseball cap. We may not be fast, but we will be smart! So it was with heavy legs that I started the long run to the level of fitness that was required. A bout of flu in January slowed the training down for a couple of weeks and further problems arose with the outbreak of foot and mouth. Some of the events I was to run in as part of my preparation were cancelled and restrictions on all running routes around camp lead me to do most of my training on a treadmill in the gym, not ideal but it was better than nothing. Mid March saw me at the start line for the Bath half marathon on a cold, damp Sunday. A modest sub 1:40 was keeping me on course. Then, at the end of March, it arrived. My race number 33910. Not the most noticeable number in the field, but it was mine. Sponsorship was the next problem. Having pledged at least £500 it was now that the real trouble started. The Mess at Blandford started me off with £200 and the SQMS of the Squadron would not let anyone depart without a small donation of a quid. The courses that come through the Squadron also helped out by stumping up some cash.

Suddenly the big weekend had arrived, it was time to set off for London. At the London Marathon you have to collect your race number from London Arena which is an event in itself. All the top sporting companies have stalls trying to promote their latest sports equipment though there are also plenty of freebees up for grabs. It was an early night on Saturday for the 0930hrs start the following day. Over 35,000 runners, family and friends all heading to Greenwich is a nightmare scenario, however Connex South Eastern railway have free trains into Greenwich and Maze Hill stations which are just a short walk from the start point. London has now got three start points; I was on the red start. The time passed quickly waiting for the start, joining the long line of people wanting to use the toilet certainly passed 30 minutes. Just before I headed into my start pen I heard someone calling my name. Imagine my surprisewhen I turn around and see **WO2 Dougie Graham**, complete with kilt! So after briefly catching up with news I moved to my pen. Runners are put in pens according to their expected finish time, with that in mind I was surprised to see three runners carrying a life sized mini just behind me.

At 0925hrs we started to edge forward to the start and then the gun fired. I have heard stories how long it takes to cross the start line but it only took me four minutes. Talking later to the people who were in pen 9, they took 20 minutes to get going. The race starts off by heading through Greenwich where the crowd and bands are fantastic. It's easy to get carried away at this stage, added to the fact the course start is considered fast you must keep yourself in check. During initial miles I was clocking 8:30 ish and was comfortable. Then at the five-mile point I realised that I had clocked a 7:25 mile! Who did I think I was kidding? I had been warned about getting carried away and I had not realised how quickly I had speeded up. I changed my pace but the damage had been done. I knew I would suffer from that mile later.

Leaving Greenwich behind we came to the first landmark, Cuttysark. Quick waves at the TV camera then head down for the next part. The route to Tower Bridge from Cuttysark is a long one. Once you are on it, psychology kicks in for two reasons, firstly you are crossing the Thames to the same side of the finish, and secondly you are very close to the half way stage. The crowds at the bridge were fantastic, they made everyone feel like a million dollars. In my case green and crinkled! Making the half marathon marker at 1 hour 48 minutes was also not good time keeping. It is at this stage that you see the elite runners. The only difference is they are at the 22-mile point and have passed the infamous Isle of Dogs. The Isle of Dogs starts at the 16-mile point. Past runners will tell you it is very quiet and little or no crowds; on the contrary I found the crowd was fantastic, but it was cold, very cold. Then on the Westferry Road just past the 19-mile point, bang. The dreaded wall. I didn't just hit the wall, I smashed into it! Now instead of grabbing water and drinking it while still running, I was walking whilst drinking as I was incapable of doing two things at once. Slogging on and back on The Highway it was my turn to be at the 22-mile point when others were at halfway, but it only lifted my moral marginally. Back under Tower Bridge, too tired to look up to see if anyone was still on it, we passed The Tower. This is where a mat is laid down to help runners over the cobbles. Did it make a difference? Not to me, but by this time I was numb from the waist down anyway. Finally the end was near. Travelling along the Embankment, which had hundreds of people, was tremendous. But it was nothing to Birdcage Walk. Every runner was treated like a hero from the crowd and it only came second to the feeling of crossing the line. What did I feel like? A sense of achievement? Pride? Yes, but more so, relief that it was finished. Time at this stage irrelevant, but for the record 4:11:14. The total money raised was £505.

So is London as good as they say? The simple answer is yes. The crowds, bands and party atmosphere is second to none. The organisation is fantastic, water at every mile, glucose drinks at every five miles and Joe Public handing out every conceivable type of food makes it a day to remember. Would I do it again? 14 April 2002 is already marked in the diary. London Marathon!

THE LAST 'BRUGGEN 10' - *by Sgt Dani Thwaite*

As it was the last RAF Bruggen 10 Km road race I thought it would be a good idea to enter both a male and a female team. Once all the administration had been completed 15 of us went to Bruggen where we met **WO1 Chris Christie** and **WO2** 'Taff' **Thomas**. It was a pleasant day, although windy, and after **WO1 Joe Docherty** and **SSgt Dan Burdus** had talked tactics some members of the team decided to attempt a sub 60-minute race. Despite **Sgt Jayne Davies'** horror the girls' team intended to break the 75 minute mark. **LCpl Sarah Jordan** and **Sig Nat Curtis** both achieved their goal, however **Sgt Dani Thwaite** just missed out with an admirable 77 minutes. All four members of the male team (**WO1 Joe Docherty**, **WO2** 'Taff' **Thomas**, **SSgt Dan Burdus** and **Sgt Steve Newman**) achieved their target. **Cpl Billy Watts** and **LCpl Griffiths** also both finished in good positions. Overall the male team came second and the girls team came third. Our thanks go to our dutiful driver **Cpl** 'Richie' **Savage** for a safe and pleasant journey!

PLEASE NOTE

THE COST OF YOUR WIRE IS NOW £12 PER ANNUM - £2 PER COPY

IF YOU HAVE PAID £9 BY CHEQUE THIS YEAR WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR A FURTHER £3

THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION

The assembled Team

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS - 2001

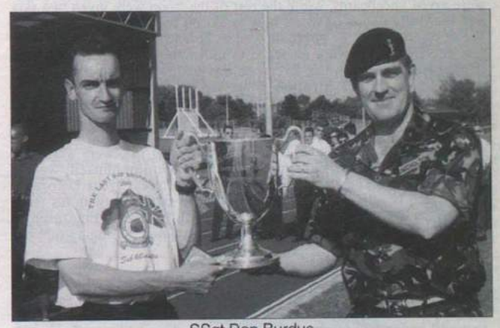
The Royal Signals has become synonymous with athletics and RSS/11 Sig Regt is no exception. Equally, our success over the years in not by coincidence. It is the ability to attract the 'smarter' recruit whose measured approach and commitment to train will always ensure that the flower will bloom on queue. Athletics is normally associated with 'white shirted' officials, suntan lotion and shades. However, this was not the scene that greeted the athletes in early March when training started in earnest. The enthusiasm and commitment of the athletes was matched only by the intensity of the rain - it was more like aqua aerobics than athletics. Towards the end of April there was a mad but brief flurry of activity down at the track as teams were identified for the Inter Squadron Athletics Championships. It was a very successful event - the competition was fierce, the stand was packed with supporters and the sun put in a rare appearance. 3 Squadron won the event but there were some notable performances throughout providing an excellent forum for identifying new talent for the Regimental Team.

This season an initiative has been introduced which should have far reaching consequences. Three coaches from Wimbourne Athletics Club have been employed to provide their technical expertise every Tuesday evening. Additionally, there is free access to a Blandford Camp based pole-vaulting club every Friday evening. The initiative has already proved to be a great success. It clearly focuses the mind of the athlete and fuels his/her desire for success. The future benefits of athletes being exposed to quality coaching will be felt in the Corps, Army and in some cases beyond. This year 12 athletes were entered in to the Dorset County Athletics Championships. This was our first measure of progress since the Inter - Squadron competition. Each athlete successfully achieved a seasonal/personal best and returned to Blandford Camp with 5 Dorset County Championship titles.

The 5th Division Major Unit Male & Female Team Championship was our first team outing this season (23 May 2001). Again the sun blessed the event with it presence and the stand was alive with noisy competitors, all willing their team members on. RSS/11 Sig Regimental male team were the overall winners with 274 points but 21 Sig Regt kept the pressure on, finishing only 14 points behind. The female team put in an equally sterling performance finishing as runners - up to 3 DSR. Since last season the female team lost some quality athletes through postings. However, the current team fully intends to emulate their success of last year.

The Regimental Athletics Team trains every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening between 1900 - 2100hrs. Everyone is made to feel welcome no matter how badly you think you are at your event. The ongoing problem getting athletes off trade training highlights the need to have a big squad. Whether you are a competitor or a spectator, your support is essential. It is not only a good day out but the individual performance you witness will be the result of many months of hard graft.

Maj Paul Flavel hands over the baton to Sig Griffith



SSgt Dan Burdus
collecting the 5 Division Male Team Champions Cup
The presenting officer looks quite familiar and pleased

The 2001 Regimental Athletics Team

263 (HARROGATE) SIGNAL SQUADRON ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj Mel Rayner**
SSM **WO2 John Hogan**

Life here at the College remains ever busy and with areas now opening for training, we are now back in business. On the social side of life, the permanent staff is recovering from our TCP (tennis, croquet and Pimms) night, which was a resounding success, not a lot of tennis took place but plenty of C & P.

BRADLEY TROOP - SENIOR TERM
Tp Comd **Capt David Farrimond**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mark McMullan**

Baby Tp as its' currently known, is expecting its next new arrival in the form of 'Baby White' due in July. Baby **Sophie Clubb** has made her debut and has already been supporting the Troop at the CO's Cup. Congratulations to **Natasha** and **Clubby** on their recent marriage. Good luck to **Sgt McMullan** who is probably doing knees to chest on his advanced drill course at the moment.

WATER SKIING - *by 3 Section*

Our whole Troop went water-skiing at Thorpe Park Lake. It was a treat for doing so well the week before. The day was a chance to relax and let our hair down, for those of us who have it. We arrived at the lake and received our wet suits. Although it took a long time to get them on, it did wonders for the figure. The wet suits made us all look smashing, that is apart from those who can't be helped, **AT Woodward** for one, who's large gut was even more obvious. The people who had not skied before were given kneeboards, while the rest of the troop were given two skis. **Sgt McMullan** showed us all how to ski on two skis then on one ski. We're surprised that he never showed us how to ski bare footed. After a few attempts **AT Sowiak** managed to move about 40m before he sank into the freezing cold water. Everyone was getting to grips with the skiing after a while, and **AT Stratton** impressed the Troop by staying on for about seven laps of the lake. **AT Heydon** came close to death after **AT Gordon** went straight over his head although there wasn't much inside to damage. So far the Troop seemed to spend most of their time in the water swimming that also included two Troop Corporals who were worse that any of us ATs. **Capt Farrimond** seemed to enjoy himself, we can remember him shouting, 'Show me the money,' just before he disappeared headfirst into the water, trying to catch fish with his teeth. Overall the day was very enjoyable and we all had a great time, even on the way home **Capt Farrimond** kept us entertained by singing (not bad for an officer).

EXERCISE LONDON LEARN

As a part of our leadership training Bradley Tp, 263 (H) Sig Sqn, went on a trip to London. The day was designed so we had to make our way around London and complete a number of tasks set by our Troop OC. The only problem with the day was that we were not allowed to take any money; or our much-needed mobile phones. The only way to achieve some of the tasks was to beg the locals for their help. Most of the people around London were very understanding, giving us free food, free taxi rides and also letting us help them complete some of their jobs (clean a prison cell in a police station). One of our tasks was to visit the fire station and hospital. KFC and McDonalds were the best as they gave us a belly full of food to keep us motivated. During the day most of us got lost, even with our free rail/travel ticket and map, the London underground was a maze. A lot of the time was spent running around from place to place, **AT Kain** ways more aware of this as she had to walk the streets in her socks (high heels are not very good for running in. At the end of the day we had all returned back to the bus, except for **AT Heydon's** group that went to the wrong museum and ended up an hour late. **Sgt McMullan** was happy, not! All of us had a good time although we were ready for bed we could understand why the day was based on being a Leader and the skills that a leader must have.

LIFE IN ATFC ARBORFIELD IN THE LAST MILLENIUM
by 2 Section

In the last millennium if the weather was poor ponchos were issued as waterproofs. There was a hood and no arms, which made it difficult for fire maneuvers in wet conditions. The ponchos were also for bashers in the harbour areas at night. There were not many facilities available for map reading, which resulted in lack of orientation. Because of lack of funds, resources and time, first aid wasn't a priority. Therefore, when diseases spread, it wasn't noticed immediately. It is a known fact that when casualties were left on their beds to fend for themselves, with no medical attention they seemed to live. Those casualties who had assistance from the medical staff lost their lives, due to germs that passed from the staff's hands to the casualty. Carbine rifles were used. The use of machine guns had just started. They used a handle to work the machine guns. Blanco was put on all of their equipment to protect them. Helmets were much heavier then they are now, indeed all equipment was heavier. Horses were used to pull the equipment. There was no penicillin available at all and socks were placed inside mugs to help keep them dry and stop infection passing. There was no running water at all. Only officers used swords. When men were enlisted they were given a shilling, which is equal to 1 0p. No fruit or vegetables were issued and ration packs consisted of two boiled sweets, hard packed biscuits and milk powder. There was an airdrop every three days, or at least there was supposed to be. The airdrops consisted of clean clothes and extra rations but before this happened a flare had to be set off at the point everyone had passed. Training consisted of being told to run through Jungle Green (JG) where mines and traps were planted. So if you didn't finish your training it was because you died of standing on a mine or your leg getting chopped off in a trap. Life then was much more dangerous and the Army was not organised at all. It was a matter of going in the Army ready to die. You were really lucky if you survived at all. Thank God for rapid changes.

LIFE AS AN APPRENTICE TRADESMAN IN THE CURRENT MILLENNIUM

As you walk through the main gates of the Army Technical Foundation College as an AT with 28 weeks of basic training ahead of you. You know that only hard work and determination and the six core values of the Army will see you through - Loyalty, Integrity, Commitment, Courage, Discipline and Respect. Once you have learnt the core values you stand a good chance of passing out of the college as a potential leader in the technical corps of the Army. To equip the ATs with the skills they need to pass out of the college, a variety of excellent facilities are provided. These facilities include excellent sporting areas such as a new sports hall, gym, squash courts, floodlit astro-turf, many outdoor rugby and football pitches and a full-length indoor swimming pool. Also there is a large learning resources centre with Internet access. This can come in handy because you will do a lot of academic work while you are here. The training programme is quite hard at the college, but if you try hard you will find it easier in the long run. You will do mostly circuit training and on the odd occasion you will do 4-6 mile tabs carrying weights varying from 21b to 351b. You will also do assault courses and stretcher races. Whilst at the college you will go on four exercises. These are held near Aldershot. You start off with Ex Milkteeth which is just a training exercise, while Ex Dragons Teeth is a testing exercise. The other two exercises are done in the senior term. You will do lots of fun things while you are at the college like firing live and blank rounds and also going on the SAT range. Things that aren't so nice are things like NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare training). Some of the lessons can be boring too. Up to week seven you have to wear a CRAP hat, this is until you pass your drill test, which is a very proud moment. This is when you will receive your beret and cap badge. A lot of the troop staff are very good, they know when to have a laugh and when to be serious. The staff will treat you well if you work hard for them, your section and your troop. The Army Technical Foundation College trains the four main technical corps of the Army - The Royal Corps of Signals, The Royal Engineers, The Royal Logistic Corps and The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Once you have passed out of the College, provided you have worked hard during your time here you will be fit and have many NVQs in subjects such as IT and core skills. You will also have the necessary skills and qualifications to work your way up the rank structure relatively quickly and eventually, maybe, get a commission and become an officer.

AN INSIGHT INTO LIFE AT THE AATC (ATFC OF THE NEXT MILLENIUM)

In the year 3001 at the Advanced Army Technical College (AATC), Intake OOA. I am writing this article to inform future ATs what it is like at the college. The Lifestyle at the college is pretty hectic, very little time to yourself. We get up at 0530hrs to parade outside at 0600hrs to go to scoff. PT every morning is for two hours. You then have a variety of lessons until drink break, then the lessons continue until evening meal. Then an evening tab (an average five to six miles). The rest of the evening we do our admin with a 15-minute NAAFI break in-between. Lights out is at 2200hrs. This is our average day.

Attitudes within the College ATs must always be positive and willing. Any signs of negative attitude and you get sent directly to the RSM, with the possibility of negligent discharge. The attitude towards discrimination of any kind is very strict. Any reported or rumoured incidents will be severely dealt with. The accommodation consists of a long wide corridor with lockers on one side and individual bed spaces opposite. The ablutions are at the end of the corridor. However they are not detached, it is all one room. Each accommodation block can hold a single Troop (around 30 ATs). Breakfast is at 0620hrs. Breakfast consists of a single

pill, this provides us with what we need to perform our duties of the day. At 1300hrs we stop for a drink supplement and at 1800hrs we take another pill, this is to help our bodies to recover for the next day. Our Equipment Our working dress consists of a lightweight inner suit and our main protection is a Biosuit, this gives us protection from blasts and shrapnel. The Bio-suit integrates with your body to give increased strength. The suit also gives a source of power supply, which can be used with telecommunications, equipment. We get given great in depth training on them, as they can be quite complicated. The helmets we are issued give complete head protection as well as built in communications systems, x10 magnification and infrared for night vision. Our personal weapon is a combined 5.20 rifle and a 40mm grenade launcher. When integrated with the optional display, the rifle can take out an enemy at 1000m. The round is a plastic cased chemically tipped bullet. The grenade launcher is effective up to 1200m and is capable of delivering chemical, biological and conventional explosives.

Our Training Programme consists of NBC, Drill, PT, Skill at Arms, Bio-suit Training, Inter-Planetary Operations, leadership Training, High level First Aid Training, exercises and education eg: Maths, IT, and Science. I hope this gives you an insight into life at the AATC and how you will be trained. I would be lying if I said that it's easy, but it is worthwhile when you pass off.

PENNEY TROOP - SENIOR TERM
Tp Comd **Lt Miles Booker**
Tp Sgt **CSgt** 'Digger' **Gardiner** RGBW

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP - *by AT Oxley*

It was around 1400hrs when Penney Tp arrived in Sennybridge, exhausted. (They hadn't even done anything yet). The EL staff laid down the law with a few rules and a briefing, then we all unpacked and settled in. The following morning we set off for the mountains. We learnt a lot of navigation skills and that we weren't as fit as we thought we were. We were the only group on Monday to reach the top of a beast, named Tan. I felt a sense of ride and physically drained. The next day was the big one - SNOWDON! It was hard, but we worked as a team and got through it. Sadly we didn't reach the summit, but I did nearly die jumping over a mineshaft. The walking brought out our strengths and weaknesses. Kayaking was the next activity on the agenda. We arrived at Swansea and got 'kitted up'. After we had our safety briefing we headed for the surf. I was absolutely petrified. The waves were crashing down on to my kayak and pushing me to the shore. I began to get in the 'mood' and started to ride the waves. I have never enjoyed myself that much before. Overall EL has been quite an experience. Different emotions have been rushing through my, head like Formula 1 cars on a racetrack. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself and have discovered the new me, (Scary Cat!)

LEADERSHIP WEEK - *by AT Eastell*

I enjoyed leadership week because of various reasons. The teamwork built up between the member of the section, in such a short time, was immense. Mainly because of the two stretcher races the section really started to learn a lot about each other. In some cases friendship became closer and others grew apart. The whole week, including the command tasks brought out the core values in everybody. The discipline to listen to the team leader. The selfless commitment to complete a set task. The courage to stick at the job in hand when things get difficult. Loyalty towards the team also stood out, as everyone wanted to complete the tasks. The survival night was educational, learning about all survival tips. I think it was important to take it in as it could happen to any of us. The building of shelters, fires etc was hard work but made easier by teamwork and kept the majority of us well through the night. The killing of a chicken for dinner was something I would never have done before and it tasted good! Leadership week was a good experience and I had a great time, as many things we do at the College, people who join adult entry don't get the chance to do, so I felt lucky and privileged.

LEADERSHIP WEEK - *by AT Moore*

Leadership is one of the most emphasised qualities at the Army Technical Foundation College and therefore one of the most important weeks at the College. It starts with some briefs from the CO and the Sqn OC about their thoughts about leadership and the qualities needed to be a leader. We were tested to the limit on our leadership skills and teamwork in our first stretcher race in which 110% was required and it was our job to ensure everyone was giving it. Survival night tested us again under pressure when we had to make our own shelters and fire to keep us warm for the night. The end of the week was marked with another final stretcher race to test our endurance and how the team had developed during the week; it was about heart and determination which everyone showed lots of and we all learned how to be a team. Overall it was a tiring but fun and successful week and it was enjoyed thoroughly by the whole Troop.

LEADERSHIP WEEK - *by AT Duncan*

On the first day of leadership week we had a lecture all morning on the qualities of a leader. Our first lecture was off **Lt Col D. A. McAvoy**. **Maj Raynor** gave the second lecture and the third lecture was by **WO2 (SSM) S. J. Hogan**. It was interesting finding out about when they were junior soldiers and finding all the qualities that leaders need or will gain. In the afternoon we did some Command Tasks. We learned the three ways you can do them, autocratic, democratic and silence. We learned that using just one of these ways wasn't good and you had to use at least autocratic and democratic. The first stretcher race was OK. We learned how to work as a team and who were the weakest and stronger members of the section. On Wednesday we had survival night. We had to kill skin and gut a chicken for food. When we got to the training area we had to build a shelter using logs and string and a plastic sheet. It had to be able to keep you dry and warm. We had to build a fire to keep warm and to cook our food on. We made some weapons and some traps to find and get food. When it got dark we did night navigation. We were given certain bearings and a distance and you had to find a bag and stamp your paper. It was quite hard in the dark and even harder if your pacing was out. On Thursday we went to Gibraltar Barracks and did command tasks. We each had to give people jobs, like time keeping. On Friday was the Intersection stretcher race. We had to get certain obstacles over the assault course, do Command tasks and run with the stretcher. The fastest section did it in 41 minutes. 3 Section worked really well as a team. As I am the weakest member they helped me a lot. I found it really hard, but they helped me keep going. Overall I enjoyed Leadership week a lot and I learned a lot including how to work in a team and how to motivate myself and others and about selfless commitment.

SCOTT TP - JUNIOR TERM
Tp Comd **Lt Nick Galle** AGC
Tp Sgt **Sgt Amanda Korchel**

VISIT BY WALLY HARRIS MM - 28 MAY 2001

As part of the Scott Tp Battlefield tour to Normandy, **Mr Wally Harris MM** was asked to lecture the Troop on his experiences of Operation Overlord, the codename for the initial operation of Allied Liberation of Europe. In 1944 **Sgt Harris** was a LAD Sergeant with the REME supporting the Royal Artillery in their push through northern France. The lecture was fascinating and reminded us all of the commitment and courage shown by the men of Operation Overlord, in the summer of 1944. It illustrated clearly that the role of war fighting is not exclusive to the combat arms. We must all, be proficient in the skills of our fundamental trade, soldiering.

Mr Harris had already played a role in the liberation of Sicily, at Field Marshall Montgomery's request for 'battle hardened troops'. He was to be sent on return from the fighting in the Mediterranean, straight into the training for the D-Day assault. **Mr Harris** landed on 6 June 1944 following the main assault on the beaches. Progress in-land was rapid but bloody, the Armoured Artillery Regiment was moving in column through the villages of north-west France when they were contacted by a heavy machine gun position from the flank. **Mr Harris** had the presence of mind to dismount from his vehicle and return fire. The German position was manned by 13 enemy troops, once **Mr Harris** had suppressed the incoming fire he rounded up some of his men and launched an attack, killing the remaining enemy and taking prisoners. For this **Mr Harris** won the Military Medal. Later in the campaign he was also nominated for a Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry, for saving a Guards Officer's life under heavy enemy fire. All this is hard come to terms with when being told by an eighty year-old man. One thing that **Mr Harris** was at pains to express, was how destructive war is and why Phase One training is so important. It teaches soldiers drills and skills that one day anyone of us may rely upon. Not only to save our own lives, but also those around us, regardless of cap badge. After the campaign **Mr Harris MM** came to Arborfield as an instructor at the College, he remains in good health living in Bracknell today.

Mr Wally Harris MM Lt 'Nice Suit' Galle
and members of Scott Troop

LIFE AS A SECTION COMMANDER AT THE ARMY TECHNICAL FOUNDATION COLLEGE
by Cpl Sawyers

The British Army is held in very high regard throughout the world, it is both respected and feared. I believe the reason for this is simple, it's mixture of sharp discipline, maintenance of high standards and above all tough training. The claims that today's Army has 'gone soft' are unfounded and are normally levelled by those who have no experience in

the training of apprentices. Training, particularly for apprentices, must be safe, achievable and above all, progressive. Safe training, however, does not mean boring or unadventurous and definitely does not mean 'soft'. You must make life for the apprentice challenging, you must push them further than he or she is used to, but you must allow for the apprentice to learn, give them time to profit, usually from their own mistakes. Life for the section commander at the College is more than just another posting, you have to be fully committed to all aspects of training the apprentice. Good leadership ability and very high standards are' a must. You must inspire the apprentice throughout the training with commitment, enthusiasm and by leading by example, 'follow me' rather than 'off you go'. As a section commander you must encourage healthy competition, praise or reward success and expose poor performance. Developing the 'will to win' between individuals, or as a team, will result in disciplined, more motivated soldiers. All apprentices regardless of rank, gender or ethnic origin must be given an equal chance otherwise you go against all the rules of team building. A section commander must be aware of all his or her subordinates' strengths and weaknesses, recognise the weaknesses and be prepared to spend time coaching or giving extra tuition. At the same time, praising strengths and rewarding good effort. Humour is a powerful tool in effective training, if it is used wisely. The apprentice will retain more information if the training is fun and he or she will be looking to learn more. However, the apprentice should not be ridiculed or made fun of just so the instructor can get a cheap laugh, nor must the essential points of training be left out. Discipline is still a major aspect in training today's apprentice. As a section commander you must be entirely clear as to what disciplinary powers you are allowed and what can be interpreted as bullying or abuse of authority. Regulations are clear and are normally published on orders, all disciplinary actions are recorded and open for inspection at any time. The apprentice very quickly learns where the line in the sand lies with all the section commanders. Life at the College for a section commander is, without doubt, very hard work, however, it is extremely rewarding. Turning a civilian into a soldier is a long process but is very rewarding. I still have the utmost respect for my Section Commander in training and will remember him forever, I am sure my apprentices feel the same way

ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT BASSINGBOURN

1 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj. F.E. Hargreaves**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A.V. Slaney**

The Squadron would like to extend a warm welcome to its latest SQMS, **SSgt (SQMS) Shaun Fleming** and his wife **Katie**, fresh in from 34 (N) Sig Regt (V) in Hartlepool. It seems the new SQMS cannot keep away as this is his second time at the ATR. True to the Royal Signals tradition of in at the deep end, he competed for the Squadron in the Inter Squadron Athletics, played Regimental cricket and took part in the Inter-Squadron rowing competition within his first two weeks. At present the new SQMS is in the process of writing risk assessments, COSHH reports, updating shelving registers and doing all of his fire checks for the Squadron (welcome to the Army of the 21st Century).

The Squadron would like to say goodbye and congratulations to the outgoing SQMS, **SSgt** now **WO2 (SSM)** 'Paddy (five lines)' **Townley** who leaves the Squadron to take up his new post as SSM 264 Sig Sqn. The 2IC, **Capt Adrian Scott** thought that the old SQMS used the Squadron as his own personnel R+R centre away from 264 Sig Sqn, as he must have had the shortest posting in Corps history, seven weeks to be precise. Also we wish good luck to **Capt Scott** during his period standing in for the Adjutant. The SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Tony Slaney** has once again proved his physical prowess by representing the Squadron in the javelin, high jump and 400 metres at the Inter-Squadron Athletics (where the Squadron finished in a creditable third place). Also in the Inter-Squadron Duathlon (run, bike, run) and rowing competition.

Meanwhile the OC, **Maj Fred Hargreaves** has just returned from a week's all-inclusive holiday in Turkey where he has been busy brushing up on his tennis and working extremely hard on his suntan. Hope enjoyed your well-earned rest Boss.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Sarah Irwin**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Si Roughton**

The Troop has undergone major restructuring over the last two months. Farewells to **Sgt Paul Conroy** who has been posted to his family in Northern Ireland and to **Cpl Dave** 'NIMDA' **Knowler** and wife **Emma** who have gone to 30 Sig Regt. The Troop welcomes **Sgt Si Roughton**, his wife **Karen** and 'bump.' The Troop also welcomes **Cpl** 'Paddy (really Derek)' **Niell** and his family who joined us in March from 14 Sig Regt. 'Special mentions' from the last CMS(R) go to **Cpl Flo Watts** for his help on Mid Ex and to the rest of C Tp in general for their lesson cover that was given to us despite their exceptionally busy programme. **Cpl Mark Brenen**, A Tp must be congratulated for his efforts in raising over £900 by organising an inter-section basketball competition in wheelchairs! The money will go towards the purchase of a wheelchair for the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball team. The friends and relatives of the Sappers (and three Signallers) are thanked for their generosity. The members of A Troop are looking forward with curiosity to the next CMS(R)!

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Darren Talbot** RE
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mac McIntyre**

Another 35 high quality recruits have (nearly) made it through Phase 1 training as we write… only Final Exercise and passing off the square left to go. Goodbye to possibly the shortest tour Troop Commander in the history of the Troop, **Capt Darren Talbot** (RE) is off to pastures new (without green kit) as an area manager for Aldi… but not before poaching OC Foxtrot Tp, **Capt** 'Jacko' **Jackson** to join him in the retail industry. Foot & Mouth has caused a few hiccups along the way, with the introduction of new training areas to the ATR programme and the cancellation of the traditional Adventure drinking (I mean training!) This now takes place locally, but it does bring dry-slope skiing into the program, along with kayaking at the White Water Centre in Nene – a truly terrifying experience for many of the recruits – but that is the aim of adventure training isn't it? **Cpl Matt Witham** and **Cpl** 'Smudge' **Smith** are settling in well, both still managing to avoid the dreaded ITGIS course so far, although **Smudge** does have the second part of his OASAA course to do in a couple of weeks. **Cpl Danny Cooper** is currently away learning how to achieve the co-ordination of a baby rhino on his Drill instructors course and the rest of the training team (that'll be **Sgt** 'Mac' **MacIntyre** and **Cpl Andy Doyle**) are looking forward to a well-deserved training break.

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Ben Howarth**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Harry Ramsden**

The glorious Charlie Tp has once more swung into action following an enforced stand-down. Now surviving on a wing and an OC's prayer an entirely new team of NCOs have joined the merry throng. **Bdr** 'Is that the time?' **Cole** has begun to amuse with his constant failure to quite make it and we are quietly hoping not to have to put this on his week twelve report! **Cpls** 'Constant Flow' **Watts** and 'Time I was going' **West** have joined the ATR from 3 (UK) Div and thus far are really rising to the challenge of the training environment. Last but far from least is **Cpl** 'Where's the gym?' **Darby** who's talent on the athletics field was a great asset in the inter-Squadron competition. The elusive OC, **Capt** 'It's a course, honest' **Howarth** has been making his absence felt disappearing off swimming and coming back tanned for much abuse. Portsmouth, sure that's not Portugal? Lastly it would be amiss not to mention **Sgt** 'I'm in training' **Ramsden** for his starring role in the Troop 'Spot the Sergeant in the gym and win a pie' competition. **Sgt Ramsden** is sadly leaving the Troop at the end of this CMS(R) to go back to the field Army and his sense of spirit and good humour will be sorely missed.

DELTA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt H. J. Scott**
Tp Sgt **Sgt D. K. Icke**

Delta Troop has just waved a fond farewell to the last intake of recruits, who by now will be in Blandford ready to start their trade training. Almost immediately the new intake has arrived bringing us forty-four Sappers ready to be educated by a Royal Signals training team. The last intake went without a hitch despite the best efforts of Foot and Mouth disease to interfere with the training programme. Notable highlights included spending Ex First Night in the woods next to the NAAFI, skiing on the dry ski slope at Ipswich for adventurous training and a map reading exercise on the airfield! The adventurous training package was memorable due to the spectacular crashes of **Cpls** 'No brakes' **Campbell** and 'Arctic Warrior' **Bazzard**, who were both outdone by **Sig Burrows** who managed to go the entire length of the ski lift backwards. Throughout the past twelve weeks **Capt** 'Kindness is weakness' **Scott** has continued to surprise the recruits with his novel approach to welfare issues. Meanwhile **Cpl** 'Time off' **Payton** continues to work on her tan in Blandford, whilst allegedly completing her Class One upgrading course. **Cpl** 'All the gear' **Gough** continues to motivate his recruits whilst amassing more equipment than he knows what to do with and winning the CO's competition for Best Section along the way. **Sgt** 'Dougie' **Icke** continues to extort money from recruits' parents, for the National Deaf Children's Charity, whilst training for the army triathlon in June. Best of luck Dougie!

Delta Troop
on the ski slope during the Adventure Training package

ECHO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Chris Biddulph**
Tp Sgt **Sgt** 'Billie' **Piper**

This month has yet again been an eventful one for Echo 'Echotubbies' Troop, 1 Trg Sqn, with the training and Pass off of another twenty-eight free spirits going forth to the field Army. The usual characters were there to make it an interesting intake, special thanks to the following: **Sgt** 'Admin' **Piper**, 'is that really my job and what is wrong with going on to the RSM's rehearsal without a sash'. **Cpl** 'Half a job Bob' **Green**, whose belief that working hard the last week will make up for it, is just not withstanding. Of course we cannot forget the actual recruits, so the best moment has to go to **Sig Harvey** who left a very suspicious pair of leopard skin pants in his shell scrape when 'Bugged Out'. Not that he was made to wear them for a while afterwards over his uniform! We would like to give a special thanks to **Cpl Smith** of Bravo Tp, for the unbreakable morale and help he brought onto our final exercise, as our own NCO's keep hurting themselves! Finally huge congratulations to our robust leader **Capt** 'Iron-Buttocks' **Biddulph**, for raising a grand amount of money for charity at the London Marathon, and managing a proud personal time of two hours and forty-nine minutes.

FOXTROT TROOP

Tp OC **Capt Dave Jackson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Craig Purdon**

This month has seen the mighty trots receive yet another bunch of recruits who are just bursting with energy, which is becoming far too much for the rapidly aging training team. Hello to **Cpl** 'Blacky' **Blacklock** from 1 Div who must be at least 100 years old, (and looks every day of it). **Cpl Dale King** is still being threatened with his drill course but keeps relying on the old excuse that the dog ate his pace-stick. **Capt Jackson** is now much more mature and sensible now that he has reached 26 but his claim for benefits to pay Squadron funds is falling on deaf ears. We have also been joined by **Cpl** 'Ann Marie' **Ambury** who takes our ginger contingent up to two along with **Sgt Craig** 'Strawberry Blonde' **Purdon**. For anybody wishing to contact us we will be either on the golf course, the athletics track or hiding from SHQ.

FAREWELL TO THE SQUADRON AND THE CORPS

by WO2 (SSM) A. V. Slaney

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Officers and Soldiers with whom I have served with over my last 23 years in the Army. In particular are all of those individuals with whom I have had the honour of serving with here, in 1 (Training) Squadron at the Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn (especially my lifesaver **Maria**, our beloved Sqn Clerk). The quality of these people here at the Training Regiment has been extraordinary and has meant that over the last year I could concentrate on my resettlement and planning for my future outside of the Corp. Both **Debbie** and I will no doubt shed a tear or two as we are going through the gates on Friday 20 July 2001 for the last time, but the memory of those 23 happy years will remain forever.

Bassingbourn has been an absolute dream post for my last 3fi years and is one that I thoroughly recommend to any fellow Warrant Officer who enjoys being around extremely competent people, enjoys a challenge and wants a very rewarding and satisfying tour. A final thank you goes to **WO2 (CSM)** 'Taff (Junior)' **Jolly** for acting as my wingman during his time here 'cheers bud'.

I start my new life as a Police Officer on Monday 23 July 2001, so thankfully I will not have enough time to become maudlin or morose. I do hope that I bump into members of the Corps both past and present in my future life and please remember, if you have eight digits in your Regimental number you will probably be safe. If you only have six digits, chances are you will have dipped out.

'Good luck, good hunting and goodbye.'

NEWS FROM THE BALKANS

MULTI-NATIONAL BRIGADE (CENTRE) HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON OPERATION AGRICOLA 5

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Peel**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Miles Webb**

NEWS FROM KOSOVO

There have been split feelings in the Squadron since you read our last entry in *The WIRE*. There are some who would say that they can barely remember R & R, let alone ever working in Catterick. Others can barely believe that we have already been here 115 days and only have 25 to push (oh for the short whistle-stop summer tours – unlucky 20 Bde).

As the tour has progressed, things have become a little easier as we have learned some of the little tricks and easy way around problems. However, we have not been short of work, especially as we have recently lost a large number of people to R & R. Add to this the three or four days after R & R when people still require 'motivation' to do any work, and it all adds up. Our tasks for the last few months have not changed much with the exception of the locations. We've spent plenty of time deployed out of our own Brigade's area, working with both Brits and Scandinavians, as well as sitting on hill-top sites in peaceful bliss with no RSMs to 'find' jobs for us.

Once again, it hasn't all been work. The Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess had a number of highly successful functions, including dog-racing, Zulu, Commitments and Blues Brothers' nights, and the XL bar brought in the Irish Transport Regiment band and had a charity games night. Thanks to initiative and groundwork from **WO2s Steve Legg** and 'Sammy' **Samanjoul**, a band called 'Silk and Steel' came and gave us an open-air concert, playing for about four hours in total. The guys were a lot better singers than the girls, but nobody seemed to care as heads were continually pointing in the direction of the women. Even **Cpl Grant** 'Dougie' **McDougall** from Support Troop claimed to be having a good night!

CIVIL MILITARY OPERATIONS – *by Capt Alex Clixby.*

Throughout Op Agricola 5, 209 Sig Sqn have identified and undertaken numerous CMO tasks with the aim of helping the local Kosovan population; both the Serbian and Albanian communities. So far, we have managed to raise approximately £4,000 through donations from various organisations and from charity events that we have held. One such event was a sponsored abseil down Pristina's tallest building, the PTK tower that stands at 69 metres. From this abseil **2Lt Graham** 'The Boy' **Clarke**, **LCpl** 'Shaggy' **Palmer**, **LCpl Jase Whitehead** and myself raised just under £1,000.

The registered Domain Name for the Beverley Boys' Archive - beverleyboysarchive.co.uk

One last photo to remember them by
in case 2Lt Clarke's knots aren't quite up to scratch
(L-R): LCpls 'Shaggy Palmer and Jase Whitehead,
Capt Alex Clixby and 2Lt Graham Clarke

In all 86 'volunteers', from all over the Multi National Brigade (Centre) AO, abseiled off the building. This included the OC, **Maj Paul Peel** and **WO1 (RSM) Miles** 'I hate heights!' **Webb, LCpl** 'Shaggy' **Palmer** and **LCpl Jase Whitehead** also successfully completed the grueling 'Mile up, Mile down' sponsored event, where they climbed the steps from ground floor to roof of the PTK tower and then abseiled off – 25 times in total! It was an exceptional effort, although the pair of them did look rather worse for wear by the end of it. The money raised has been used to purchase an ECG machine for the hospital (all the money for this was donated by SOS Albania) and six new wooden benches for the hospital waiting room.

Sig Danny Watson and LCpl Kelly Wellburn caught on camera
carrying the newly made benches into Pristina Hospital

I also wrote letters to two schools in Darlington asking them for toys and games for the children at Pristina hospital. After an assembly visit from **SSgt** (Now Sergeant Major, well done **Jase**!) **Jase** 'Impress the children' **Smithurst**, both the teachers and children at Firthmoor and Dodmire Junior School decided that they would like to help – who could resist that dashing figure in a set of combats?! Both schools managed to collect an amazing ten MFO boxes full of toys and games. These were delivered by **Capt Simon Bristow**, **WO1 (RSM) Miles Webb**, **SSgt** 'Tug' **Wilson, Cpl** 'Zippy' **Hill** REME, **LCpl Greg Robinson**, **LCpl Kelly Wellburn**, **LCpl** 'Woody' **Wood**, **Sig Danny Watson**, **Sig Steve Shaw**, **Sig** 'Scissors' **Whittaker** and myself. The 'kids' were delighted, as were the children at the hospital when we started handing out toys. It was great to see the youngsters, many of whom have had pretty miserable lives, smiling and laughing.

In order to show parity to the Serbian community, we have now shifted our focus to them. **Maj Roddy** 'Dark Horse' **Sutherland** of 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) planned a visit to the Serbian YU project building in Pristina. Approximately 120 Serbians live in the YU Project, a 'self contained' block of flats near the city centre. The residents cannot really leave unless under escort and the building is permanently guarded by soldiers from the UK Battle Group based in the City. The visit was to give toys, food and stationary to the children; it was a great success and ended with **Maj Sutherland**, **Capt Simon Bristow**, **WO1 (RSM) Webb** and myself (again) invited to the one and only shop for some food and drink. We could not decline this hospitality especially when red wine produced at the Serbian Monastery of Gracanica was offered!

We had a great time and were hosted so nicely by the Serbians; I was even adopted by a 50 year old Serbian woman, as I looked like her son (lucky man!). This part of the trip highlighted that the shop didn't have a freezer and could therefore not stock much of the foodstuffs that the residents wanted. During the course of our time there and after a few glasses of Monastery wine, we decided that we would purchase a freezer for the shop, using our money raised in the abseil. We later presented this to a very happy shopkeeper! With just three weeks of this tour left to go, we still have a few more projects planned at a few Serbian enclaves and we also have a sponsored 10km fun run to look forward to. Hopefully we can provide a bit of happiness for some of the locals of Kosovo.

HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Simon Bristow**
Tp SSgts **SSgts Eric Williams** and 'Tug' **Wilson**

Life in Headquarters Troop has been 'interesting' and varied for the last couple of months. In the COMMCEN it has been quiet by usual standards, especially in the last month, because everybody ingeniously decided to take their R & R at the same time. Among those missing 'la action' were **LCpls Jase Whitehead**, **Kelly Garrett** and **Greg Robinson**, who had extended extended leave as his wife had his 15th child. Also gone but not forgotten were **Cpl Billy Russell** and **Sgt** 'Scarlet Pimpernel' **Clarkson**, (though it is unknown whether he is on R & R or an extended gym break). To fill in the gaps, the COMMCEN liberated **LCpls** 'H' **Dickson** and 'Love Machine' **Wood** from Rover Tp and **Sig Suzie Perkin** all the way from COMMCEN Herford. Welcome to you all. These new additions however couldn't ensure that the COMMCEN personnel could break the laws of physics ie be on guard duty AND shift at the same time. This minor hiccup was more than offset by the major high point of the month: sandwiches in the night rations! Although it's not certain whether this will be enough for **Cpl Billy** 'Black Hole' **Russell** or **LCpl Glen** 'Rabid Dig' **Armitage**! Next door, however, it is another end of a quiet month in the NCC as the end of the tour approaches. Hand over notes are quickly being scribbled down onto random Post-It notes and **Staff Paul Brannon** has now finally realised that it is too late to sort out the ever troublesome Helpdesk, (but with the new hands-free kit all we need now are short skirts and nail varnish)!

The CLEO team has been busy with their DAGGER det (not BALOO, Yeoman!!), touring Kosovo and making sure that everyone can call everyone else. They had troubles but with a little hard work, a lot of head-scratching by **Sgt Mark Brundle** and absolutely no sleep they managed to get everything in and working – well done lads! **Cpl** 'Ski' **McKie** would like to pass his thanks on to the Whitehall operators for all the bone calls he has had to deal with including 'Do you have the number for Pte Smith? I think he is in the DWR'

The OATIS computer network team has also been busy ensuring that the staff all have their work to take home with them. **Cpl Kev** 'Has my hair grown back yet?' **Duggan** has been keeping the INTRANET up to date (although his wit has not pleased everyone), and **Sgt Andy** 'chat master' **McNeil** has been spending more and more time on the internet chatting to dirty women under the name of 'Little Man In The Boat'!

The POLYGON team has been extremely busy sunning themselves. **Sig** 'Mikey' **Whatmough** can't get any browner and the staff of the NCC has forgotten what **Sgt Lenny** 'Lord Lucan' **Martin** looks like. Some guys get all the easy jobs, but not as easy as **Cpl** 'Mac – what is his first name?' **McMullen** who is war-dodging back in the UK following a very poofy wrist injury – how did you get it again?

In the higher echelons, **Staff Brannon** and **Yeoman Wright** (but mainly Wrong!) have admitted defeat and have finally let the lads get on with it, as everybody else is looking forward to going home and leaving the Network Control Centre MNB(C) in the capable hands of 7 Brigade. Good luck lads, you're going to need it; you have a hard act to follow! Finally, a temporary 'á bientôt' to **SSgt** 'Taff' **Williams** who's headed back to the UK to prepare Catterick for our return, and welcome to **SSgt** 'Tug' **Wilson**, recently posted into the unit, who's filling his shoes for just long enough to join us on the medal parade!

LCpls Mark Carlisle (3 Div) and Kelly Garrett (19 Bde) officially
celebrate the joining of augmentees to the Force Signal Squadron

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Graham Clarke**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Andy Allen**

Spirits are high, the weather is fantastic and sights are firmly set on the imminent arrival of 7 Brigade. Its satisfying to know that we will be well and truly into our leave by the time this issue of *The WIRE* hits the press, however equally sobering to realize that reading this article in the latest *WIRE* will signify our return from post operational tour leave. Back to the present. Certain worrying trends have become apparent over the past couple of months; firstly there are an alarming number of 'Slim Shady' wannabes sprouting up around the place, claiming sanctuary under the fact(?) that their jet black hair naturally goes blonde in the sun. Personally, I can see the legitimacy of their claim and pointed out to them how I experienced a similar problem; some confidential reports turn from 'A's to 'B's in the sun .....how uncanny! The Troop has continued its charity work with extraordinary efforts coming from **LCpl** 'Shaggy' **Palmer**, who partnered by **LCpl Jase Whitehead** and assisted by **2Lt Graham Clarke** and **Capt Alex Clixby**, organised a highly successful charity abseil day. Thanks goes out to **LBdr** 'The Bomb' **McKelvie** for his outstanding efforts, filling one of our augmented posts in theatre. Good luck with the light gun conversion and enjoy Canada! Also to **LCpl** 'She'd get it' **Lawson**, **LCpl** 'Mono' **Ryan**, **Sig Daveney**, **Pte** 'Orvil' **Knight**, **Spr** 'Marty' **Martin** and **Gnr** 'Willy' **Wilson** for an interesting and lively tour. We'd happily have you back anytime.....cheers lads!

The Troop welcomes new arrivals **LCpls Si** and **Sharon Johns** from 1 Div, also **Cpl Tweddell** from 3 Inf Bde. 17 days to go! Watch out Harry's Bar, **Jen Galley** is amongst those returning.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Maj Dave Sacree**

We have been here in Kosovo for just over three months and Support Troop have started to draw up handover plans ready for 7 Bde to come and take over. The Troop has taken on extra commitments with the deployment of a small detachment of troops to the border in a recent skirmish with the (former) baddies, which meant **Sgt Mark** 'Daddy' **Brundle** and **LCpl Kelbie** 'Bertie' **Bassett** actually having to do some work for once. Goodbyes to our beloved members of the Troop who are leaving, **Cpls Tony** 'Papa Hair' **Raby** and **Darren** 'Benger' **Clough** and farewell to one of the loudest men ever, **Sig Ian** 'Ten-men' **Garbutt** soon to be lance corporal. Congratulations to **Ian** and the best of luck to **Tony** and **Daz** on their Class 1 at Blandford.

NEWS FROM NORTHEN IRELAND

XV

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND AND 15 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col M. P. Llewellyn**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) McNaught**

RHQ has seen even more movement this month, with a big thank you and farewell to the Chief Clerk, **WO2 Andrea Dunford**, who is off to join her husband in Germany. They will spend their summer in Kosovo - a strange choice for their holiday destination! Our best wishes also go with the Duty Movement Clerk, **Mrs Julie Adamson**, who is taking a two-year sabbatical for the birth of her second child. Very warm welcomes are extended to **Mrs Rosemarie Benson** and **WO2 Lynn Modrick** - both of whom have hit the ground running, with no chance of a warm up! The Commanding Officer celebrated his selection for promotion to Colonel in style, allegedly finishing at 0500hrs the following morning. Congratulations from all of the Regiment, Sir. He has assured us that he will remain in Command for his full tour, and it is doubtful that his working hours will reduce. With various top-level procedural reviews going on the changes look set to continue within the Regt, G6 Branch and HQNI. With the Marching Season almost upon us and having had a week of sunshine in May, the summer holiday is over.

MERCURY CUP ATHLETICS - THURSDAY 19 APRIL 2001

by LCpl Mates

The Mercury Cup Athletics competition was held in conjunction with the CO's Cup Athletics competition on Thursday 19 April 2001 at Lisburn Station. For those who aren't sure what the difference is, the CO's Cup is a Regimental Inter-Squadron Competition and the Mercury Cup is competed for by all the Signal Squadrons within Province. We could not have asked for a nicer day for the weather. As a result not only did we have all the competitors at this competition but many supporters too! Although the event was hard fought with some star performances throughout, the day certainly belonged to 233 Sig Sqn with undisputed victory. Worthy of note is the 233 girls' team who won every event! This included the high jump for **Cpl** 'High Flyer' **Louise Parker,** and the long jump, triple jump and 400m for **LCpl** 'Leaping' **Leah Mates.** The 100m and 100m hurdles were won by **LCpl Lindsey Rakocevic**, who also won the shot putt. **LCpl Vanessa Brown** steamed her way into an easy first place in the 200m. **Cpl** 'Sonny' **Lake** triumphed in the 800m and discus, and the javelin was secured by **Cpl Billy Beaumon**. Finally the 1500m was won by **Lt Liz McLellan**. As for the men, HQ Sqn put up a strong fight including **SSgt Butler** keeping up his usual outstanding performance all the way. The Squadron chain-of-command team strode to victory in the final race with **Capt Rob Hamilton** completing the final 400m with a comfortable lead. With strong athletes in all three Squadrons the male Morrison Cup team promises to be elite. As this article is published in August, we'll know by then if the self-confidence was justified!

If you've lost contact with an old friend, serving or retired, whh not put an advert in the LOST COMMS column of *The WIRE*?

LCpl Buttita (right) powering home to win
the Mercury Cup 4 x 100m Relay

NI SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEDNESDAY 2 MAY 2001

by Sig Moore

The Northern Ireland Swimming and Waterpolo Championships were held at Thiepval Bks on Wednesday 2 May 2001. There were several major and minor units from around the Province competing for the title - the Regiment fielded a male and female team. The male team won by a clear lead and the females finished in sixth place. As a consequence the Regimental team will now be competing in the Army Swimming Championships - congratulations and best of luck to the team on the 27 June!

The 15 Sig Regt and HQNI Sp Bn Waterpolo team looking very
smart in their bonnets!

REGIMENTAL FENCING TEAM

by Lt Liz McLellan

For the second time the Regiment was represented at the Army Fencing Championships held in Aldershot over the period 1-4 May 2001. Although some of the more experienced fencers were unable to attend due to career courses, it was good to see some enthusiastic 'new blood'. A Regimental grant has enabled the formation of the 'Theipval Cavaliers'. The fencing club is run predominately by members of 15 Sig Regt. However, all service personnel are welcome to be club members. The Thiepval Cavaliers already have support from 25 Engr Regt in Antrim and local external unit members include personnel from JCU (NI), Pioneers, 6 Regt RMP and 39 Inf Bde. Members of the club represented their own units with style at the Army Championships and individuals have subsequently been selected to represent the Army in the inter-Services at HMS *Temeraire*.

Army Fencing Championships - Female Sabre

REGIMENTAL GOLF COMPETITION - THURSDAY 3 MAY

by Capt Tim Grey

Unfortunately it seems as though the Regt's involvement within the Province Golf competitions is almost over before it has begun! In the NI AGA Scratch competition the Regt was represented by **Sgt Ross Menzies** (team captain), **Maj Jamie Deans, Sgt Lyndon Box** and **LCpl** 'Dinger' **Bell**. Unfortunately we were drawn against a team from 7 R Irish who seem to play rather a lot of golf in NI. We managed to win one of the four matches but are now out of the competition, having fallen at the first. Talking of falling at the first, both the I Tp and 225 Sig Sqn teams entered into the NI Handicap competition and were thrashed in the first round by 4 R IRISH and 7 R IRISH respectively (it's those semi-pro R Irish again!). However, the G6/NCC team managed to win their first round match against JSG (NI) and so the hopes of the Regiment now rest firmly on their shoulders.

NI ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEDNESDAY 9 MAY

by Sgt Hopkins

The Northern Ireland Athletics Championships were held at Thiepval Bks on Wednesday 9 May 2001. The Championships were open to major, minor and female teams - although attendance from around the Province was poor. The first race started at 1000hrs with the sun beaming down and hardly a cloud in the sky. From the start 15 Sig Regt gained an impressive lead in the major Unit competition, securing First and Second place in the majority of events. The Ulster weather held out remarkably well and by the end of the afternoon most of the team had at least one medal each, the team silver and a healthy sun tan.

Capt McLean and Capt Foulkes battle it out in the Major Unit 800m

CO'S CUP CRICKET COMPETITION - THURSDAY 24 MAY

by Sgt Berry

With 225 Sig Sqn being the current CO's Cup trophy holders and HQ Sqns' cricket veterans, this was the perfect opportunity to stop 233 Sig Sqn's current winning streak in this years CO's Cup Competition. Unfortunately this was not to be! 233 Sig Sqn romped home to a 2-1 win with good batting scores and **Capt Grey's** 'school of bowling' demonstrations. In second place was 225 Sig Sqn with a memorable batting performance from **WO2 (Supvr R)** 'Big 6' **Gardner** coupled with the steady partnership of **Sgt** 'Golden Duck' **Berry** and **Cpl** 'On the chest' **Nash**. In third place was HQ Sqn with **Sgt Drewett** directing play and their 'almost' perfect plans! The weather was perfect and all the teams played with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

The 225 Sig Sqn cricket team looking just a little too relaxed in the glorious Ulster sunshine

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj D. T. H. Wilson**
A/SSM **SSgt Gratrick**

COMMCEN TROOP - *by LCpl Hayden*

Tp Comd **Capt S. A. Dixon**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Ripley**

April was a big month of change for COMMCEN Tp. The most significant event was the installation of AMSCERPS into the COMMCEN to replace the CMS system. This has meant a steep learning curve and lots of hard work for all involved in the transition period. We have also said farewell to four members of the Tp - **Cpl** 'Richie' **Evans, Sig Dave Green, Sig Pippa Henderson** and **Sig Nigel Green**. Congratulations to **Sig Nigel Green** who is posted on promotion and good luck to you all in your new jobs in Germany.

MOTOR TRANSPORT TROOP

MT SSgt **SSgt O'Brien**

Yet again it has been another busy period for 15 Sig Regt MT. In addition to the normal jobs we also had to amalgamate our MT with the other main MT in Lisburn Stn to create 54 Tpt Sqn, RLC. Everyone worked hard to move all the equipment across to the new MT, less **SSgt O'Brien** who was on leave! There was a fond farewell function for everyone in the MT prior to the move and now everyone has settled in fine at the new Stn MT and are working hard - 'some things never change'. The new OC HQ Sqn, **Maj Wilson** presented all the departing drivers with their Regimental 'Cats'. We'd like to welcome **Sig Porter** to the Troop and would like to congratulate **Sig Reveley** and **Karen** on their first child **Owen**. We'd like to bid a fond farewell to **Sig Stott, Sig Reveley, Sig Dunham**, and **Sig Fawcett** who are all posted on promotion, and **LCpl Lister** who is posted to 7 Signal Regiment, we wish them all the best at their new Units.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj M. J. Smith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Thorne**

ECHO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt F. A. W. Stewart**
Tp SSgt **SSgt (Supvr R) Piears**

A huge turnover of personnel has kept everyone busy over the last period. We wish **JT Sid Churm** and **Cpl Col West** all the very best for their future outside the Forces and thank them for all their time and effort over the past ten years. A big thank you to **WO2 (Supvr R) Paul Gardner, SSgt (Supvr R) Dunn** and **SSgt (Suvpr R) Marrs** for their combined 12 years service with the Squadron - all the best in your 'easy life' at JSSU Digby. Many thanks and the best for the future to **SSgt (Supvr R) Jacklin** who has finally escaped the stress of being Troop Staff Sergeant to move to greater things with EOD - you will be missed by all of the Troop. Also farewell to **SSgt (Supvr R) Hill** who moves across to EOD and congratulations to yourself, **SSgt (Supvr R) Ball** and **SSgt (Supvr R) Marrs** on your recent successful completion of the arduous Supvr R Cse. Thank you to the roulement personnel who keep the pressure off our posted operators - **LCpl Buttita, CPO Cook**, and **CPO Bevan** - it was an experience and a pleasure to hear your naval lantern-swinging anecdotes! All the best to **Sgt Si Gray** who has left the Reporters Section and moved to 2 MI Bn, Bulford. Finally thank-you and all the best to **Capt Fi Stewart** who short-tours to become Adjt, 31 (CofL) Sig Regt (V).

Welcome back to **Cpl Evans, Cpl Fox** and **Cpl Kennedy** who have returned having successfully completed their T1 upgrading courses. Also congratulations on the completion of your Supvr R Cse and welcome to **SSgt (Supvr R) Ashworth** and **SSgt (Supvr R) Brooke**, and welcome back **to SSgt (Supvr R) Ball**. Welcome also to **Sgt Wright, Cpl Bebbington, Cpl Hauxwell** and **Cpl Nash** who have been posted in. Welcome also to **Cpl Dingsdale, Cpl Pilgrim, LCpl Baker, LCpl Walters** and **JT Kennedy** who have arrived for roulement tours over the summer. Congratulations to **LCpl Halliday** on his well deserved selection for promotion.

On 18 May, Charlie Watch and a small contingent of the Reporters Section enjoyed a long and hard paintballing (shooting each other mostly in the head!) on a rare sunny day in Ballykinler. The combatants were **SSgt (Supvr R) Paul** 'Not in the head again' **Rowlands, SSgt Tony** 'Sniper' **Dodds, Sgt Mark** 'Gunner' **Hopkins, Cpl Dave** 'Head Shot' **Salter, Cpl Ollie** 'Not the goggles again' **Hardy, Cpl Mark** 'Where is the flag?' **Warburton, LCpl Chris** 'Can't see a thing' **Telling, LCpl** 'Can't hit me' **Fletcher** and **JT Davey** 'Cannon Fodder' **Hyndman**. After several hot and gruelling matches the grand finale was a duel at ten paces between **SSgt (Supvr R) Rowlands** and **JT Hyndman** (only because they had paintballs left!). They stood back to back in the heat of the sun and **SSgt (Supvr R) Rowlands** ran his ten paces and shot **JT Hyndman** in the back of the head - he fell to the ground like a bag of spuds! When **JT Hyndman** came to his senses they had a re-match which resulted in **SSgt (Supvr R) Rowlands** being chased by **JT Hyndman** around the battleground. An excellent day out was had by all and nobody left without bruises or war wounds.

GOLF TROOP

Tech Adjt **Capt R. J. Craig**
FofS **WO2 (FofS) Roberts**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Wilson**

It has been an extremely busy period for G Tp, with all the Troop hierarchy changing. We warmly welcome **Capt Craig, WO2 (FofS) Roberts, SSgt (FofS) Leach, Cpl Gray, Cpl Caffrey, Cpl Hayward, Cpl Pearson, Cpl Carrington** and **Cpl Barmby**. We sadly say farewells to **Cpl Matt** 'Pie Eater' **Williams** who moves on to sunny Blandford and **SSgt Paul** 'Who?' **Davey** who is off to do some gardening in Middlesborough. A big pat on the back goes to the three 'time off boys' **Sgts John Hatch, Lyndon Box** and **Craig Brankin** on being selected for the FofS course. We would like to congratulate **Cpl Lee Punyer** on spending seven weeks on leave with stomach pain - we wish you a fast recovery.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt P. R. Griffiths**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Milne**

Another busy time for Sp Tp with lots of faces changing. Welcome to **Cpl** 'Pickles' **Hayward, LCpl Blundell** and **Sig James.** A sad good-bye is said to **Sgt Dave Milne** who leaves us to move to 12 MI Coy on promotion to Staff Sergeant and **Cpl** 'Richie' **Holmes** on his promotion to Sergeant. He has moved to Middle Wallop to work with the Diesel Pigeons. Finally and most importantly a 'fond farewell' to our NEW Volkswagen Passat, gone but not forgotten! It has been re-allocated to the Commanding Officer. Congratulations to **Mrs Alison Graham** who was awarded the Army Families Federation Rose Bowl 2001. It must be the first time our **Alison** has ever been stuck for words! Well done to **Cpl** 'General Fred' **Deas** on his engagement to **Belinda** and on passing his RSJCC. Tissues were handed out throughout the male population of the Squadron when **LCpl** 'Barbie Doll' **Kendall** became engaged, a sad day indeed for mankind! Congratulations to **WO2 (SSM)** 'Technology' **Thorne** on passing his CLAIT course. He now uses his computer for work instead of drying his towels on it. Thank you very much to **Capt Fi** 'I'm a lady' **Stewart** for redecorating the exterior of one of the Squadron cars on the way to the airport after **WO2 (Supvr R) Paul Gardner's** leaving party.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj A. N. Walker**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Tasker**

First a very warm welcome to our new, permanent SSM fixture, **WO2 (SSM) Pete Tasker** who has joined us from Blandford. The Squadron also thanks **SSgt Rob Allen** for all the hard work and effort he has put in as A/SSM over the last period. Yet again, 233 Sig Sqn has been on the move. This has seen a greater consolidation of the Squadron geographically with SHQ, R Tp and TM Tp occupying the now refurbished Bldg 31. NCC remains 'down under' and poor old I Tp have been left behind, but still close at hand, over the road. Adventure Training season has arrived once more and thanks to the efforts of **Sgt Mann** and **SSgt Allen** it is well underway despite the restrictions imposed by Foot and Mouth outbreaks. Members of the Squadron have recently enjoyed a week in Enniskillen at the Adventure Training Centre where there was the opportunity for various water activities including canoeing and water skiing. By the time this reaches press Squadron personnel will also have experienced the joys of sailing onboard the 'Moyle Maiden'. Watch this space for stories of sea sickness!

INDIA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt T. Grey**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Menzies**

The last few months have seen nothing out of the ordinary for the Troop. However, many exercises are now planned for the end of the year in far out places such as Florida and Nepal, let's hope they come off! Firstly our hellos - a big welcome goes out to **Cpl Turner** who will be joining the Troop for a short period of time and also to **Cpl Mark Corber**. A goodbye goes out to **SSgt Mick Knowles** who leaves the Army - all the best to him and his family in his new career with NOKIA. **Cpl Jeff** 'Jeffers' **Ford** has also left us for bigger (but not better!) things within COMMCEN Tp after only a few months and also farewell to **LCpl Mark** 'Ogri' **Manby** who leaves us for the delights of 7 Sig Regt. The biggest goodbye of all goes to the HQNI Small Computer Section (SCS) who join PC Repair within TM Tp. It is with great regret and sadness that we bid farewell to SCS who move into the renovated Building 31 although with them and SHQ leaving our building we may get some peace at last! After a long day at the crease India Tp won the Inter-Troop Cricket for the third year on the trot, so after a less than perfect start we are now back on track for success in the McKelvie Cup Competition.

NETWORK CONTROL CENTRE

Tp Comd **Capt A. Haresign**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Johnson**

We have recently welcomed several new arrivals to the Troop - **LCpl Lindsay Rakocevic** who arrives to us newly promoted and **LCpl** 'Dinger' **Bell** who joins us after successful conversion from ED to an Installations Technician. We also say goodbye to **LCpl Jo Keith** who heads off to 30 Sig Regt, and to **WO2 (FofS) Rick Gorman** who is off to 'Ssshhh! I'll have to shred you if I tell you'.

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt R. A. Hamilton**
Tp YofS **WO2 (YofS) Yates**
Tp FofS **SSgt (FofS) Collins**

No good stereotypical *WIRE* article would start without the obligatory welcomes. R Tp welcomes **WO2 (YofS)** 'Firestarter' **Yates** from 40 Sig Regt, **SSgt (FofS)** 'Brewboy' **Collins** from NIEW and **LCpl Hiscock** who has arrived straight from Blandford. Farewell to **WO2 (YofS)** 'Tac' **Bartlett** – a big thank you for all your time and effort to keep the Troop going when there was an under-manning problem in the Ops Room – some things never change. **SSgt Mudway** has left us for TM Tp, as has **LCpl Lohse** who couldn't hack it and had to move back to his 'slippers and pipe' lifestyle! **Sgt Woolen** has left for civvy street; we wish you, **Karen** and **Keira** all the very best and hope the new job goes well. With their departure came the obligatory leaving do. This enabled most of the Troop to get together for the first time since Christmas and it was certainly worth the wait. With plenty of money behind the bar, it wasn't long before everyone was in high spirits, a well-earned rest for the Troop after another busy period. On 4 May 2001 those not on essential duties boarded all available flights to the mainland as part of the NI 'mass exodus' to the Army v Navy rugby match. With summer around the corner the BBQ's should be getting cleaned down and prepared for the mass arrival of the singlies around to the Pads quarters!

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt E. L. McLellan**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Mudway**

The Troop continues to move along at its usual hectic pace, reacting to the multitude of tasks hitting us from all sides as well as re-locating to our newly refurbished Troop lines. We start off by welcoming our new Troop Staff Sergeant - **SSgt Dave Mudway** from R Tp. We must also welcome into the fold all members of SCS including **Sgt Lynn Sergant, Cpl Andy Butterfield** and **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Briggs** who have merged with PC Repair to reform Small Systems Group. With so many arrivals some room has to be made, and so we say a sad farewell to those that are leaving us to move on to pastures new. Congratulations to **Cpl Sonny Lake** who has now left for 11 Sig Regt on her T1 upgrading course and **Cpl Danni Tutton** who (just married) is joining 259 Sig Sqn in sunny Cyprus. **SSgt Flo Jarvis** has also left the light to join I Tp. Good luck to you all and many thanks for all your efforts during your time with the best Troop in the Regiment!

Why not visit the Royal Signals Museum?
For opening hours ring : 01258 482248

3 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (203)

Sqn Comd **Maj D. B. Warne**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) A. M. Maxted**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
FAREWELLS & ARRIVALS

SHQ say farewell to **Cpl Bennett** who has left us to go to Germany, good luck in your new posting. Farewell to the old chief clerk (he is old) **SSgt Jim Stead** who has gone back to the mainland and is now near his family - good luck **Jim** in your new posting. We say welcome to **SSgt John Crilley** who has come from the G2 Branch and has taken over as the Chief Clerk for the Squadron. Also congratulations on your promotion to Staff Sergeant.

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Simon Lord**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Lee** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins**

CORPS SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS - ZELL-AM-SEE

The Team departed from Mahon Barracks on Thursday 23 November to catch the overnight ferry from Belfast to Liverpool. The Ford Transit was packed to bursting point with most people seemingly bringing all their worldly belongings. From Liverpool the Team made its way towards Dover with a slight diversion via Reading in order to pick up the new team skis and **2Lt Simon Lord**, fresh from his Troop Commanders Course. **2Lt Lord** looked weary, drained and rather pale; the course had done its job!

On arrival in Dover we checked into our luxury transit accommodation at Connaught Barracks, alarms set for 4am. On route we planned to stop at an American PX to stock up on some essential skiing gear, credit cards at the ready. Once the purchases had been made the Team moved on, wallets considerably lighter. Amazingly we did arrive in Zell at the estimated time with a little direction from **LCpl Tony Ramwell** who had competed there the year before. Within Zell there was no snow at all and the Glacier at Kaprun had been a test of everyone's resolve as temperatures plunged well below freezing. The decision was made to travel to St Jakob near the Italian border, 11/2 hours away. The trip was worth it as the conditions were good and the slopes were not open to the public, therefore no lift queues!

The first day was an opportunity to find our ski legs. The level of expertise ranged from never having been on skips up to JSSI. **Sig** 'Ritchie' **Squires** had the perfect opportunity, as a complete beginner, to tap the expertise of **LCpl Tony Ramwell** on a one-to-one basis. By the end of the day he was snow-ploughing like a dream. Elsewhere on the piste it seemed as though **Cpl Ed Chwieseni** had led the Team slightly astray in his skiing ability. On the way down he was talking the talk, in reality he most definitely was not walking the walk! The first race day was Individual GS, conditions were good and the Team was quietly confident. It was soon clear a personal battle was developing between **2Lt Lord** and **LCpl Ramwell**, the latter making a mistake on the second run, 1-0 **Lord**. Again **Sig** 'Ritchie (Bandit)' **Squires** pulled an impressive 23rd place out of the bag in his first ever race after only a week and a half on snow. Unfortunately the result could not be repeated in the Team GS. The best three times were to count out of the four nominated members, finishing was vital. After the first run things were looking good, we were in about fifth. However, **LCpl Ramwell** had a slight mishap and fell. The message was passed back we all must finish. It seems in the excitement **Sig Squires** forgot this and also fell. 12th place, the team captain was not happy.

After a couple of social beers at the weekend all was forgiven and the focus was now firmly on the final week and the slalom. By midweek the time had come. **LCpl Ramwell** professed that slalom was his forte, it needed to be as he was 2-0 down. If the final days racing proved to be a white out this would count as both individual and team slalom, the pressure was on. It was his forte and second in the individual was a medal worthy effort. **2Lt Lord** and **Cpl Hunter** had produced an excellent first run seeing him placed 13th. For the second run he decided it would be unethical to beat his team captain and graciously finished 65th, well done you. We now came to the final day's racing. The culmination of all our hard work, the team slalom. Conditions were perfect, our waxing technique had been carefully honed over the three weeks and if we all stayed upright this could be our moment of glory. After run one **LCpl Tony** 'Slalom' **Ramwell** was fastest on the hill with the rest of the team close behind. Then disaster struck. Going out for the second run he looked good then, halfway down, he decided to leave his skis at a gate as he continued for another 100m. An interesting decision and one that looked as though it had cost us a medal. After a quiet chat with his team captain, without cherry brandy, he graciously offered to buy the rest of the team drinks. After driving back to the accommodation thinking only of what could have been, a couple of social beers were decided upon to try and drown our sorrows. The other option of drowning **LCpl Tony** 'Slalom's my forte' **Ramwell** in Zell Lake was only just rejected 3-2.

The final seed list was produced, 4-1 **Lord**. Individual combination, 4-2 **Lord**. The prizes went according to the form-book with 16 Signal Regiment laying claim to almost everything. Then **Sig** 'Ritchie (Darkhorse)' **Squires** picked up 'Best Novice' and 'Most Improved'. Things were looking up. Now came the moment of truth, the Team Slalom. First was 16 Signal Regiment, Second came 7 Armd Bde and Third was 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn! **2Lt Lord's** thank you speech had most close to tears or it may have just been rather smoky, but it was a glorious moment all the same. The journey back to Portadown flew by as each time races were recollected the times became quicker and quicker and the jumps bigger and bigger .... but on the horizon Serre Chevalier and the Divisional Championships beckoned.

EXERCISE SPARTAN HIKE
(DIVISIONAL SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS),
VILLENEUVE -FRANCE

After the Christmas and New Year celebrations it was time to focus on the job in hand, the Divisional Skiing Championships in Villeneuve, Serre Chevalier, France. On Friday 5 January, 2001, **2Lt Simon** '4-2' **Lord, Cpl Sean** '4 pint wonder' **Hunter, LCpl Tony** 'I stepped out of my binding' **Ramwell** and Sig 'Ritchie (Master-chef)' **Squires** once again left Mahon Barracks to represent the Squadron and the Brigade. After a 12-hour journey, in our slightly more luxurious Land Rover Discovery, we hit Villeneuve, France. The signs were good, there was snow in the resort with more forecast. Not so good was on opening our apartment finding a dog and people's clothes lying everywhere. After a quiet chat with the Ski-world rep the problem was resolved and we unloaded the kit. The location was ideal with the first slope a mere 50m from our front door.

The racing didn't start for six days, giving us ideal opportunity for some quality training. Initially we hired extreme carvers to improve our technique and introduce us back into the swing of things in a slightly more light-hearted way. The conditions were perfect, good compact snow and excellent visibility. They seemed to have done the trick as on moving back to standard carvers the difference in the way we skied was clearly evident. **Sig Squires** soon settled into his role as top chef preparing a veritable feast each evening, generally pasta or rice based, thought the flat did have an annoying tendency to keep tripping the power as soon as more than two electrical appliances were switched on. A definite death trap!

The main differences between the Corps and Div Championships was firstly the standard of skiers and secondly the number of disciplines. Now included were Super G and Downhill. The final seed points achieved in Zell am See carried forward to give initial seedings in France. First race was the seeding Giant Slalom used as a confirmatory check. It was steep and very icy particularly if going anywhere lower than 50th. The following day was the Individual GS, **LCpl Ramwell** in the top 15 and looking good. However, a tumble in the second run nullified his hard work. The remaining three members' positions didn't change, all finishing near their seedings. Things then went from bad to worse. The Team GS saw **LCpl Tony** 'My Ski Slipped' **Ramwell** living up to his name and **Sig** 'Ritchie (I didn't see the gate)' **Squires** writing off our chances of glory.

From the lower section of the mountain the races moved up to 1000m for the Super G and the Downhill. This was new territory for everyone except **LCpl Ramwell** and the emphasis was on completing the race, as this was to be a combined Individual and Team event. One race, all or nothing. At last we all managed to stay on our feet! Again everyone made up places but the competition was too good to make any significant changes to our overall position. From Super G we remained up the mountain and moved onto two days Downhill training. A prerequisite for being able to compete in the main race was being able to complete two runs down the 2km course. The conditions continued to improve all the time, in fact the French maintained it was the best race piste they had for ten years. The big test for most people was the jump positioned after five gates, by which time you had enough speed to get some serious air. There was some impressive wipe outs with varying styles being employed over the lip of the jump. It seemed that the Downhill was about to punish anyone who got it slightly wrong. We were right. On race day reports soon made their way back up to the top that the best racers were struggling to stay upright particularly in the compression at the finish. This was spread round the team and everyone agreed to be careful. **2Lt Simon** 'Downhill's my Forte' **Lord** proved to be correct as he finished 24th from a start position of 58th. **Sig** 'Ritchie (Banzai)' **Squires** finished a very creditable 69th from a start position of 110th managing to beat **Cpl Sean** 'I knew I should have waxed my skis' **Hunter. LCpl Tony** 'I was going too fast boss' **Ramwell** yet again found himself having a quiet chat, without cherry brandy, with **2Lt Lord**.

The big races now over it was back down the mountain and back to early starts for the remaining two slalom races. Could **LCpl Tony** 'Slalom's my forte' **Ramwell** deliver the goods again as at the Corps or was his bad luck set to continue? He redeemed himself slightly by finishing 21st from a start position of 120th and only narrowly missed out on a well deserved snowballing for being most improved on the day by the grace of God. With talk of the Army Championships now on everyone's lips **2Lt Lord** looked in a favorable position to possibly qualify. Seeded 44th with a good team slalom result could see a last minute entrance. After a team talk emphasising the importance of finishing the final event with the Northern Ireland trophy within our grasp, it was time for the final event. After ten days racing everyone was feeling rather tired but keen to do well and take the trophy from under the RGBW team's nose. Alas it wasn't to be. After what looked to be a good first run with the majority of the top 20 falling **2Lt Lord** was lying 25th. However, at protocol eight names were read out for missing the same gate, you can guess who was included! Despite all involved swearing blind they hadn't missed it, the protocol judges stood by the gate judge's decision and that was the end of that! Again **LCpl Tony** 'I told you slalom's my forte' **Ramwell** finished a very credible 21st, but by then it was too late. A sad end to the Divisional Championships with no silverware to show for our valiant efforts save **Sig** 'Ritchie (Can I come next year?)' **Squires** who picked up the 2nd best novice award for his Downhill effort.

LCpl Tony Ramwell suddenly realises he still hasn't finished a race and that is why his start position is 108!

CHIEF G6 VISIT

Lt Col Llewellyn, Chief G6, chose to visit 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn on Valentines Day 2001. Was this an indication of the caring attitude he wished to portray towards the Squadron? The programme for his morning visit had managed to include four change parades; a cunning plan devised by **Maj Paul Connors** the AO. Following coffee and biscuits with the OC Sqn, **Maj Duncan** 'The Cat' **Warne**, the 2IC **Capt Andy** 'Richie Cunningham' **Parfitt** took the helm and launched into his G3 Ops plan, this was planned to last 30mins. However, after much questioning from Chief G6 and much bluffing from the 2IC, the timings began to slip. Poised next door was **LCpl Bruce** 'Kevin Costner aka The Bodyguard' **Morrison** ready to deliver his Peasemore brief. **Lt Col Llewellyn** seemed impressed, from there he moved across the corridor into the COMMCEN where **Sig Greg** 'Diesel' **Price** showed the correct technique for shredding paper, for which he has a hidden talent.

At this point **2Lt Simon** 'OIC Sport' **Lord** and **SSgt Lee** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** intervened and guided the Chief G6 round to TM Section. **Sgt Kier** 'Gilly' **Gilchriest** moved straight in thrusting sets of waterproof clothing, harnesses, climbing gear and safety helmets in his direction. After mumbled excuses of the waterproofs being a little too restrictive and the harnesses being a little too supportive in the crotch area, the time had come to scale the mast. The scene was akin to mans' first steps on the moon, the crowd waited with baited breath for the climb to begin, slowly at first, the third platform looming 30m above. Having only stopped a couple of times to catch his breath, or maybe just admire the view, he was greeted by **LCpl L. J.** 'Ey Sir' **Murray**. **Lt Col Llewellyn** seemed to experience a few problems in translating the required drills, in order to return to terra firma, due to LCpl Murray's 'slight' Scottish accent. This was eventually rectified and Chief G6 did his best starfish impression sailing lightly back to the rather relieved OC Sqn, RSM, AO, Tp OC et al gathered below. After peeling himself out of the protective clothing and equipment, he promised to go all the way to the top next time, though no one else seems to remember him making such a statement. However, I'm sure he wouldn't want to disappoint the lads.

Lt Col Llewellyn prays that the harness swaying in the wind behind him does not in fact need to be attached to anything

TOUGH GUY COMPETITION - *by Sig Foster*

The Tough Guy Competition is an annual challenge as part of the Mercury Cup. It sounds simple on paper, but predictably in reality it is very different. Run over one day it is designed to test the stamina, dexterity and guts of the Royal Signals soldiers who take part. Despite the title, female soldiers are encouraged to enter.

First up was the load carry. A 100lbs stretcher and a 100lbs ammo box to be carried over a 3km course in the fastest possible time. Over all we did well and came in at around 19 minutes, a respectable time. We did not, however, have time to pat ourselves on the back as by the time we had stuffed our lungs back down our throats we had to be on the next event, the exercise machines. Yet again, another event that seemed fairly simple on paper but not in reality. The team had to 'travel' as far as possible on the rowing machines and the exercise bikes in half an hour. This worked out to be five minutes on the rowers and another five on the bikes. Let me tell you, that burning pain in your legs is the best feeling in the world, especially as the next event, with only a couple of minutes rest, was a multi stage fitness test. The ideal being that there would be an average taken from the lowest score and the highest score to work out a total. Last but not least was the swimming event. Fully clothed we had to swim as many lengths as humanly possible in half an hour. Different points were awarded for different strokes with the maximum score being allocated to the lane that had a burden or in this case a large traffic cone. That's right, apparently we had not had enough punishment. Where do they get the jokers that think these things up? This was our best event and that was ironic as it was the one we were all worried about before we started.

At the end of the swimming we were eventually allowed to relax and were given about an hour before we had to congregate for the prize giving in the bar. Despite our best efforts we still managed to come third (albeit by one point) and had to be dragged from the bar screaming and shouting and asking for opposition to be disqualified, (well not really). The rest of you should be warned that I have no doubt in my mind that we will be back next year.

SENIORS v JUNIORS FOOTBALL MATCH - *by Cpl Wayne Topping*

Let's get straight to the point, the seniors were well and truly thrashed. No two ways to say it, beaten by the juniors. However, let's tell the whole story.

It was a windy, cold and wet day in February (the 23rd in fact) when the juniors challenged the seniors to a good old-fashioned football match. They accepted of course with the usual banter, ie: how good do you want your CR this year and all the rest of the intimidation, which did not effect us one bit. So, the kick-off arrived, and the referee (a Sergeant I might add!) blew his whistle. The first twenty minutes were quite uneventful, with the members of each team checking each others skills. Which didn't take long for the Juniors, I can tell you. The deadlock was finally broken, or should that be the floodgates were opened, by the Juniors and from there it never stopped. The OC, **Maj Duncan** 'The Cat' **Warne**, (who was the goalkeeper) totally lost the plot, wandering around his area with the ball asking when his six seconds started! To which the whole sideline screamed that they had started five seconds ago and that he should throw the ball as quickly as possible! The pressure had obviously got to him.
The Seniors were let a few consolation goals just to keep them sweet but the referee decided to help them out by sending off four of our players, but due to the skill of the Juniors this did not help.

After the match, all players went to the Whynge Inn to partake in a few orange juices. Overall the event was a total success and everyone involved enjoyed it. Hopefully this will become a regular event with different sports, so everyone in the Squadron can get a chance to be involved.

PARACHUTING - *by LCpl Bradshaw*

On 24 March eight members of Comms Tp attended a one-day parachuting course held at Ballykelly. **Cpl Dave Tweddell** organised the event and from the offset the day looked promising as the clouds were clear and the weather was fine, we all hoped that we would be able to get our jump in, which for most of us would be our very first. We started the day with the lessons covering amongst other things landing, steering the parachute, how to leave the plane and the safety aspects. Nobody's confidence was boosted by the number of lessons that covered what to do if the parachute didn't open or if the lines snapped, or what to do if you are going to hit the floor at 40 mph! Tales of landing in the Loch, crashing into hangers and getting caught up in the plane at 3500ft didn't help either, but we were assured by the instructor that these events were rare and it was completely safe if we did what we had been shown! After our final lesson we waited with anticipation as the plane went up for the first time to check the cloud base. Unfortunately we were informed that jumping didn't look lively for today and after a brief wait we gave. up, promising to return as soon as possible. As we all completed the training successfully we can return to complete our jump in the near future and then subsequent jumps for a small fee, with only a brief refresher needed on the skills we learnt. We all look forward to returning to Ballykelly this time with a bit more luck on completing our jump.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

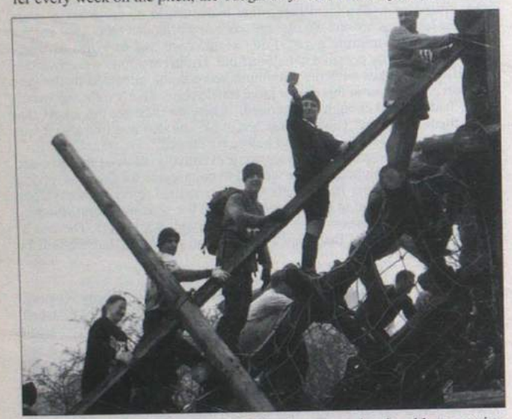
This month TM Tp say goodbye to three of its more memorable members, **Sig Jim** 'New Man' **Wright** and **LCpl** 'G' **Pyrah** have ventured east to sun themselves in Cyprus for three years. **Cpl** 'Jase' **Craddock** returns to the mainland to command a Det in Coventry at 35 Sig Regt (V). All is not lost. We do say a big hello to **Cpl Dave Owen**. A class one technician posted in from Hereford. **Cpl** 'Bob' **Bowden** joins us from Blandford where he has just passed his Class One Technician Course. On the rigging

side of life, we are joined by **Sig King** and **LCpl Sankey** from Cyprus. To all those who have left us, good luck for the future, and to all those that have just arrived, we hope that you have a good two years.

TOUGH GUY 2001- *by Sgt Danny Steele*

What better way to spend a very cold, frosty January morning than to be at 'Mr Mouse Farm' - a place five miles outside Wolverhampton. Yes, it's Tough Guy 2001 (the year of the moustache). In total there were 4000 of us attempting to complete the course – 16 miles, as the crow files, of the most difficult terrain and obstacles you could hope to meet. Obstacles such as 'Somme Battlefield' (run through fire, leap water trenches). 'Dunkirk' (swim the whole lake) and 'Stalag Escape' (belly crawl full body on the floor) are definitely not for the faint hearted!

The Tough Guy Competition has a long history of fancy dress - from ballerinas to SAS troopers. This year it had its first ever football referee. Yes... ME!! Well, when you think of the amount of abuse and torture I suffer every week on the pitch, the Tough Guy should be very easy.



The course was difficult enough, but it was good to be able to caution people for time wasting, cheating and faking injuries - not to mention sending people off for using abusive language! During the course I caught up with my mate 'Wilkie', a Tough Guy veteran who has not only completed the course 12 times before, but was ALSO carrying a 50lb Bergan! A typical Hereford man! The most difficult part of the course was the 'Dunkirk' obstacle - I was so cold coming out of the lake that 'I felt as though I could sing soprano (yes, it was that cold). The secret to getting through Tough Guy is to keep going and to have a sense of humour. The comradeship is unique to the competition - where else would you find Hell's Angels alongside business executives? I have talked about Tough Guy so much that I have managed to rope in one new recruit (or 'wet neck', to use the official name), for next year - **WO2 RQMS Chris Davies** (Sniper and senior Brecon trained) - I do hope his life assurance is in order - he'll need it! So if any of you belties, boy scouts and lanyard commandos would like a real challenge then feel free to contact:

Mr Mouse Farm for Unfortunates
Jenny Walker Lane
Old Perton
South Staffordshire
WV6 7HB

Sqn Comd **Maj D. B. Warne**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) A. M. Maxted**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

We say welcome to **Cpl McKnight** R IRISH who has taken over as the Movements Clerk for the Squadron. Congratulations to **Cpl Birch** and his wife **Karen** on the birth of their daughter.

COMMS TP

Tp Comd **2Lt Simon Lord**
SSgt **SSgt Lee** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins**

MERCURY CUP ATHLETICS - *by Sig Kerry O'Connor*

On 19 April 2001 'athletes' from 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn took part in The Mercury Cup Athletics competition at Thiepval Bks, Lisburn. On reaching Lisburn there were a few surprises for all the competitors as they found out what events they had been 'volunteered for'. Everyone quickly got into the spirit of things, especially **Cpl Wayne Topping**, who warmed up his lungs by running around the track with a cigarette in his mouth. **Cpl Matt Dawson** achieved our only first position, in the 110m hurdles, who excited at winning his event, finished the race with a spectacular forward roll. **Sig** 'Lanky Legs Crane' **Jones** and **Sig** 'Ritchie' **Squires** attempted the long jump but only managed a total of 3m between them. **LCpl** 'Big Dave' **Terron** came a lucky third in the javelin, which was a surprise to us all because three out of his four throws were disqualified. In the male 4 x 400m relay the lads were in a good position until the RQMS, **WO2 Davies**, tripped over his own feet and dropped back to last place, unfortunately the 2IC, **Capt Parfitt**, ran an exciting last leg and pulled them back to second place. Everyone enjoyed the day laughing at everyone else's sporting mishaps. Surprisingly the Squadron reached a respectable third place that rounded off an enjoyable day off work.

NISAAM 2001 - *by Sig Adam King*

23 - 27 April 2001 saw the annual NISAAM (Northern Ireland Skill At Arm Meeting) at Ballykinler ranges contested between 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 15 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, The AGC, RMP, Int Corps and all of the Infantry Units. The competition was made up of a Pistol Shoot, a March and Shoot, a Combat Shoot and several normal Rifle Shoots. 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn put in a five-man team of crack shots (Hmmmm), **Sgt Rob McCorkell, Cpl Dave Owen, LCpl Chris Williams, LCpl Daz Owen** and **Sig Adam King**. This was **Sig King's** second major skill at arms meeting, the first being the CORPSAAM of 1998 where he won the Best Young Soldier category. Overall the team did not do itself justice, in comparison to the individual shoots where there was some very good shooting. **LCpl Chris Williams** and **Sig Adam King** were placed in the top 20 of the individual pistol competition, which was good considering the overall standards. **Cpl Dave Owen** was placed third in the moving target shoot. **Sig Adam King** was placed in the top ten for the Roupell shoot, which is a competition of 100, 200, 300 meter shooting in different positions. **LCpl Chris Williams** impressed the team with his overall shooting and the speed in which he flew down the range in the falling plate shoot. **Sgt Rob McCorkell** and **LCpl Daz Owen** had a good FIBUA shoot putting themselves in the top half of the score sheet. In the overall standings **Sig Adam King, Cpl Dave Owen** and **Sgt Rob McCorkell** finished in the top 15% of Northern Ireland. With some hard work and practice 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn should be able to put in a team which will do well next year and maybe even bring back some silver wear.

THE BRIGADIER'S CUP 6-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION
by LCpl Murray

The Brigadier's Cup is a six-event competition being run over a 12 month period, with one event taking place every other month. Each one is being organised by a different JNCO. The six different events are Rugby, held in February, Football, Badminton in June, Golf in August, Clay Pigeon in October and finally Basketball in December. The competition is between Comms Tp, Sp Tp and the Bde HQ. After I had put in a lot of hard work to organise the competition, with the occasional little tip from the RSM, the 6-a-Side football took place on 27 April at Drumadd Barracks, Armagh. The first game was between Comma Tp and Sp Tp; Sp Tp won 2-0. Up next Comma Tp against Bde HQ. The Brigade team won 1-0, leaving Comms Tp down and out with both their games lost. So it was on to the final game, Bde HQ v Sp Tp. After the final 20mins the scores were tied at 1-1. It would have to be decided by a penalty shoot out. After only seven of the scheduled ten penalties Sp Tp came out the victors by 3-1. It was then off to the bar for a couple of drinks and time for the OC Sqn, **Maj Warne**, to present the medals to the winning Team. Having already won the Rugby, Sp Tp are off to a flying start, however, I am sure Comms Tp and Bde HQ are determined to do well in the Badminton to try and pull some points back.

NORTHERN IRELAND ATHLETICS DAY 9 MAY 2001
by Sig Dave Smart

After a lot of waiting around for the transport, the 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn athletics team set off to conquer all at Thiepval Bks, Lisburn, the location for the NI Athletics Championships 2001. On completion of the registration and the Team Captain's briefing, each of the elite team members waited with anticipation for their chosen event to start. **Capt Cowan** excelled in the 5000m and **W02 (FofS) Ross**, despite his age, managed to storm into a first place position in the 800m. Unfortunately **LCpl Morrison** was late for his first event but went on to be victorious in the shot put in the afternoon. **Cpl** 'Sport Billy' **Dawson** competed in almost every event and proved he was a worthy asset to the team by winning nearly all of them. **Cpl** 'Hatch' **Hatcher** competed in the javelin and discus events and showed 12 MI Coy what he was made of. **Sig** 'Marathon Man' **Dave Smart** can second in the 400m even though there were only two people running. Unfortunately **Cpl** 'Wayne' **Topping** who competed in the 400m hurdles and long jump, couldn't stop for the results and prize giving as he had a pressing engagement with FRY. **LCpl Sankey** exerted himself for the 100m event and managed to gain an excellent position. The finale was the 4 x 400m relay, our team comprised of **Capt Parfitt, Sgt Maxwell, Cpl Dawson** and **LCpl Sankey**. As each member of the relay team completed his leg, it became obvious that the team was going to be victorious. To increase morale the Troop OC, **2Lt Lord** turned up to give the team his utmost support for the prize giving. All in all an excellent 'day out due to perfect weather and team spirit result in 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn becoming the NI Minor Unit Athletics Champions.

WATER SPORTS DAY - *by Sig Dan King*

The time of year had arrived again for the speed boat and the jet ski to be dragged out of the store and some pain inflicted on those stupid enough to participate in a bit of 'water sports'. The day got off to a flying start (not) when it was discovered that some bright spark had left fuel in the jet ski from last year, which obviously made it run a treat. **LCpl Stevie** 'When's the bar open?' **Kite** and **Cpl Marty** 'Old Man' **Thomas** endeavored non-the less and successfully got both the boat and the jet ski up and running by 1430hrs in the afternoon. Finally with all the kit up and running we attempted to brew it again. Everyone was really impressed with the high quality pulling power of the wet suits so in the end it was decided we would go without, even though the water was Baltic. The sun was out and so were the big boys around the barbecue, **LCpl Tony** 'I'm in charge' **Ramwell, LCpl Dave** 'Get in my belly' **Terron** and **SSgt Col** 'Raw chicken is good for you' **Lymburn**. After an hour pumping the banana boat up, **Cpl John** 'Two can van damme' **Blowes** collapsed in a heap. We then proceeded to venture onto the water for all of ten minutes before it deflated in the middle of Lough Neagh. Towards the end of the day after ten burgers, four hot dogs and some 'healthy' salad, **LCpl Dave Terron** decided to go out on the jet-ski. After five minutes he had managed to break it, leaving himself stranded in the middle of the Lough. The stranded sailor now had to make some jet-ski buddies to tow him back. Luckily he managed to make it back in one piece. Some of us were not so lucky, while on the banana boat I managed to split **LCpl Gillian Williams'** lip open. By this time it was time for all the aching sailors to return to camp having had a quality day out.

STARLIGHT CHALLENGE 23 MAY 2001 - *by Cpl Neil Hatcher*

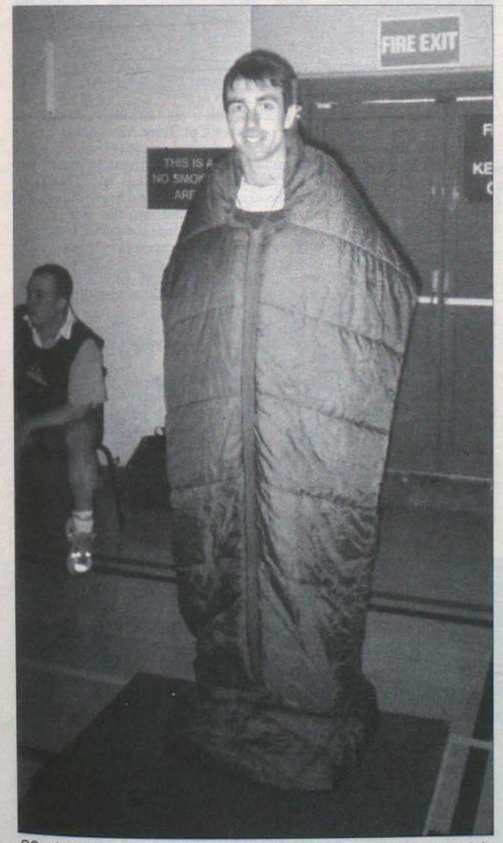
On 23 May, 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn entered two teams into a 6-a-Side football competition to raise money for the Starlight Childrens' Foundation, a charity for terminally ill children. The money goes towards a trip to Disney World or a computer to give the children something positive to focus on. With this in mind we deployed to Ballykinler on a glorious sunny morning with expectations high. On arrival and looking at the fixtures list, we noticed a team named 'The Professionals'. There was a brief moment of concern as how they had managed to get a team of pros but that thought vanished at the sight of six lads running about in curly wigs and leather jackets, definitely Bodie and Doyle, rather than Brady and Cruyff! The 'A' Team had a few problems in negotiating the group stages, just one defeat against the RMPs, the goals were scored mainly by **Cpl** 'Robbie' **Robson, Pte** 'Jim' **Ellis** and **Pte** 'Stevie' **Wilkinson** although they missed more than they scored. In the quarter-finals the Brigade dictated the game and scored through **Jim Ellis** while there were still missed chances. In the semi-finals we played RTS, who we had already beaten in the group stage. The game was tense with not many chances and was decided by a defensive mistake by **2Lt Simon Lord**. His short back pass gifted them the winner, it was a cruel way to finish but everyone enjoyed the day and managed to get a decent tan, making a change from the rain. More importantly a lot of money was raised for this worthwhile charity.

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (213)

Sqn Comd **Maj A. R. Knott**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. M. Lockwood**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

A sad farewell is bid to **SSgt Stu Smart** AGC who left on commissioning. We certainly wish you and your family the very best of luck in the Officer Corps. Into his shoes has stepped **SSgt Alan Hatton** AGC, the new Chief Clerk. Welcome!



SSgt Hatton demonstrates that he will not be lying down on the job

Welcome also to the new Training Wing SNCO, **Sgt Paul Conroy,** who has taken over from **Mr Stevie Stoker.** He has already made his mark on the Squadron, cutting about and making things happen. Best wishes go to **Stevie Stoker** in his new civilian life. Congratulations to **Capt A. J. Smith** on his recent engagement to **Miss Catrina Porter.** We wish you every happiness together and are sure the wedding in St Lucia will be perfect. Does she know what she is signing up to?

EXERCISE MOURNE MINDER

Well done to all those who took part in the Unit ITD exercise. The biggest thank you must go to **Sgt Paul Conroy** and his team for their authentic First Aid stand, complete with bleeding, breathing, breaks and burns. The team is still trying to remove fake blood from their hands.

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt S. Y. Richardson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt R. J. Atherton**

OPERATIONS SECTION

Just one welcome this issue, which goes to **Sig Ian Walker** recently arrived from 7 Sig Regt, we hope you will be very happy here, especially when being barman one month after arriving.

On the farewell front however we have a few. Goodbye to **Cpl Kenny Purdie** who, after being posted in November 2000, came off the promotions board subsequently losing his new job, then had his next post disestablished, and is now finally leaving Province for sunny Cyprus. **Kenny** you have been an asset to SYSCON and Rover Group and we wish you well. Farewell also to **LCpl Martin Kennie** who leaves us on promotion and goes to 7 Sig Regt. We also congratulate you on your recent marriage to **Miss Sarah Wynn** and hope you will have a long and happy life together. Thank you too for your contribution to SYSCON/Trials and Rover Group.

Last but not least we say so long to **Pte Andy Aitchison** RLC, also leaving us on promotion to AFNORTH. Thanks you for all your hard work and long hours in driving the Brigade Command. OC Comms thanks you as well for giving her lots of practice writing character references and fighting soldiers' corners. Try to stay out of trouble, enjoy having your stripe back, and don't forget us.

The Crypto Cell have had a trying month with various inspections being the order of the day. It is with, a smile that we can report they passed without a hitch and in fact a glowing report from CDA was received. So well done to **Cpls** 'Del' **Delaney** and **Brett Grist** for burning the midnight oil in preparation.

PUBLIC ORDER TRAINING

The 1st Bn Argyll and Southerland Highlanders organised a Brigade Public Order Training package at Ballykinler Training Centre between 26 March and 6 April 2001. 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn were allocated a training opportunity with F Company, 9th Bn Royal Irish. So Rover Group and various nutters deployed with the Royal Irish to have bottles, stones and petrol bombs thrown at them in the pouring rain. Such was certain Troop members poor admin that on visiting, the OC Squadron had to lend his gortex to prevent one Signaller from collapsing with hypothermia. However, it was delightful to see that for once **Pte** 'Stretch' **O'Hare** had listened to what he had been instructed and wore his sexy green thermal leggings. He was equally pleased when set alight by a petrol bomb, which burnt his trousers, and his legs were saved by the leggings. However, the end result was that he looked more like a tramp than normal. Well done to **Pte Hayley Andrews** who managed to put out **Pte** 'Val' **Hardy,** whilst allowing 'Stretch' to burn.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION

No arrivals this month, just the departure of **Sgt Alvin** 'Billy' **Lilburn.** He has left the Troop on promotion, so congratulations to you, but he has defected upstairs to join the newly formed Ops Team II as Sites Manager. The Riggers wish you well and invite you to drop in for the occasional coffee. The Technical Maintenance workshops have recently been uncharacteristically busy (sarcasm don't you just love it). Under faultless, yet erratic leadership for **Sgt** 'Jonah' **Jones,** teams were dispersed in the countryside and cities, armed as always, but not just with the usual arsenal, but also buckets of disinfectant and brushes. Having completed all the necessary taskings to provide communications around the Brigade area we sat back and waited, only to have all the major events cancelled due to the wretched Foot and Mouth disease. The Rigging Section have been particularly busy preparing for the forthcoming Marches. Most jobs went well apart from **Sig Derek Slowey** and **LCpl Craig** 'Beppe' **Bate** getting their insides cooked whilst up a mast.

EXERCISE CELTIC WARRIOR

Since the last edition of *The WIRE*, trials have taken place of the illustrious Chancellor equipment in preparation for Marching Season 2001. The exercise, gamely named Celtic Warrior took place in Province and the admin from our end was masterminded by **Sgt Paul** 'Chancellor know it all' **Faizey**, with the aid of a select band of merry men. The night sky over Ballykinler Training Centre shone brightly with the sight of burning cars and echoed to the sound of rioters, contrasting greatly with the sound of technicians tinkering in vain to receive down-link pictures. Overall the two weeks proved to be a success, although the team were slightly concerned that the only pictures some Infantry Companies were interested in receiving were Leeds United Vs Deportivo la Coruna. On a final note concerning the Heli-Teli tests, we would like to congratulate **Lt Richardson's** keen eyesight on pointing out to us where the helicopter had moved to, only to be informed that it was actually a star!

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt G. Maddison** RLC
WOIC **WO2 (RQMS) Belam**

RQMS DEPARTMENT

Goodbye to **Cpl John Davies** and his wife, **Anna,** who leave Province for pastures new. Thank you for all your help both in the stores environment and in helping the boys in the Squadron to win the Corps snowboarding Championships.

COMIC RELIEF 2001 - 16 MARCH

Red Nose Day 2001 and 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn decided to do some fund raising. It was a typical day in Lisburn, extremely cold and windy, so three girls Cpls 'Jooles' **Roberts**, 'Chaz' **Charnock** and **Rachel Jacklin** came to work in their pyjamas to get into the spirit of things. The idea was to walk around camp collecting money, along with our secret weapon for those who were not feeling too charitable. This came in the form of **LCpl John** 'More press ups please' **Pritchard,** who with the aid of an exercise mat was ready to give out press ups to any victim unwilling to pay. After a successful day including **LCpl** 'Taff' **Lewis** accosting everyone in the Brigade Headquarters for their money, it was down to the Unit club where bar person **LCpl Donna Chivers** ensured everyone donated even more money, under the threat of no donation, no drink. In the end a total of £798.24 was raised, so a big thank you to everyone involved.

70's NIGHT

39 Brigade girls strut their stuff

The farewell to the MT culminated in a 70's Night in the Horseshoe Club. Peace signs, flowers and glitter transformed the Club into a disco diva's paradise. The Rover Group maintained usual standards, looking as if they had just stepped out of a porn movie, no change there I hear you cry. The best outfit award must be given to **Cpl Nat Kemp,** who had a crowd of admirers following her all-in-one white number, wherever she went. The most make-up, yet with the least effort goes to **LCpl Steve Ireson,** complete with wounded leg, looking as though he had just stepped out of the Vietnam war.

LCpl Ireson holds LCpl Howell in a death grip to prevent her from escaping his clutches

After several drinks our heads were 'in a spin and our feet would not touch the ground'. In fact 'it felt, like, it felt like we're in love'. Well done to **Cpl Stroud,** ably assisted by **Sig Kev Pack,** in organising a fantastic evening of food and dance for all Unit members to enjoy. A job well done.

MINI MINDER

The brave and the stupid from 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn departed from Ballykinler to undertake some special to theatre training. Since the last edition, they have done this not once, but twice. As always the weather in Ballykinler left much to be desired, however, not this time for the exercising Troops snug in their vehicles, but for the 'enemy' who happened to be the Offrs, WOs and SNCOs of the Unit, no justice at all. The training was a complete success with a few incidents of note. The award for greatest imagination goes to **LCpl Tony Morancie**, who on being told there were in a location to carry out a technical repair, proceeded to mime exactly what he would do on arriving in location. In his imaginary world he also became bullet proof and as invincible as the rest of the section. Muppet of the exercise goes to **Pte Steve Elford** and his section, who on hearing a cat fight spilling into the road, got the section to cock their weapons in fear of attack, not the smartest move in the world. The biggest and best award of the exercise is granted to **LCpl Donna** 'Wonderwoman' **Chivers**. Who not only pushed a car to the side of the road whilst the boys hid in the back, but when out numbered three to one, continued to point her pistol at the terrified terrorist, **Pte Andy Aitchison** (not the easiest bloke in the world to frighten). She repelled bullets with her wristbands, killed grown men with a flick of her hair and still managed to run the bar the following night - What a girl.

OPERATION SEALION - *by Sgt Paul Faizey*

The afternoon of 16 May saw **Capt A. J. Smith** and myself awaiting the arrival of a Wessex to fly us to Moscow Camp and then on to an RV with HMS *Brecon* in Calingford Lough. We were to undertake a series of Comms Trials for the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines, whose duties involve boarding v ferries on their passage in and out of Warrenpoint. On arriving at Moscow two SNONI staff greeted us. They were holding what looked like two black gimp suits. These, apparently, were Typhoon suits, requiring us to expel all the air in order that we would not float upside down. It was with a certain amount of trepidation that we listened to instructions on how to inflate the life vests. Try as he may, there was no way he could convince me that it could hold a fully equipped soldier afloat.

Once on the shores of Carlingford Lough, **Capt Smith** and I had to lug a large box of COUGARNET equipment, rifles and personal kit across a very roughly pebbled beach and 20m out to a Rigid Raider. Much fun was had by the spectators, who were determined not to make things easy for us by transferring us to a RIB five minutes later. The journey to the ferry could only be described as the longest, wettest roller-coaster ride I have ever experienced, not to mention the boarding of the ferry on a rickety rope and rope ladder combination. However once on board the trials began. What we failed to appreciate was the time taken to get around inside the ferry, as the vehicle deck was packed, was intensified by the problem of climbing over and under HGV's with a rebro in a daysack.

After three boardings the water seemed to take its toll on the equipment and our brief insight into how the senior service does business came to an end. After making our farewells, **Capt Smith** and I suffered one final humiliation by being strapped face to face on a winch cable and were lifted as one up to the Wessex hovering above.

NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

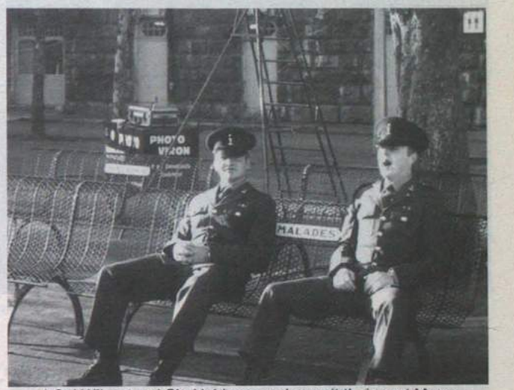
1st (UNITED KINGDOM) ARMOURED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

MILITARY ACTIVITIES

43rd MILITARY PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

A contingent of 14 soldiers accompanied by the **Rev D. H. Kelly** represented the Regiment at the 43rd Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes between 16-22 May 2001. The British Forces Germany contingent travelled as guests on a train chartered by the Bundeswehr. The train carrying approximately 300 British, German, Norwegian and Dutch soldiers travelled from Berlin to Lourdes with a short stop off in Aschen for the first of many Masses.

The chosen few prepare to confess, but where's the Padre?



LCpl Wilson and Sig Hobbs eagerly await their next Mass

SPORTS

INTER SQUADRON HOCKEY COMPETITION

In May the Regimental Inter Squadron Hockey Competiton was contested. A day which can only be described as 'Scorchio' saw some good hockey and plenty of team spirit as 201, 211, 212 and HQ Squadron battled for the cup. It was a close run thing in the end with HQ Squadron narrowly taking the honours. 201 Sig Sqn took the Runners Up slot followed by the mighty 211 Sig Sqn and finally 212 Sig Sqn.

The victorious HQ Squadron Team

The CO hands over the trophy

Capt Johnson demonstrates his unshakable belief that if he hits it up the middle enough times it will surely go in - It didn't!

LONDON MARATHON

Maj Neil Makepeace and **SSgt** 'Ollie' **Reed** took part in the London Marathon this year in order to raise money for Mencap. After several months training they both successfully completed the marathon. Both of them are undecided which was harder running the Marathon or collecting the sponsorship money from the Officers, Warrant Officers and the Senior NCOs.

Maj Makepeace demonstrates that he has already got a bit of a sweat on to SSgt 'Ollie' Reed

Maj Makepeace assures Kate Adie he will get her picture in *The WIRE* as he knows the Regimental WIRE notes Officer. SSgt Reed knows him also and is not too sure that he will make the deadline *(That decision belongs to the Editor of The WIRE!)*

2 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col I. Cameron-Mowat**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) A. J. Frost**

REGIMENTAL LEADERSHIP CADRE
EXERCISE KEY LEADER 11–16 MAY 2001

Ex Key Leader was the second week of the leadership development course that had fallen victim to 'foot and mouth' earlier in the year. Garelochhead, Scotland was the location with the aim of taking 23 Signallers into the field, getting them cold, wet and tired then assessing their reactions. Unfortunately as much as **Sgt Pete Preece** attempted to arrange torrential downpours we were in fact bathed in sunshine, moved into cloud and obtained the morale boosting soaking only just in time for the final attack. The first day of the course concentrated on revision of the orders process and infantry skills. The sections were also introduced to their simulated reserve ammunition burdens that were not to leave their sides for the duration of the week (a fine display of initiative was shown by those who emptied their ammunition boxes of the weight!). The exercise focused on command rotation with each appointment requiring the issuing of orders and the subsequent leading of patrols, producing much amusement for the DS in some cases. **Lt (now Capt) Jamie Noble,** arriving at a section's location to receive orders was met by a section commander with a multitude of apologies for not producing his orders due to 'not having a clue'. Timings became a matter for discussion during orders with **Sig Amritman** checking a departure time of 21.00 hours was OK with everyone. No prior engagements? The course culminated with a Troop attack at dawn. **Sig Pikendra,** in the heat of battle, lost all power of talking at less than four hundred words a minute, requiring the calming touch of acting Sergeant, **Sig** 'Foghorn' **Cleghorn,** in order to extract any useful information. In the meantime **Sig** 'Ollie' **Oliver** was seen running through the enemy's defensive position dragging a burning trip flare behind him. We also unfortunately lost one fine warrior. **Sig** 'Red' **Herring** had to withdraw to the rear echelons when it was discovered that he has an aversion to loud noises! The overall objective of the exercise was met. It proved to be tiring and arduous for all those who took part, giving an excellent opportunity for potential junior NCOs to shine through.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj M. Bailes**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) P. Griffiths**

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

The time has come to say farewell and also to offer our congratulations to departing **WO1 (RSM) Keilty** who leaves to take up the position as Corps RSM in Blandford. At the same time we also say hello and bid welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Frost** and wish him a very enjoyable and successful tour here in York. As you can see from the picture, 2 Signal Regiment is keeping up with tradition of only accepting the most dubious of characters into this prestigious post.

HEADQUARTERS MOTOR TRANSPORT
MTO **Capt Craig**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Mills/ SSgt Smith**

The Troop has been busy getting people from the Regiment through their Motorcycle courses in Newcastle. Only one problem, **Sig** 'Flying Angel' **Amar** managed to wrap himself around a lamp post. Luckily there was no damage to the motor bike, just to his pride. Also **Cpl** 'Can I do this course?' **Findlay** and **LCpl** 'I know which bus it is' **Dickinson** went to Leconfield with the Master Driver to teach four civilians how to drive cross-country. The training went extremely well. In the evening, both instructors Fin and Dicko had to get a bus back to Beverley, but in the true tradition of linemen they got on a bus that only stopped at Hull. The rest of the Troop have been getting the vehicles ready for Ex Saif Sareea and driver training. **Cpl Pete** 'Can I have my LS&GC?' **Longworth** has been busy trying to teach the baby Techs how to drive LGV. He is still alive (just). The servicing bay has been busy preparing the wagons for Ex Saif Sareea and a few changes have taken place, with **LCpl Dickinson** taking over from **Cpl Balaram** and newly promoted **Cpl Chris** 'I am massive aren't I?' **Hanks** (REME) joining the inspection team.

A turn over in personalities over the last couple of months means we say farewell to **Cpl Billy** 'Pod Op' **Davidson,** posted to sunny Brawdy. **Sig** 'Bungle' **Blundell** is posted to HQNI 15 Sigs on promotion to Lance Corporal (there is hope for us all). Good luck to **Sig Tom Raybould** now in civ div and to **Capt Rajendra, Cpl Balaram, LCpl Sanjeev, Sigs Amar** and **Dilip,** who have gone to help form the new 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn. We welcome the new MTO, **Capt Craig,** who has been posted in from 4th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (204). He has arrived with his new set of files which have now been added to the MT system, which is a now a lot better, unless you are a technician and the answer is still, 'No you can't have a non availability'. We also welcome **LCpl Wayne Musson** to the Troop posted in from 14 Signal Regiment (EW) with his Charlie fire team plus reserve. I have also been paid to say hello to **SSgt** 'Where is he?' **Smith** posted in from 14 Signal Regiment (EW), allegedly.

PUBLISH IT IN THE WIRE

The Editor is always pleased to receive interesting articles and action packed photos

HQMT – Where have they all gone?

QUARTERMASTER'S (TECHNICAL) DEPARTMENT

As ever the QM(T) Dept has been a hive of activity, concentrating on the build up to Cormorant and the preparation for the up and coming Kohima weekend. The Dept wishes to pass on our greetings to **WO2 Jim Stillie** and family, who has taken up the reins as RQMS(G) from **WO2 Terry Hague**, who has apparently moved onto bigger and better things as OC ISM Tp. We would also like to welcome **Sgt Don Cunningham,** who has taken up post as our resident gardener. Fond farewells to **Mark Dunnachie** on promotion to Cpl. He has headed off to 249 Sig Sqn in sunny Bulford, (drop us a line from Norway, **Mark**). News from the trenches: - Our wanna-be commando/para **Sig Crawford Scott,** has recently completed the regimental cadre course, but alas he didn't come top. Better luck next year! **Crawford**. Congratulations to **LCpl Claire Dawson,** on passing her Class I upgrading with a distinction.

MIKE TROOP
Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Pete Hodson**
Tp Admin **SSgt Steve Swithenbank**

Life in Mike Tp has been fairly quiet recently with many Troop members still away in the Falkland Islands. There have been a few changes in personnel with Troop OC, **WO1 (FofS) Dodd** wangling a posting to CPD in Blandford. Good luck and best wishes from the Troop. His replacement **WO1 (FofS) Pete Hodson** has taken the helm and we're sure he will enjoy his stay in 'sunny' York. Other departures from the Troop saw **Cpl Steve** 'Or is it Norman?' **Hayward** move, on an inter-squadron posting to 214 Sig Sqn and **Cpl Chris** 'Hair Flick' **Nixon** return to Civ Div; good luck to both. Welcomes go out to **Cpl Dave Shilton** and **Cpl Lance Hanson** who have arrived from 214 Sig Sqn. Congratulations go out to **Cpl Graham** 'Eddy' **Waring** on passing his initial selection for helicopter pilot training with the AAC. Good luck with the following stages. Well done, too, to **Cpl Jodie** 'BOB' **Wood** for passing her RSJCC without even cheating and to **Cpl Joe** 'Hide that Vodka' **Abbott**, **Cpl Davey** 'Old Before My Times' **Holmes** and **Cpl Craig** 'Baby Face' **Thomas** on their recent, long awaited and well earned promotions. Get those crates in!

REGIMENTAL GENERATOR BAY

During the month of May the Gene Bay said goodbye to **Sgt Wyatt** on well-deserved promotion to Staff Sergeant and posting to 219 Sig Sqn. A well-rehearsed leaving do was organised in the form of a 70's disco diva where **Sgt Stanley-Jones** was in his element! Congratulations to **Sig Cleghorn** who successfully achieved second place in phase two of the Regimental Leadership Course.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn 2IC **Capt Henderson**
Sqn SSM **SSgt Wyatt**

Well, it has been a period of change for 219 Sig Sqn. First there was the promotions board for Staff Sergeant to WO2 and then all the SNCOs were posted! We say goodbye to **SSgt (YofS) Winstanley, SSgt Curtis** and **SSgt (SQMS) Tuff** on promotion and **SSgt (FofS) Leyland** bids us farewell with a smug grin as he heads for the beach in Cyprus. In their places we welcome **SSgt (FofS) Morrison** straight from the Foreman's Course and **SSgt (SQMS) Wyatt** from the Regimental Gene Bay. **Sgt Farley** has been given the thankless task of filling in for the Squadron Yeoman, which should stand him in good stead for his Yeoman's Course in June.

EAGLE TROOP
Tp SSgt **SSgt Messenger**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Farley**

Firstly, we say hello to **Cpl Jase Lowes** and his family who have joined us from 16 Sig Regt. He has already been given the unenviable task of sorting out the Radio Relay detachments. **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Ashmore,** who has joined us from 4 Armd Bde, is already finding it hard to dodge all the jiff jobs that are floating around. Goodbye to our illustrious leader **SSgt Roy Messenger** who has been posted out to Civ Div after 22 years in the Army. We all want to wish him Good Luck in his future career. **Sgt Charlie Farley** is going down to Blandford on his Yeoman's course - Good Luck on the course and the rest of your tours within the Royal Corps. **Cpl** 'Slim' **Ralley** is off to 4 Armd Bde. He will be sorely missed (or will he?) - see you in Oman. **LCpl** 'Benny' **Bennett** has been posted to 21 Sig Regt and congratulations on the birth of your little girl, **Bridie**. Also congratulations to **LCpl Dave Hallway** who has also had a new arrival, a little girl **Anna**. He has been posted to JCUNI. And last but not at all least **Sig** 'Get the bines out' **McGarrity** has been posted to 1 UK ADSR – good luck, take care and congratulations on your promotion.

FALCON TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Haslewood**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Cassidy**

Within Falcon Tp we say Hello to **Cpl Billy King**, fresh from 3 Commando Bde, **Cpl Mark Eltringham** from 21 Sig Regt and **Sig Larry Collins** from 7 Sig Regt. We are also saying goodbye to long serving **Cpl** 'Old man Willy' **Rushton**, who is going to 1 Civ Div! **Sig Wendy Cooke** who is going to 1 Bn REME, **Sig Mark Sorraine**, going to 12 Mech Bde and **Sig** 'Bob' **Zimmerman**. A plea goes out to anyone who has sighted **SSgt Gaz** 'The Scarlet Pimpernel' **Cassidy**. At the moment we believe him to be in the Far East playing rugby for the ARMY!! **Lt Dave Haslewood** is currently moaning as his troop isn't as cool as he had hoped. Well what do you expect with a troop of ten people?

SUPPORT TROOP

'Where is everyone?' is the normal desperate cry that can now be heard echoing out of the MT Dept. This is due to the Squadron taking a large amount of men from the MT to the Falklands to ensure that civilian contractors 'Turners' can do a reasonable job of looking after a few hillside generators!

Of the few men that were left behind, it seems they have also

disappeared. **Cpl** 'Fitz' **Fitzgerald** is now on one course after another and is seemingly incapable of managing to fit in a day's work. **Cpl** 'Resettlement King' **Gough** is too busy trying to get civilians to take him on work placements for free, unfortunately he's still waiting for a reply from 'KFC'! **LCpl** 'Muz' **Musgrave** seems to be going through some sort of nervous breakdown due to him continually going down to Colchester on a 2-week 'beat-up course' only for him to return and tell everyone that he has to go back down and complete it again, sicko! **Sig** 'Wardy' **Ward** and **Sig** 'Old Lady' **Grady** have devised a plan to stop them from being bored and that is by applying to go to 264 later in the year, (surely with this fantastic ability of theirs to overcome problems of boredom senior management beckons shortly!)

During this period of manic activity we have actually had two new arrivals. **Sig** 'This is grreaat' **Flaherty**, straight from Boot Camp and **Sig** 'Elmo' **Keightley** from 19 Mech Bde who is posted here temporarily. Both gentlemen are fitting in fairly well and are now coming to terms with the arduous workload that is being constantly thrown at them. Things to look forward to are the last minute runarounds for Ex Saif Sareea which should start shortly and currently there are a few rumours circulating that a group of people require a couple of coaches in Brize Norton sometime in August. Unfortunately I've gone and lost the blasted piece of paper with all the dates and times on. Never mind. As always, it can wait!

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON
'PUB NIGHT' – *by Sig Hitchin*

On Thursday 24 May 2001, 214 Sqn had a function in the NAAFI that involved an evening of pub games and of course lots of drinking. The evening was organised by **Cpl** 'Billy' **Morrison** and **Sig Hitchin**. The outgoing 2IC, **Capt Stu Whittley,** donated a trophy, as a leaving present to the Squadron. **LCpls** 'Jim' **Thurston** and 'Geordie' **Harrison** ran the bar very smoothly. The darts and the pool competition got the evening under way. **Cpl** 'Billy' **Morrison** overlooked the Darts. The Team from SHQ Tp was victorious. Pool referee **LCpl Ashcroft** did his very best to keep the pool teams apart, and just about succeeded. The victorious team came from the combination of Tornado and Roman Troops. The pub quiz was the culmination of the evening. Questions ranging from the members of the telly tubbies to Russian Revolutionary Politics kept the teams guessing for the evening. The quiz came down to sudden death between SHQ Tp and Roman Tp, with SHQ Tp emerging as the 'Inter Troop Pub Night Winners 2001'. **Sig Vint** picked up the trophy on behalf of the Troop. Thanks go out to **Cpl** 'Billy' **Morrison** for putting so much effort into making the evening such a great success.

ROMAN TROOP

With memories of the famous victory in the Inter Sqn Athletics fading fast, the time has come to say the traditional hellos and goodbyes to the mighty Roman Troopers. We say a hearty farewell to **Cpl** 'Ray the Destroyer-apparently' **MacLeod** who has turned to pastures new and green and hopefully in the form of a career in telecommunications. All of Roman Tp would like to wish **Ray** all the very best for the future and if you are ever up in the York area do not hesitate to drop in. We are also sad to have to say goodbye to **Sig Dave 'E' Sexton** who has also decided to embark in a career in civilian street. A big Hello and welcome goes out to **Cpl** 'I've got my wings too' **Loosemore** who joins us from the land of helicopters. More welcomes are extended to **Sig** 'Lofty' **Lofthouse** and **Sig** 'Is it cos I is a ginger' **Hassan**. **Sgt** 'Woohoo give me a beer' **Trench** has also just landed after a busy spell trade training at the funny farm AKA 11 Sig Regt.

CELTIC TROOP & VIKING TROOP

Over the past couple of months the outbreak of foot and mouth has had a major impact on our work routine with the majority of exercises having to be cancelled. The influx of new Troop members and the limitations of access to training areas have led to plenty of 'in house' training, including driver training and all aspects of trade training. Senior Corporals and Lance Corporals from the Troop have taken lessons on the Switch, Radio Relay and SHF. Elements of Celtic and Viking Tp deployed down to Bramcote to take part in Ex Cob Ring II. This was to test the interoperability of Ptarmigan with civilian and other MOD communications equipment in preparation for Ex Saif Sareea. During the Exercise we needed to test the Radio Relay UHF link to its maximum capacity of 25kms. Our Exercise IC, **Sgt Ford,** decided to take it further and deployed the Radio Relay detachment 40kms away and sat there wondering why the shot was not working. The exercise was still a success with all of the tests being carried out in time. Sadly we have to say goodbye to our Tp OC, **Lt Dhan** who is off to Blandford on promotion to Captain and also to **Sgt Debendra** who is off to work in Dover. Finally the Troop would like to welcome the following straight from the factory: **Sigs Bikal, Bishwa, Gokul, Jeevan, Milan, Rudra, Saindra, Samir, Shambhu, Subodh, Lal** and **Dipendra**

REGIMENTAL RUGBY LEAGUE - *by LCpl Lee Turnbull*

Over the last few months myself and OC Rugby League, **Maj Jamie Compston,** have worked together to set up a team and ensure entry into the Yeoman Cup. After this was done, the next task was to teach the game to the Rugby Union players who, although keen, had much to learn of the differences in the codes. For this task we enlisted the help of Lee Crooks, the former Great Britain player and coach of York Wasps.We now had a team and a coach, but what about the game. We drew 47 Air Dispatch Sqn RLC away at RAF Lyneham. Although confident in our ability, we arrived somewhat apprehensively at Lyneham on the morning of Friday 11 May. Upon arrival we were greeted and led to the facilities by our hosts, the team was named and we prepared for the task ahead. We now knew it was time to perform or be persecuted! After a very tight and well fought 20 minutes **LCpl Turnbull** fell over the line to open the scoring with a fall over the line try with **Sig Dean** 'Ginger' **Condren** adding the extras to bring the score to 6-0. The game continued in the same manner for the rest of the half and **Cpl Barrington Barnett** and **Sig Condren** scored well-worked tries, both converted by **Sig Condren**. We held a convincing 18-0 lead at half time and with a few wise words from **Maj Compston** we went back into battle. After an encouraging start we began to lose some of the more experienced players to injury, amongst them was **Cpl Charlie Kama**, **LCpl** '40-20' **Beart** and **Cpl Barnett**. We started to come under pressure but **Maj Compston** managed to score, taking the score to 24-0. Into the final 20 minutes all the subs had been used and our lads were tiring. With a couple of late tries, 47 AD Sqn had their tails up and kept the pressure on, but the Impalas held on for a well worked 24-12 victory. This was an encouraging start to our Rugby League campaign and we look forward to the rest of an enjoyable season.

7 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col J. E. Richardson MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Archer**

The Regiment would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to our last RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Steve Smoothy** who has left on commissioning and is moving with his family to Blandford. The new 'Badge' in the Regiment is **WO1 (RSM) Archer** and he is most welcome in his new home.

WARRANT OFFICERS' DEVELOPMENT PERIOD
EXERCISE BRADBURY CEREBRAL

On taking over the Regiment in September 2000, the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Richardson,** had announced his intent to organise development periods for both the Officers and Warrant Officers. The Warrant Officers were to be the guinea pigs, with their development period to be run before the Officers' period. Nightmare scenarios began to haunt the Warrant Officers, encouraged by the CO's reputation for enjoying physical training, coupled with his love of doctrine - the thought of command tasks, log races, assault courses, estimates and planning exercises kept some of the toughest men in the Regiment awake at night.

The level of interest was raised when the CO announced that the development period would take place in the UK, rather than in Germany. The aim was to broaden understanding of the Force Development process and Army Digitisation, as well as using historical study as a means of training. The final programme included visits to Directorate General Development and Doctrine at Upavon, Directorate General Land Digitization at MOD, and a study period at the National Army Museum, Chelsea. The week was to be rounded off with a visit to the Tower of London to watch the Ceremony of the Keys.

Having flown into Stansted on the trooping flight from Brüggen, the CO, Adjt and 13 Warrant Officers were accommodated at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. This was the first time that the majority of the group had visited the Academy, which is undoubtedly a most impressive training establishment. With the exception of the CO, few of us knew anything about the 'Future Army Concept' and 'Force Development', but we were enlightened at Upavon. It is comforting to know that people much more intelligent than us are already planning what the British Army will look like in several decades time.

The group received a presentation entitled 'Information Operations during Operation Overlord' from the Senior Lecturer at the National Army Museum. This was thought provoking and stimulated much discussion as to whether offensive and defensive operations using information have fundamentally changed over the last 60 years. The Royal Signals contingent at RMAS hosted us in the Sergeants' Mess on the Wednesday evening, ensuring that the Germany based troops were reminded about British culture. The next day we moved to Wellington Barracks to be briefed on Land Digitization. This subject encompasses the entire Army, not just Royal Signals, and so proved very useful for the two AGC Warrant Officers on the Development Period. The debate that followed centred upon whether or not the vast amounts of information, that Digitization will provide, will actually increase or decrease the tempo of high intensity operations.

The highlight of the week for many of us was a visit to the Tower of London. Ex Royal Signals Yeomen Warders gave us a guided tour, prior to the 'Ceremony of the Keys'. This was a great privilege, which few are fortunate enough to witness. Again we were hosted superbly in the Yeomen Warders' Club, and were able to reflect on a highly educational and enjoyable development period. However, the Regimental Officers would probably benefit more from physical tests and planning exercises!

229 (BERLIN) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj D. L. Webster** RA Signals
SSM **WO2 (SSM)** 'Taff' **Burdge**

Another busy period is finally over and all of the Squadrons are now back from Operations overseas with their new medals ... or are they just the same ones as last time? With 231 Sig Sqn back from their brewery tour of the South Atlantic, X Ray Troop has been able to return and 229 Sqn is thankfully returned to its usual size. Many thanks to **Lt Liz** 'YTS' **Williams** and **SSgt Jock** 'Competitive Dad' **Reid** for organising an excellent couple of skiing trips to Bavaria. In all, almost half the Squadron got away in the end. Ex Woodland Bear was slightly curtailed by the Foot and Mouth epidemic and subsequent training area bans but we still managed to carry out an element of training. The OC Sqn is currently trying to teach us all to play Aussie Rules Football in preparation for ANZAC Day, what a strange game, although **Sig** 'Trev' **Woodward** and **LCpl** 'I want to be a girlie tech' **Murray** seemed to have picked it up fairly well. To those who have just left, farewell and enjoy your new units or in some cases life in the great big Civ Div and to our recently arrived, welcome to the best Squadron in the Regiment!

229 SIGNAL SQUADRON ALPINE SKIING TRIP

On 28 January, 15 members of 229 travelled down to Bavaria to the Alple Eible Lodge for ten days of basic alpine skiing. Apart from the grown-ups, **SSgt** 'Jock' **Reid**, **SSgt** 'Dutch' **Holland**, **SSgt** (SSI) **Kev Mason** and **SSgt (FofS)** 'Boycie' **Sutton**, no one on the trip had ever skied before (or so they said). The lads were all issued with their ski gear on the first night with **LCpl** 'Benjamin John' **Pember** and **LCpl** 'Soloman Abdullah Mohammed Ali' **Lafferty** who were both given bright pink 'Carbon Ladies' Skis. **Sig** 'Dangerous Brian' **Bell** did his hardest to break the sound barrier at every opportunity and **Sig** 'Axle Rose' **Brown** just couldn't manage the 100m drag lift and found himself being laughed at by a bunch of 2-year old German kids. Over the ten days the entire group picked up the basic skills in that they were able to get from the top to the bottom of the slope using their skis at some stage of the journey. Jumps of the week have to go to **Kev Mason** who managed to get so high on one jump that he landed in a tree! All of the group managed to pass the final assessment with awards going to; Best skier **Sig** 'I haven't done it before honest' **Preston**, and most improved after the first day to **Sig** 'Maximus' **Dee**. The Best Endeavour award went to **Sig** 'Welcome to the jungle' **Brown** and the No Fear award going to **Sig** 'Dangerous Brian' **Bell.**

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Ian Hunter**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Weaver**

The last ten months have been a turbulent time for the Squadron as elements have been simultaneously deployed to the Falkland Islands, Kosovo and Bosnia. At time of writing, the Squadron has only been reconstituted for a mere eleven days when the JCUFI returnees finished their post tour leave. The efforts of those who remained behind (X-Ray Tp) are recognised as they represented the majority of the Squadron. The X-Troop disbandment party was a night to remember and was superbly organised by **LCpl** 'Karaoke King' **Lovell** who proved to be a mean crooner. All those from other squadrons who had to endure the painful screams of our Karaoke attempts had a lot of fun.

The Squadron is currently busying itself with preparing for the ARRC exercise season, assuming that the foot and mouth crisis is over by the time that the next exercise is scheduled. Not everything is all work and no play. There are a number of overseas Adventurous Training expeditions being planned by members of the Squadron. OC Lima Tp, **Lt** 'JAP' **Mayne**, is taking 14 others away to Yosemite National Park, California, trekking for two weeks in May. Not to be outdone OC Oscar Tp, **Lt** 'Troublethwaite' **Hebblethwaite**, is taking a number of soldiers away to Gibraltar later this year whilst **SSgt** 'I'll go to Oman as top cover' **Thorburn** of Radio Tp is taking the majority of his Troop to Belize. Finally, too numerous to mention individually, farewell to all those that have departed the Squadron over the last ten months and welcome to all those who have arrived during that time.

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON
EXERCISE ARRCADE WARRIOR I

In February the Squadron deployed on Exercise Warrior 1 at that familiar training place - Ayrshire Barracks. When Hotel and Papa Troop arrived to set up they found conditions on the car park where they had to set up resembled the Somme. Papa Troop in particular had the worst location and many swamp monsters emerged caked in mud from around the Man site, it was feared at one point by his Troop that **2Lt Endean** might sink to his neck in the quagmire.

2Lt Endean in his usual pose
or perhaps he's a little tired after reaching question 12 on
'Who wants to be a Millionaire?'

Meanwhile with the temporary absence of the Stonebridge tent (being repaired in America) Hotel Troop set about constructing the HQ build in a series of 12X18 tents. As usual working pretty much non-stop they managed to build STAR HQ in less than favourable conditions. However all was not lost and after a successful CHOC the Stonebridge tent returned and STAR was moved indoors to complete the Exercise, which progressed from conventional war-fighting to Peace Support operations. A series of demonstrations and small-scale riots by enraged locals ensured that ARRC Sp Bn with the help of some of our own Signallers were kept busy protecting the compound.

Hotel Troop and the CO

Meanwhile Delta Troop and Tac Troop deployed to local training areas to exercise the Radio detachments and the San's. The tempo of the Exercise was quite high and with both troops practising moving location at short notice and at night, setting up a San HQ at each location and quite often making use of a Radio Relay Relay in order to ensure the link. By the end of the week everyone's detachment drills where much improved. Tac Troop then moved into its Main Bravo role and Delta Troop conducted SHF, Switch and Inmarsat training.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Drain**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ewing**
QUARTERMASTER'S TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
QM **Maj Cory**
RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) Henry**

As ever the department is really busy. However, we have made time to welcome our latest arrivals, **Sig Souter** and **Sig Blackburn** both have come straight from Blandford. Good Luck wishes go out to **Cpl Clare Boswell** who goes back to Blandford to do her Class 1. Last but not least the department would like to say a fond farewell to **LCpl** 'Girly Shirley' **Valentine** who is off to 264(SAS) Sig Sqn and will hopefully be issued with gloves on arrival to keep those little digits warm.

QUARTERMASTER'S ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
QM **Maj Doherty**
RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) James**

What with the move to Bruggen coming up it has been another busy month for our department. **Maj Pete Doherty** continues to represent the Regiment at orienteering. **Sgt Dave Howe** has been deployed to the Falklands Islands. A recent survey suggesting that low flying aircraft make penguins fall over has been thrown into chaos when a similar situation occurred during one of **Dave's** anecdotes. Have a good tour **Dave**. The department recently bid a sad farewell to the longest serving civilian in the accommodation store. **Herr Wolfgang Faust** has worked in Bradbury Barracks for 19 years serving both 7 and 16 Signal Regiments. As a gift he was presented with a years supply of toilet rolls and light bulbs.

REGIMENTAL MOTOR TRANSPORT
MTO **Capt (MTO) Coatsworth**

The MT would like to say goodbye to **LCpl** and **Sig Christian** who leave us for the brighter horizons of Herford. A big welcome goes out to **Sgt Sean Marriot** and his wife 'sticky' **Suzy** (Who earned that name from 'I'll do anything for Robbie competition by siting in a bath of syrup for 24hrs). We also welcome **Cpls Jackson** and **Barnett** to the Troop and congratulations to **Sgt** 'Dangerous Brian' **Sheard** on being selected for promotion on the last board. We have to say, 'Get well,' to **LCpl McMahon** who thought he'd pulled a stomach muscle and ended up having his appendix out. Two days later **Karen Williamson** was complaining of stomach trouble and to shouts of hypochondriac was rushed into hospital to have her appendix out.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP
Tp Comd **WO1 (RFofS) Jenkins**

A big welcome back goes out to all the lads who have come back from the Falkland Islands. Welcome to **LCpls Moffat** and **Edgell** and also **Sig Howe** all arriving from Blandford. Another welcome goes to the arrival of the new Regimental Foreman **WO1** 'Jenx' **Jenkins** and wife **Annette**. We would like to say farewell to **Cpl** 'Wingnut' **Dennant**, we are sure 231 Sig Sqn will benefit from your technical expertise. Congratulations to **Cpl Austin** on his recent promotion to full corporal. More congratulations to **LCpl Harvie** on his recent engagement and finally best of luck (Not required) to **Cpl** 'Dusty' **Hoffman** in the Army Boxing Championships (and his team-mates).

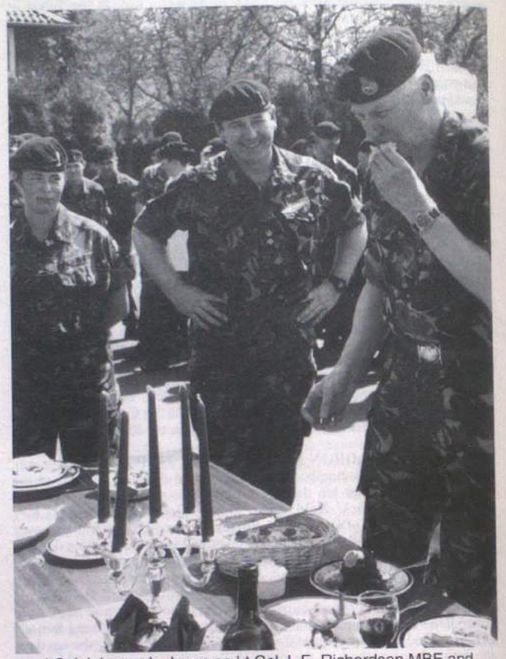
GENERATOR REPAIR SECTION
IC **Sgt Green**

The GRS are very happy to finally appear in *The WIRE* as their own entity and would like to start by saying welcome back, from another tour of Kosovo, to **Cpl Scott Witts** and **LCpl Glenn Russell**. They have been out with 3 Commando Royal Marines, the extra phys has worked wonders for **Glenn**. Welcomes go out to **Cpl Steve Hall** and wife **Jo** also **Cpl John Lees** and wife **Tanja** from the Regimental MT. Congratulations to mediocre golfer **Cpl Craig Bowman** on coming off the shadow board and picking up a nice little posting to Blandford.

VISIT OF MAJOR GENERAL MOORE-BICK CBE - 10 May 2001
by Sgt Brady

The GOC, **Maj Gen Moore- Bick CBE** visited 7 Sig Regt on 10 May 2001, one of the hottest days of he year so far. One port of call within the Regiment was to HQ Sqn. The format of the visit was such that three departments within the Squadron were set up on the Regimental square delivering a brief outline of certain tasks carried out by the Squadron, whether in barracks or on exercise/deployment.

The three departments involved were the chefs, LAD and Regimental MT. **WOII (SSM) Ewing** greeted the GOC on to the square. His stop was to the chefs' tent where he was met by the RCWO, **WOI Goodspeed**. At this stand there were two teams of two chefs who were to prepare a dish in 20 minutes, very reminiscent of the TV programme, Ready Steady Cook. The stipulations laid down to the chefs were that they could spend DM10 and then use compo to prepare their dishes. The chefs taking part were **Cpl Walton**, **Cpl Foulger**, **Pte Mellay** and **Pte Taher**. The GOC started the competition with a loud whistle blast.



LCpl Johnson looks on as Lt Col J. E. Richardson MBE and Maj Gen Moore-Bick CBE sample one of the entries in the HQ Sqn 'Ready Steady Cook Competition

He then moved on to the LAD and was greeted by **Capt Stephenson** who explained the operation of the LAD within the Regiment. With **Capt Stephenson** were **SSgt Lucas**, **Cpl Hall**, **LCpl Steers** and **LCpl Russel**. He then moved onto the Regt MT and was greeted by **Capt Coatsworth** and **SSgt Hay**. Their job was to demonstrate the transfer of fuel from UBRE and also Hazmat equipment and correct procedures when carrying Hazmat.

Maj Gen More-Bick CBE with Sig Patterson (Regt MT)

Due to the nature of the Regt MT attire, a certain degree of sympathy was felt for the girls and boys in the team due to the stifling heat. During the visit the GOC took a lot of time out to speak to the soldiers about previous deployments that they had recently undertaken, most notably Kosovo. After this stand the GOC went to the centre of the makeshift arena to sample the chefs culinary delights, and reach a decision of which team had produced the best meal. After much deliberation with the Commanding Officer, the Officer Commanding HQ Sqn and the Regimental Sergeant Major the decision was made that **Cpl Walton** along with **Pte Taher** had won. Many thanks to all those who took part, and ensured that this was an enjoyable visit for the GOC.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON FUN DAY AND BBQ
SUNDAY 13th MAY 2001

This event was organised by the LAD and was a resounding success. The parade square was miraculously transformed into the perfect venue with a variety of entertainment. To say that we were lucky with the weather was the understatement of the year. With the temperature at a sweltering 30°C everybody enjoyed themselves to the full, basking in the sun and maintaining healthy levels of liquid refreshment. As usual the chefs excelled by putting on a hearty feast to feed an outstanding attendance of over 300 people. The children were kept entertained throughout the day by games and dancing, along with a variety of bouncy castles and inflatables. **Cpl Hartill** of the LAD kept the older children amused with a 'Beat the Keeper' football competition which was won by 12yr old **Scott Finley** with an amazing six points. Special thanks have to go to **Cpl Bevan** and **Cpl Glowienko** of the RMP who brought with them Dino the sniffer dog, enjoyed by the children who gazed in awe as Dino found hidden objects in a matter of seconds. Children also received wanted posters of themselves as they were photographed sitting on top of a Police motorbike. Later in the evening we were all serenaded by the karaoke skills of **Maj** 'Neil Diamond' **Drain** and **Sgt Skipper** along with many others. The day ended at just after 1900hrs with everybody saying how much they had enjoyed themselves.

Families Karaoke - WO1 (RSM) Archer sings 'Sex Bomb'

(L-R): Jackie Drain, Susan Hymas, Karren Williams

QUARTERMASTER ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
QM **Maj P. J. Doherty MBE**
RQMS **WO2 James**

FAREWELL TO RQMS JAMES

Those he owes money to will be disappointed to know that **Neil James** is about to breast the tape of a career that has spanned 22 years. For the best part of the last three years **Neil** has divided his time between fulfilling the role of RQMS Admin and RSM, as well as a plethora of other tasks within the Regiment. A larger than life character (in more ways than one) he has very much been the backbone in providing in barracks support for the soldiers. **Neil** (chew-chew to his friends) leaves the service to settle in the Shrewsbury area where he will satisfy a life long fascination with the national rail system and join the Railway Police. The Department saw him off in fine style and made a number of presentations which included: a blue anorak with matching scarf and gloves, a tartan pattern unbreakable flask and a years subscription to the popular monthly periodical the Loco Letchers Combine. We wish him **Karen** and the rest of the family all the very best for the future.

The QM(A) Maj Docherty presents RQ James with his leaving gift

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Ian Hunter**
SSM **WO2 Karl Weaver**

The Squadron is finally close to being the close knit cohesive sub unit that it was prior to recent deployments. With exercise commitments in the programme for the near future, we hope to be in a position to play hard as well as work hard. It has been hard graft in Radio Tp recently due the Troop not long being reformed after the Bosnia/Falklands deployments, in between preparation for Ex Saif Sareea 2 in Oman. We have also had to contend with mad techs being let loose on our vehicles. However, **Cpl** 'I love comms' **Murphy** dazzled us with an excellent STTICS demo its just a shame his wife's driving skills are not as good as his lessons!

On the social side of things **LCpl** 'I'm not panicking' **Roberts** organised a Troop function, which was a great success, however, nobody told **Cpl** 'Big Fish' **Fisher** that it was not a fancy dress theme as he turned up in full 70's gear, including afro wig. Also that night **Sig** 'Silky' **Wilkie** did a fabulous rendition of 'You've lost that lovin' feelin' which made him a big hit with the ladies, as you can well imagine! Overall it has to be said that slowly but surely the troop is close to emulating the high standards that Radio Tp has previously set itself. Quebec Tp is currently being baby sat by **Sgt Nick Asquith** while **SSgt Tony Black, LCpl** 'Laney' **Lane, LCpl Kerry Roberts** and **LCpl Sharon McCreaddie** have all managed to go on a two week adventurous training expedition in California, you lucky, lucky people.

Well done to all of those who participated in the preparation to achieve an outstanding Board of Officers turnout. So for all those that did well, 'well done' and for all of those who didn't do quite so well, 'well done anyway'. This also goes for the Regimental call-in at 6am on Monday. Good luck to **Cpl Timothy Dennant** who is participating in the Sennelager Army Athletics Individuals Competition in the 100m and 400m in the near future. Finally best wishes to **Sig Adam Tasker** who will grace ARRC Sp Bn with his presence, there should be no problems stacking blankets for one who ran his troop MT. To **Sig Nicki Brown**, who is off to 204 Sig Sqn – 'how does it feel to be a Tanky? Finally to **LCpl Marc Ainscough** – enjoy Lisburn!

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON - *by 2Lt Vanessa Galloway*
Sqn Comd **Maj Baker**
Sqn SSM **WO2 Browitt**

The last few months have been incredibly busy for 232 Sig Sqn. All four troops were involved in the Board of Officers at the back end of April. Indeed much was found surplus and also deficient and we all now wait for the findings to be accumulated and the kit reallocated around the Regiment. Hot off the tail of the Board of Officers, Hotel Troop deployed in support of Arrcade Sparten, a Staff Officer Study period which gave the Troop plenty of time to enjoy the sunshine while working hard to provide the service that 1 Sig Bde have come to expect. During this week, the GOC and the CDS visited the Squadron meeting many of the troops and were nothing but impressed with what they saw. The Squadron are now preparing for the imminent RSIT examinations which will lead up to Ex Woodland Flight at the end of June. It's not been all work, however, with several Regiment and Squadron functions. An excellent Squadron night in the bar was lead by Papa Tp. This was a Vicars and Tarts Night, a chance for the soldiers to prove that Army men do truly have a thing for dressing up as women. There were some extremely scary sights that night mentioning no names (**Sig Mulholland**). The day's festivities with the Regiment in Archies was finished off until the small hours in the now much used Squadron Bar.

EXERCISE COMBINED ENDEAVOR 2001

Exercise Combined Endeavor is an exercise to document interoperability of command, control, communications and computer systems between NATO and Partnership for Peace (PfP) countries. Tac Troop's involvement in the exercise was a RATT Detachment deployed on West Park for 14 days, with **SSgt Steve Griffiths**, **LCpl Alex McMurray**, **Sig Johnson**, **Sig Baz Mears** and detachment technician **Cpl Neil Cansfield**. Papa Tp provided support in the way of **Cpl Minto**, **LCpl Grant**, **Sig Laker** and **Sig Wass** who were involved in the trial element of the exercise.

(L-R): SSgt Griffiths, Cpl Cansfield, Sig Mears, Sig Johnson, LCpl McMurray

FINAL PLANNING CONFERENCE SWARTZENBURG SWITZERTLAND

This year Combined Endeavor involved over 37 countries from The Republic of Ireland to Kyrgyzstan. **SSgt Griffiths** and **Cpl Cansfield** were selected to go to Switzerland to learn how to use the equipment and to learn about the concept of the exercise. It was a valuable week in which they both made friends that helped them out over exercise period. Fortunately it was not all work, and after they had sat in No 2 dress listening to 37 countries introduce themselves, there was also time to sample Swiss culture, with and evening of fondue and various trips to Bern which included a trip to a radio station which runs along the same lines as STICICS or Portishead.

EXERCISE PHASE

The exercise took place over the period 10 – 23 May 2001. The exercise location or test bed was in Lager Aulenbach, Baumholder south west of Frankfurt. We were on a net with six other stations and a NATO detachment with our net controlling station being Lithuania. Each day we had serials to send and receive as well as having a chat with other countries on our net over a HF modem. During the end of the exercise it was a free net in which you could talk to the LAN at Baumholder with the HF modem or chat to other countries. We managed to talk to other countries as diverse as Russia, France US Marine Corps and The Republic of Ireland. Once Endex had been called four members of the detachment went down to Baumholder for the final Biwak or BBQ. This consisted of each of the 37 nations providing local brew to all participants including Kyrgyzstan vodka! The exercise was a resounding success for us and we are all looking forward to next year.

7 SIGNAL REGIMENTAL 'GANTRY DOGS'

by Capt Chris Hymas

It was 0645hrs on a wet Saturday morning on the 2 June when the mighty 7 Signal Regimental Tug of War Team was born. The mighty warriors assembled on the Regimental square ready to do battle in the BA(G) Tug of War competition. One of our gladiators had a slight problem, **SSgt** 'Jock' **Reid** had amazingly forgotten his kit claiming it was locked in his store. We, however, knew the real reason for this supposed missing kit. He was attempting to get out of pulling as he is getting on in years. We departed at 0700hrs for 26 Field RA at Mansergh Barracks in Gutersloh arriving without a hitch for the weigh in under the watchful eye of our illustrious coach **Capt** 'This is hurting me more than it is you' **Hymas**. We went for the weigh in and a few people held their breath and everything else in, hoping that they would be one of the chosen few who were to be allowed on the scales. It was a tense time not a word was uttered apart from the coach who was moving people on and off the scales to get us nearest to the weight. The Regimental side was eventually entered into all four weights, 560kg, 600kg, 640kg and 680kg. Then it was out to the Gladiatorial Arena. We were up against some formidable competition in the shape of 26 Field RA, 14 Field RA, 2 CS, 3 RSME and our arch rivals 1(UK) ADSR. Throughout the day it was apparent how good the Artillery teams were as we found to our peril but we gave a good account of ourselves in all weight categories.

So it came to the end of the competition and we all lined up in our teams waiting with bated breath wondering how we had fared in our first BA(G) competition in many years. In the 560kg, 600kg and the 680kg we came BA(G) Runners Up 2001 and in the 640kg we were third. All in all it was a very successful day for the 7 Signal Regiment Tug of War Team and as in the song 'The only way is up'. The side now looks forward to the 15 June where we will be competing in the Morrison Cup in Blandford.

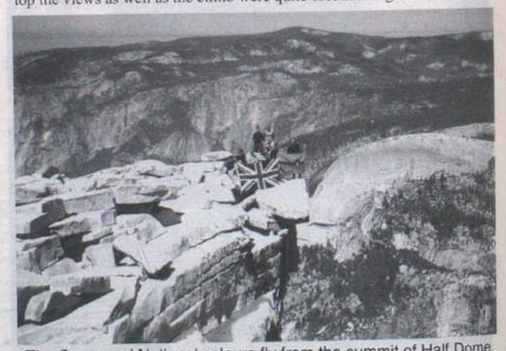
231 SIGNAL SQUADRON
EXERCISE MERCURY RISING BACKSTOP

by Lt Jon 'JAP' Mayne

At 0430hrs on 15 May 2001, 15 intrepid souls from 231 Sig Sqn set out from Krefeld to scale the heights of Yosemite National Park in California. A minibus, plane, bus, plane, taxi, coach, train, coach and 43 hour journey later we arrived in what has to be the most spectacular mountainous area on earth. We were there to carry out nine days of arduous unsupported trekking, and climb several of the parks major peaks, risking bears, blisters and worst of all mosquitoes in order to achieve our aim.

Nevada falls from the Panorama Trail
Sig Simpson, LCpl Baynes, LCpl Lane, Sig Ruddy, Sig Heath, LCpl Irving, Cpl 'Teenage Dirtbag' Jordan

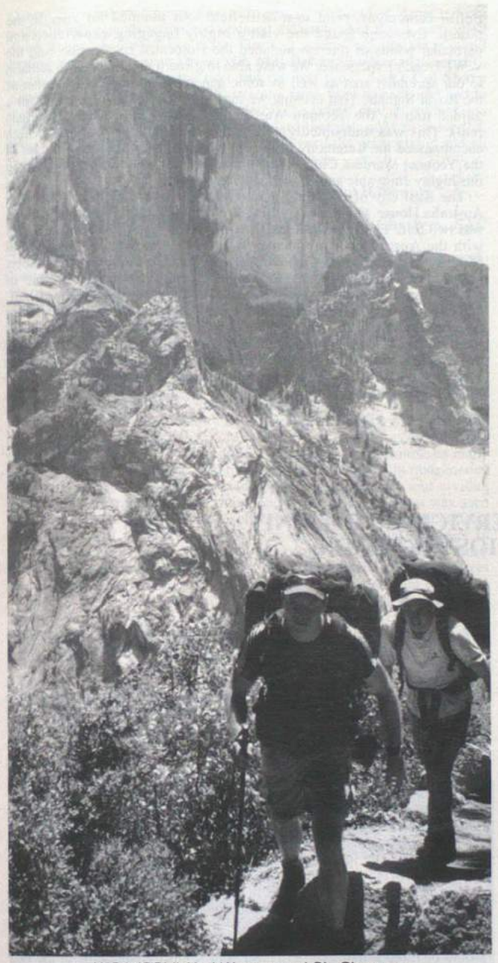
Our first challenge was to actually climb out of the valley past the Vernal and Nevada waterfalls up to the wilderness area that was to be our home for the next nine days. We then made for the top of Half Dome; an ascent that usually involved the use of cables that are used as hand rails for the final 300ft of the climb. These were unfortunately not yet in place as the park had not yet been fully opened for the season. This did not stop nine of the 15 members in our group who hauled themselves up to the summit, leaving those who are a little more scared of heights to appreciate the views from a lower elevation. For those who made it to the top the views as well as the climb were quite breathtaking.



The Corps and National colours fly from the summit of Half Dome

Our route continued over the summit of Clouds Rest and on to Merced Lake before returning to the valley after four days to re-supply on food. After a relatively civilised night in an established camp, a shower and some very large pizzas, we were off again this time heading out to a far less visited area of the park towards Tuolumne Meadows. The day started early in order to try and climb the majority of the trail out of the valley before midday as the temperature promised to rise to 34ºC. 4 hours, and an almost vertical climb of 4000ft later, we reached the north side of Yosemite's main valley, and headed off for Tenaya Lake.

THE CORPS CAROL SERVICE WILL BE ON MONDAY 17 DECEMBER



WO2 (SSM) Karl Weaver and Sig Simpson
climbing out of the valley with the peak of Half Dome
that was ascended four days previously in the background

Tenaya Canyon with Half Dome as a backdrop

We continued to our next objective, the ascent of Mount Hoffman that was a day's return walk from our 'base camp' at May Lake. The ascent proved to be a challenge as there was no distinct path, and the snow cover was still fairly thick in places. However, the peak was successfully conquered and we had bagged the highest peak in the northern portion of the National Park.

GOOD NEWS TRAVELS FAST - PUBLISH IT IN THE WIRE

The Expedition Ladies!
LCpls Mcreaddie, Roberts, Schaffer and Clarke,
with Mount Hoffman as a back drop

After Mount Hoffman had been successfully conquered, we started our return to the Valley and with several of the group suffering from increasingly large blisters, and rucksacks that didn't seem to get any lighter despite the daily consumption of food, everybody was ready to stop walking. The return journey afforded some of the most spectacular views of the trip so far, but everyone was extremely grateful to get back and eat food that didn't come out of a bag.

Sig Ruddy leads the descent past Yosemite Falls,
The highest waterfall in North America

The expedition was concluded with a period of two days R & R in Los Angeles with people exploring Hollywood Boulevard, Venice Beach, Universal Studios and the nighttime delights of Sunset Strip, while the girls spent their hard earned cash on a shopping trip to Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. A good time was had by all, and it didn't take too long for the blisters and Mosquito bites to heal!

EXERCISE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT - *by 2Lt Matt Jones*

From 4 – 8 April 2001, 30 Officers from 7 Sig Regt accepted the difficult challenge of a development period in the UK. Headed up by the Commanding Officer, this visit was to be centred on historical study and development, but also to encompass an aspect of cohesion for the officers after a long period of fragmentation within the regiment. The final programme was to include visits to the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth, Australia House and much anticipated guided tour of the Tower of London. Having undergone an immensely long journey to London by land and sea, we were accommodated at RAF Uxbridge and the first stages of the assault were planned. Saturday morning saw an early rise for most, as we headed down to Twickenham for the annual Army v Navy rugby match. The disappointment of an Army defeat was somewhat dampened by the many reunions that took place in the Signals bar afterwards.

Monday morning, and so the real work began! We moved to the Imperial War Museum, with the intention of focusing on Soviet and Polish campaigns, prior to a battlefield tour planned for later in the month. Everyone found the visit a highly engaging experience and particular points of interest included the Holocaust Experience, and the WWI Trench Experience. We were able to glean a great deal with relation to our specialist area as well as some general historical development of the Royal Signals. That evening we moved to the Tower of London for a guided tour by the Yeoman Warder, **Mr Alan Fiddes** (Royal Signals retd). This was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the visit, which encompassed the Ceremony of the Keys and a superbly hosted dinner in the Yeoman Warders Club, where those present were able to reflect on this highly enjoyable and educational experience.

The final day of the study period saw a trip into central London to Australia House. Organised by **Maj Webster** (OC 229 Sig Sqn), the aim was two fold. Firstly it was ideal opportunity to foster relations and links with the Australian Army, thanks to an excellent presentation by **Col Murray** in which he gave an overview of the role of Australian officers posted overseas with the British Army. Secondly, we received a tour of the building, including many presentation boards in the main hall, depicting the various campaigns the Australians had participated in over the years. A small rest-bite ensued and then it was off to the Savoy Hotel for the annual Corps Dinner Night. Always a big occasion, this year was no exception with 7 Sig Regt well represented! It seemed a fitting end to a highly thought provoking and tremendously educational experience. Many thanks go to all those who helped to organise this trip.

JOINT SERVICE SIGNAL UNIT (AYIOS NIKOLAOS)

CO **Lt Col R. A. Sharp MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Richardson**

COMMAND GROUP

As the long hot summer approaches we continue to receive a large number of VIP visits. Recent visitors have included The Chief of Defence Staff, **Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, GCB OBE ADC**, C in C LAND - **General Sir Michael Jackson, KCB, CBE, DSO** and the Commander British Forces Cyprus, **Air Vice Marshall T. W. Rimmer OBE MA**.

LONG SERVICE & GOOD CONDUCT PRESENTATION

The Commander British Forces, Cyprus, **Air Vice Marshall T. W. Rimmer OBE MA** visited the Unit to present Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **Sgt Solley** and **Cpl Roberts** and a bar to the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to **WO Dave Watson**.

Long Service & Good Conduct Presentation
Back Row (L-R): Lt Col Sharp, Cpl Roberts, WO Watson, Sgt Solley, WO1 (RSM) Richardson
Front Row (L-R): Mrs Roberts, Mrs Watson, Air Vice Marshall Rimmer, Mrs Solley
(all photographs courtesy of Sgt Jo Townsend)

SUPPORT SQUADRON - *by Cpl Scott Wilkie RAF*
Sqn Comd **Maj M. G. P. Bohanan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. Buxton**

Welcome to the Sp Sqn *WIRE* notes. Forgive me if it's not up to the usual Royal Signals standard as I am a RAF supplier in the Squadron. I didn't even know the magazine existed until I was tasked by **WO2 Rick** (13, 14, ONE, TWO) **Buxton** to produce a worthy addition. For the RAF amongst us, 13, 14 are not lottery numbers but something to do with marching and getting on parade. The Squadron would like to congratulate **SSgt** 'Scotty (The sandbagger)' **Cain** for winning the Ay Nik Open Golf Championship and fending off a strong field of 80 from both Cyprus and the UK. As 'Scotty' is posted, in July, to 21 Sig Regt be aware that there's a bandit with a handicap of 17 on his way. Congratulations must go to the MT for winning its own Safe Drive Competition held at Ay Nik. The Team was captained by **Sig Richie** 'I'm always on keys for PT' **Bastow**, well done. A detailed report appears later in these notes. The Squadron Football Team has had yet another successful season reaching the Eastern Sovereign Base Area minor unit cup final for the second year in succession. The final to be played after the release of these notes. The biggest surprise was that **SSgt Gaz** 'I'll always play cos I'm the manager' **Steel** dropped himself for the semi-final, a big relief to everyone in the team. The Squadron would also like to say a very well done to the OC, **Maj** 'Machine Gun Pete' **Bohanan** for arriving with a car (Audi TT) that any boy racer would be proud of. Surely Sir, a Yaris would be more suitable for a man of your seniority. Welcome to the new 2IC, **Flt Lt** 'Living on the edge' **Harris** and his wife **Michaela** and also to **Cpl** 'Geordie 'Ever used a camera? (Yes) the job's yours' **Reid** and family. Farewell to **WO2 Danny** 'Invest your money wisely, don't spend it' **Thornton, Sue** and the boys bound for their final tour in York. Well that's it from Sp Sqn -suggest maybe a person who actually reads this magazine and is Royal Signals will write the next notes. Per Ardva Ad Astra 'endeavor to the skies' oops wrong magazine.

EXERCISE YOUNG DRIVE 2001 - *by SSgt John 'old' Driver*

Ex Young Drive 2001 was the Unit Road Safety and Skilled Driving Competition. The event was organised by **SSgt John** 'aptly named' **Driver**, the MT SNCO. An early start and a safety briefing set the teams up. The aim of the competition was to highlight areas of advanced driving skills which personnel can focus future training on with the hope of improving individual driving skills and reducing road traffic accidents. The competition involved seven stands and included a ladies' manoeuvring and a tick test.

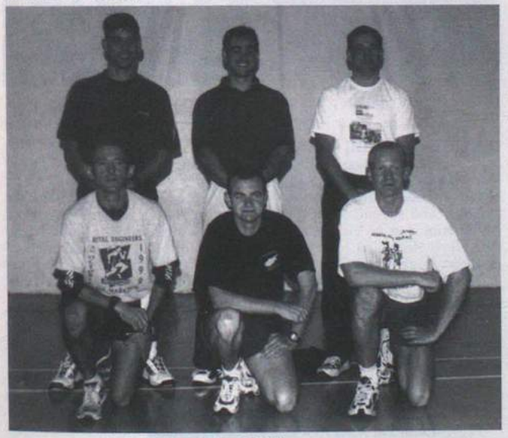
Stand 1 -	Highway Code Test	-	**Flt Sgt Morris**, 840 Sqn
Stand 2 -	Cross Country	-	**Sgt Dorrian, LCpl Elliott**, Sp Sqn
Stand 3 -	RTA First Aid	-	**Sgt Hill, Cpl Fraser**, Sp Sqn
Stand 4 -	Manoeuvring	-	**SSgt Greaves**, Sp Sqn
Stand 5 -	FMT 3	-	**Sgt Whitty**, 234 Sqn
Stand 6 -	Saxon Drive	-	**Cpl Wild, Pte Godkin** 1 Cheshire
Stand 7 -	Vehicle Marshalling	-	**SSgt Dyson**, Sp Sqn

Seven teams, each having three servicemen/women, entered a round robin format. The popular stand was the Saxon Drive run by **Cpl Jase Wild** from 1 Cheshire where the Commanding Officer came particularly unstuck when dismounting from it. The Cross Country stand was a huge success as teams had to follow a route card. Although several teams gave **Sgt** 'Bri' **Dorrian** and **LCpl** 'Richie' **Elliott** a bit of a headache as their route selection got very close to the boundary of Cyprus and the Turkish Controlled Northern Cyprus. One team got particularly lost, came in from a totally different direction and claimed the route card was wrong. Well done Team 'A' - 840 Sig Sqn. The CO visited all the stands and participated in the Saxon Drive with **Maj Bohanan** who volunteered to be his commander - for the first and the last time. As **Lt Col Sharp** jumped off the Saxon he split his trousers from front to back and had to retreat back to his car hiding his modesty. The ladies' driving competition had ten entries, all of a very high standard that just goes to show that ladies are just as good as men. A BBQ followed the prize giving and all the winning team celebrated in the Famagees club.

First Place Team	-	Sp Sqn - **Cpl McConnell, Cpl Holloway, Pte Ripley**
Second Place Team	-	840 Sqn - **Cpl Wilson, Cpl Chesters, SAC Geary**
Third Team	-	Sp Sqn - **Cpl Page, Cpl Woods, LCpl Hayward**
First Individual	-	**Cpl Cross**, 234 Sqn
Second Individual	-	**Cpl Wilson**, 840 Sqn
Third Individual	-	**Cpl McConnell**, RAF Dog Sect
First Ladies	-	**Mrs Shaz Greaves**
Second Ladies	-	**Mrs Jo Ridley**
Third Ladies	-	**Mrs Nikki Freeman**

24 HOUR CHARITY
BASIC PERSONNEL FITNESS ASSESSMENT

On 11 April a 24-hour charity BPFA took place at the gymnasium. The event organized by **SSgt (SSI)** 'Muscles' **Dury** and the gyro running a BPFA every hour for a 24-hour period. The aims were to enable as many Army personnel as possible to complete their BPFA l, and to raise money for Imperial Cancer Research in the process. All military and civilian personnel were encouraged to attend and an excellent turn out was seen over the 24-hour period. Three teams of two people in each successfully completed and passed 24 BPFA's between them raising funds in sponsorship by doing so. The teams that comprised of **SSgt (SSI) Dury** and **WO2 Joughin, SSgt Murney** and **Cpl Chamberlain, SSgt Greaves** and **LCpl Woods** achieved the feat. Despite a certain amount of fatigue at the end, all six were reported to have wanted to continue for another 24 hours. Those a little worse for wear after their exercise had the opportunity of a much needed massage, and for a small donation, **Mrs Traci Richardson** kindly brought life back to tired legs. A raffle, from which all funds went to charity, was drawn by the CO. The prizes included a cruise, however, the highlight was **Capt Andy** 'I didn't do the BPFA' **Greenfield**, (he was too busy), the Adjutant winning a free haircut at the unit's barbers. Congratulations should go to the gym staff for organizing such a successful event and to all who participated during the day. The event brought the total amount of money raised so far this year to well over £C200.



The 24 hrs BPFA runners.
Back Row (L-R) LCpl Woods, SSgt (SSI) Dury, SSgt Greaves
Front Row (L-R) SSgt Mumey, WO2 Joughin, Cpl Chamberlain

FLORA LONDON MARATHON 2001- *by Cpl Paul Chamberlain*

22 Apr saw the 21 ' running of the London Marathon. **Cpl** 'Grandad' **Chamberlain** from the gymnasium saw this as a fine opportunity to fulfill a lifelong ambition to attempt his first ever marathon and get a free flight back to the UK. The chilly conditions at the mass start point were a vast contrast to the fine, warm weather back in Ay Nik, but nothing a free cup of PG Tips couldn't sort out. A chest number displaying 30,684 meant a start in the company of a pantomime horse and Elvis Presley to name but a few. In reality it resulted in taking six minutes to actually cross the start line. Once underway the field took a while to thin out but the atmosphere created by both runners and spectators meant the first ten miles flew by. Crossing Tower Bridge marked the half-way point and it was only at this stage it actually began to sink in that to complete the 26.2 mile course would require a good deal of grit and determination. Coming into the final stages was an unforgettable experience. Running past sights such as Buckingham Palace, and streets lined with cheering crowds soon made any tiredness disappear and crossing the finish line in a time of 3 hours 25 minutes was extremely satisfying. Thanks go to all who gave support and sponsorship and enabled a substantial sum to be raised for Childline. See you all in London next year!

234 SQUADRON – *by the Squadron 2IC*
Sqn Comd **Maj A. R. Urwin**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Smith**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

SHQ seems to be busier than ever. **LCpl** 'Clappedout' **Clapson** has moved the office around, again! **SSM Steve Smith** has embarked on a Club Diver but is still desperately trying to find his buoyancy! He can be found floating on the surface of the Station swimming pool waiting for the rest of his family to finish either swimming lessons or life guard training. The OC, **Maj Tony Urwin** completed a grueling 150mile cycle challenge claiming his new orthotics and not his age were to blame for his Basil Faulty style of walking! **Capt** 'Lady Tara' **Woodbridge** has been busy organizing a Charity Football Tournament as well as charging around the mountains again, on the 12 SU Walkabout. **Capt Forbes Guthrie** took a team of eight to Kenya to climb Mt Kilimanjaro and despite predictions to the contrary they all returned safely! The summer has at last arrived and there is plenty to look forward to including the Coomber Cup athletics and swimming competitions, the All-Island Raft Race and the Station Summer Fete, roll on the winter!

LINE SECTION

Line Section bids goodbye and congratulations to **Sig Chris Sankey** who is off to 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn on promotion, **Sig** 'I don't moan' **Zukowski** who is off to JSSU (Digby) also on promotion. Last but not least we also say goodbye to **Sig** 'Fat Ginola' **Clark** and his family (**Becky** and **Adam**) who are off to 243 Sig Sqn in sunny Wilton. It has been a busy time for the section as **Sig** 'Basil Brush' **Molloy** just managed to complete his Leadership course. **Sig** 'Jacko' **Jackson** joined the Station Rugby team on a tour to Bulgaria where they managed a whole three full games of rugby. **Sig** 'Magoo' **Stokes** has been away on his Cat 5 course whilst **LCpl** 'I am off to London soon' **Ridley** has been studying hard for his Class I entrance test. **Sig** 'I must be unlucky' **Saether** attended a foot and mouth leadership course in Blandford where he was taught how to map read back to Brize Norton after a week, better luck next time 'Richie', it could only happen to you.

SYSTEM SUPPORT SECTION

Cable TV has been very busy this year and the benefits at last, are beginning to show. We have refitted the main distribution head end, fixed faults, kept on top on maintenance and even managed to keep some of the wives relatively happy. RESULT! **Sgt** 'Deano' **Leach** has been keeping the children on camp entertained with some War Gaming while **Cpl** 'Leah' **Steward** has sneaked away on adventurous training to East Africa for three weeks.

ANTENNA SECTION

It's been a busy winter in Antenna Section with plenty to keep us entertained. As spring arrives (do we have a spring?), the QM's Department have been busy refurbishing the LEC's rest-room and we were able to enjoy an afternoon of local cuisine when we presented the riggers with the new keys. **Cpl G. Gaber** has left us for Blandford where he embarks on his T1 course leaving **Cpl Geordie Tonks** to assume command of the bar where it is quite possible we may enjoy a few BBQ's over the next few months.

840 SQUADRON - *by Sgt Kev Cooney*
Sqn Comd **Sqn Ldr M. Edwards**

The 840 Sqn sole Royal Signals representative, **Sgt** 'Short Cake' **Cooney** has been selected for promotion, embarked on an adventure training expedition to Africa and toured Bulgaria with the Unit rugby team. Nothing else to add. Oh and he's posted to Bulford

12 SU WALKABOUT - MALE TEAM - *by Cpl Forwood*

Three male teams from the unit entered this year's competition. **WO2** 'Rococo' **Gianndrea, SSgt** 'Desmond' **Murney** and **Cpl** 'Oldest of the lot' **Paul Chamberlain** (Ay Nik Strollers), **Sqn Ldr Michael Edwards, Sgt Jim Reeves** and **Cpl Rob Forwood** (Mike's Marauders), and **WO2 Smith, SSgt Francis,** and **Sgt Gibbons** (Mark Thatcher B Team).

Mike's Marauders
(L-R): Cpl Forwood, Sqn Ldr Edwards and Sgt Reeves

The event itself was noteworthy for the fact that it rained throughout providing conditions that were more Sennybridge than Cyprus. The Ay Nik Strollers claimed the prize for first male team. Mike's Marauders' romped home to a glorious third place but special note should be given to **Sgt Jim Reeves**, who achieved after stepping in at the last minute to enable the team to compete. Last but not least the Mark Thatcher B Team who came in a satisfying 32 with their honour still intact.

12 SU WALKABOUT - FEMALE TEAM

by Capt 'Lady Tara' Woodbridge

There is a small band of people who are currently based in Cyprus who insist on pushing their bodies to their limits over long distances in soaring temperatures. The Cyprus Walkabout, the 12 SU Walkdown and the 12 SU Walkabout are three taxing and challenging navigation competitions held in the areas between the Troodos Mountains and Episkopi Garrison. On 7 of April, three die hard walkabouters embarked on the latest crazy long distance orienteering event, a 30 mile grueling competition that was the culmination of weeks of training and the last of the big three events of this nature for the intrepid ladies team. The day started bright and early at the epicentre in the most spectacular rainstorm seen for weeks. The sun had disappeared; the thunder and lighting was impressive and the rain hailed down across the valleys. Our team, CARMAGNIC, consisted of **SSgt Pearce** (APTC), **Capt Woodbridge** and **Mrs** 'Maggie' **Reeson**. We were the fourth team out of sixty teams to leave, the course was unknown and we were given just four minutes to mark the maps and escape the wire of camp and out onto the open road. Checkpoint One was a straightforward six miles. The route went through Happy Valley and down to Paramali, before a sharp left turn and a quick dash to the checkpoint. The route to Checkpoint Two wasn't so flat and not quite so easy. The route continued across the motorway, through the deserted village of Paramali and into the bondu. A painful, steep ascent through the thickets brought us to Checkpoint Two situated on a windy and wet ridgeline. It was here that we bumped into a few men's teams who had, like us, chosen the most direct route and were suffering from the barrage of rain and chill of the wind. Checkpoint Three was a fast nine miles over the Pano Kavides ridge to Souni. Familiar terrain made navigation easy and it was not long before we had arrived at Checkpoint three, still smiling. Checkpoint three to four was a boring and a hard six miles on the road. It was all down hill past the dam at Kandou and over an extremely boggy field to the waiting Land Rover. We arrived a good three inches taller with enough mud and clay to build a small house. Soaked to the skin we took off to complete the most challenging leg from Checkpoints Four and Five. **Capt Woodbridge** and **SSgt Pearce** were feeling the effects of the downhill stretch. **Mrs Reeson**, meanwhile, was on a mission. W e were some three kilometers behind the leading ladies team and were determined to catch them over the final ten miles. Unfortunately poor route selection meant we ended up traversing across some very boggy terrain before arriving at Checkpoint Five in particularly somber moods (cursing and swearing!). At last we had reached the foothills of Episkopi Garrison. The route was a familiar and uphill route that we had completed on previous Walkdowns. We raced to the base of the Episkopi Golf Balls before limping and waddling our way back to the epicentre to the finish. Our total time of 7hrs 10 minutes was well within our target and despite being slightly disappointed to have finished second in our category.

WIVES' CLUB CHARITY EXERCISE 20/21 APRIL 2001

by Sgt Dave Churchwood

The Wives' Club Charity Exercise (Ex Mercury Maiden) took place at Scout Wood and the surrounding area over the 20-21 April 2001. The exercise started with the usual welcome, Health & Safety and Basic First Aid briefs. The instructors then set about the essential items of equipment. The ladies (and one husband) were then 'bugged out' from the Training Wing exercise transport to the exercise location. Before the exercise began there were vicious rumours that the volunteers would have to capture and kill their own lunch. Fortunately the rumours were put to rest when **Sgt Steve Hills** taught everyone how to prepare the 24hr Ration Packs (as if he know himself). Throughout the day the volunteers were subject to a bombardment of information. They were given insight on the subjects of first aid, observation, map reading, movement and duties of a sentry. This was to prepare them for the night ahead. After the evening meal they were sent on a simple night navigation exercise in which they picked up clues as to the identity of the enemy that were to be in the area that evening. Once they returned, and after some soup the partners were given a briefing on enemy activity that might occur throughout the night. A busy night, and after little sleep, the partners tucked into a hot breakfast and then it was off on the transport to complete the remainder of the competition which included a command task and quiz. The exercise ended with prize giving and a BBQ at the Training Wing. The prize winners were; **Miss Julie Gatford** (Best Field Soldier), **Mrs Sharon Lieb** and **Mrs Kylie Tate** (Best Fire Team) and **Mrs Michelle Ward** (Best Effort).

The rain cancels play (during the school holidays) visit the Royal Signals Museum plenty to see and things to do

Wives (+ husband) with Charity Exercise certificates

CHARITY FOOTBALL COMPITION 15 APRIL 2001 - *by Sgt Hills*

The Station Charity Football Tournament was held at the Rugby Club Pitches on Sunday 15 April (Easter Sunday). The competition was made up from teams from the Sergeants' Mess, the ESBA Chefs, the Ay Nik Ladies Team, the Rugby Club and the Junior Ranks. The competition was split into two groups, with the top two teams in each group qualifying for the semi-finals. The Sergeants' Mess destroyed the Rugby Club 3-0 in the first semi-final and the Junior Ranks beat the ESBA Chefs 2-0 in the other. That left the final to be played between the Sergeants' Mess and the Junior Ranks. The final was a keenly contested match with the Sergeants' Mess taking a 2-0 lead into half time. The Junior Ranks pulled a goal back in the second half but as the Sergeants' Mess tired, they held on to be the winners of the competition. The CO was on hand to present the prizes and thanked everyone for their support and raising money for charity. All that's left to be said is, 'Where was the Officers' Mess team?'

The Charity football competition winning team
The Sergeants' Mess

EXERCISE UHURU PEAK - JSSU(AN)

Ex Uhuru Peak was a three-week high altitude trekking expedition to Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro from 5 - 26 March 2001 lead by **Capt Forbes Guthrie.** Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya are the highest and second highest mountains in Africa respectively. Both mountains can be climbed by walkers, as opposed to climbers, and therefore offered an excellent opportunity for relatively inexperienced walkers to gain experience of high altitude conditions. The expedition was eight strong, all being volunteers from JSSU(AN). The team comprised of the following Army and Royal Air Force personnel:

Capt Forbes Guthrie R SIGNALS
SSgt (FofS) Dave Coffey R SIGNALS
Sgt Kev Cooney R SIGNALS
Sgt Tony Wadington R SIGNALS
Sgt Tony Hubbold RAF
Cpl Jon Olphert RAF
Cpl Leah Steward R SIGNALS
LCpl Pat Abel AGC

Monday afternoon and a group of eight assembled at MT to embark on Ex Uhuru Peak. We arrived at Larnaca Airport in good time and watched carefully to make sure our baggage made it through the weigh-in. Our flight to Dubai was very comfortable, arriving in the small hours. After whiling away seven hours in Dubai Airport we were jetting off again to Nairobi. On arrival, a driver from BATLSK (British Army Training Liaison Staff Kenya) met us. The journey took us straight to BATLSK Camp where we quickly signed over our accommodation and drew out the necessary stores (i.e. Mosquito nets). That afternoon was spent sorting out our equipment and liasing with the BATLSK staff. A driver from MT took us into Nairobi so that we could stock up on all the food we would need for Mount Kenya. After spending a couple of hours filling several shopping trolleys we paid for the food, eventually in Kenyan Shillings, and headed back to camp. **SSgt Dave Coffey** and **Capt Forbes Guthrie** lead the group through rudimentary ropework techniques before we all packed our kit ready for an early start the next day. We left BATLSK in the back of a four-tonne truck for the long journey to the start of our ascent of Mount Kenya - Chogoria. We arrived at the Transit

Motel where we had arranged to meet our local mountain guide, **Mr John Wachira**. After waiting over an hour for the guide to show, **Capt Forbes Guthrie** decided to press on without him. It was now too late to attempt any part of the gentle walk through the jungle track, so the BATLSK driver was directed to take us all the way up to the park gates. At the gates, **Capt Forbes Guthrie** paid the park and camping fees and **SSgt Dave Coffey** found a suitable site to pitch the tents. Just before dark, as everyone was preparing to settle down, our guide **John** turned up. He was disappointed to be told that he would not be paid for that day, but everyone was pleased that he did eventually make it.

The group awoke to discover that what had seemed like a good camp site was in fact a water buffalo track! This was to be an 'acclimatisation day', to help everyone to get used to the higher altitudes. We set off from the Park Gates to Lake Ellis where we all stopped for lunch. After some food and the chance to replenish our drinking water we headed up to the top of Mugi Hill where we could look down onto the Giant's Billiard Table Mountain. We walked back down to the Park Gates where we camped for the night again. Everyone got up early, packed their tents and set off on the track. After a couple of hours we reached the roadhead, where we stopped, and **John** the guide showed us a beautiful waterfall just a short distance from the track. It was another hour before the group headed off, as the group needed to filter more water from the stream before we left. The next leg was a hard climb up to our campsite at Hall Tarns, which we expected to take about four hours. It eventually took twice the time we had hoped and we reached the campsite just as it was getting dark. Everyone was exhausted, both from the effects of the altitude and from the sheer weight on our backs. **Sgt Tony Waddington** was feeling it the most but we all made sure that everyone was administered properly before finishing for the night.

Sunday morning was a slow start, as the group was still tired from the day before, and we had to spend several hours making sure we filtered sufficient water supplies for that day. Everyone was feeling much better by lunchtime and we packed up and headed off. It was not a long walk to the next campsite but it became very steep and most people were feeling the effects of the altitude to some extent. On arrival at Simba Tarn, **Sgt Tony Waddington** was complaining of strong headaches. After closely monitoring him for another two hours to see if the condition eased, it was decided to move him down from the altitude in case it was the early symptoms of AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness - a potentially lethal condition). **Capt Forbes Guthrie, SSgt Dave Coffey** and **Sgt Kev Cooney** assist **Sgt Tony Waddington** down to Shipton's Camp, a descent of about 600m. Once down, a tent was erected and **SSgt Dave Coffey** assisted **Sgt Kev Cooney** headed back up to the main group as night fell. **Capt Forbes Guthrie** stayed with **Sgt Tony Waddington** in the tent to ensure that his condition did not worsen. At 0200hrs **Capt Forbes Guthrie,** happy that **Sgt Tony Waddington** had made a sufficient recovery to be left alone, climbed back up to rejoin the rest of the party for the final accent. The group set off from Simba Tarn at 0400hrs for a hard two-hour scramble to the top. We all made it just before sunrise and sat slumped on the peak taking photographs, happy to have made it. From Point Lenana we dropped down to Austrian Hut and back round to Simba Tarn to take the tents down. We pressed on down the steep scree slope to Shipton's Camp as quickly as possible and stopped for an hour to cook lunch and filter more water. From Shipton's Camp it was decided to make for Old Moses Camp that afternoon as the prospect of a real bed and a porcelain lavatory outweighed the 14km walk. Everyone arrived at Old Moses Camp in good spirits despite being exhausted and having blistered feet. The transport was booked to collect the group, and eventually three Land Rovers picked us up at three o'clock in the afternoon. We made it back to BATLSK at 2000hrs and after getting into our rooms and eating our late tea we all enjoyed a well-deserved 'Tusker' beer.

Wednesday was an admin day for the party. A chance to unpack, clean and repack all of the equipment ready for Mount Kilimanjaro. Our guide from Mount Kenya helped us arrange transport and the mandatory guides for the trek on Mount Kilimanjaro. At 0700hrs a mini-bus collected us and took us to our connecting bus in Nairobi. From there the journey was south to the border and on to Arusha where we meet our chief guide for Mount Kilimanjaro, **Mr Hussein Mbua.** The transport was late in arriving and unfortunately we were unable to start the trek that afternoon as we had planned. The guide took us to the Iibrou Safari Lodge Hotel for the night and we discussed the revised plan. **Hussein** and his team collected us on Friday morning and moved round to the Park Gates dropping some of our baggage off in the near-by Capricorn Hotel. Once through the Park Gates we set off for Mandara Hut, which was our camp for the night. The route was a gentle three-hour walk through the rain forest. After arriving at the hut and taking a short break, we walked up to Maundi Crater to help acclimatise, and were fortunate to see several monkeys in their natural habitat on the way back down.

The next stage up to Horombo Hut was an 11km trek up a fairly gradual ascent. Everyone took care to climb as slowly as possible to reduce fatigue and help get use to the altitude. After a two-hour break at the huts we walked further onto 'Zebra' Rock, so called, as it had naturally been striped black and white. From Horombu Hut we all set off for Kibo Hut, which lies at 4,700m, just lower than the height of Mount Kenya. It was a slow pace across the arid saddle and everyone was very aware of the altitude. Eventually everyone made it to Kibo Hut tired but glad to be there. **Cpl Leah Steward** by this time had begun to suffer from a very strong headache. After only 45 minutes, she could bear it no longer and **SSgt Dave Coffey, Sgt Kev Cooney** and an assistant guide helped her down a couple of hundred metres. After an hour rest at that height, the symptoms were not easing and she was given one Diamox tablet (a drug used to help alleviate the symptoms of AMS), and with the help of **Flo a**n assistant guide, descended to Horombu Hut.

We were up at midnight with our head-torches ready for the final ascent to the top of Africa's highest mountain. This last stage, although only 2km in distance, was absolutely exhausting. It took the group about five hours before making it onto the crater edge at Gillman's Point. It was still dark and well below freezing, so everyone was keen to carry on around the rim's edge to Uhuru Peak. It was only another 200metres of ascent over a gradual slope, so we set off feeling elated that we had made it up the gruelling scree slope and could now see the top. Working our way round the path we were confronted by the edge of Rebmann Glacier which had crossed over the path. **SSgt Dave Coffey** stopped the group and as the most qualified mountain leader had to decide on the best course of action. He had little choice but to stop the group and not allow them to go any further. The group was not qualified nor experienced enough to tackle something so hazardous and to turn back. It was an immense disappointment for all concerned to have reached the tip of the world's highest free-standing mountain, only to have to stop metres from the very top. However, everyone understood why the decision was made and agreed that nothing could be done and they all supported **SSgt Dave Coffey** on a very hard call. Before setting off, we all took the chance to take photographs as the sun was rising, and then made our way back down to Kibo Hut. At Kibo Hut we stopped and rested for a couple of hours before setting off down to Horombo Hut where we ate lunch. After lunch we continued on down to Mandara Hut which was our campsite for the night.

The final morning on Mount Kilimanjaro we set off down the to Park Gates at a leisurely pace. At the gates we all receive certificates for reaching Gillman's Point and then proceeded to buy 'been to the top' T-shirts. The bus came to collect us and dropped in at the Capricorn Hotel for our bags. We waved good-bye to our guides and set-off for Mombassa. Once through the border we get to Voi the vehicle decides to breakdown for a couple of hours. Once some foil from **Sgt Kev's** cigarette packet is applied to the vehicles failing electrics we were off. We got to Mombassa after dark and discovered why people recommend that you don't drive at night in Kenya. We checked into the 'Sun n' Sand Hotel' for two nights and were briefed as to how the all-inclusive was run. All the members of Expedition took full advantage of the hotel's facilities, relaxing to 'try to get their physically wreaked bodies back to life'. There was an early start on Thursday morning to take off to the Shimba Hills, two hours south of Mombassa for a guided safari of the park. Unfortunately, no one actually saw any elephants, rhinos, giraffe, zebra or hippos. The best we saw we some rather tired looking gazelles. Back at the accommodation that evening, we challenged a group of hotel staff to a football match and taught them how the game is played and won. After leaving the hotel we headed into Mombassa to buy our souvenirs before boarding the overnight train to Nairobi. We spent the next day unpacking everything and scrubbing down all of the stores equipment before we started our journey back home to Cyprus.

14 SIGNAL REGIMENT (ELECTRONIC WAREFARE)

CO **Lt Col N. J. Borrill**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. L. Palmer**

The officers and soldiers of the Regiment would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Nick Borrill** and his wife **Chris** along with their three children. Also, farewell and best wishes to **Lt Col David Meyer** who leaves the Regiment on promotion to take over as Chief of Staff on Op Monarch in the Former Democratic Republic of Congo.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON – *by WO2 (SSM) Newton*

Sqn Comd **Maj Standen**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Newton**

The Squadron would like to welcome the new Sqn OC, **Maj John Standen,** who is slowly getting used to the every day hustle and bustle of SHQ, a far cry from his previous employment down in the sleepy hollow of the QM (G) department. SHQ says congratulations on promotion and goodbye to **SSgt SQMS Dougie** 'My clothes are louder than yours'

Douglas and welcome to **SSgt SQMS Dean Wilson.** The Squadron has been busy supporting operations in Sierra Leone and Kosovo as well as exercises in Kenya and Cyprus, whilst still supplying exquisite cuisine and a highly efficient equipment maintenance and repair service in camp (RCWO, OC LAD and TOT all owe me a fiver). Finally due to the recent foot and mouth outbreak we have has also seen members of the Squadron deployed around Mid Wales, carrying out various diverse and demanding tasks in support of MAFF and the farming community.

REGIMENTAL RUGBY
14 SIGNAL REGIMENT (ELECTRONIC WARFARE) RFC (THE STALLIONS) – *by WO2 (SSM) Newton*

New kit, new pitch, plenty of players and plenty of fixtures. The beginning of the season was looking good and things were looking up. Then came the bad news!

'The pitch is out of bounds for the rest of the season', said the QM.

'But it's only August!', I replied.

'Six of the pack are deployed on Ops', said the coach, **Sgt** 'Taff' **Morgan**.

'But that leaves us with two hookers and a prop', I replied.

'SSM it's the MTO, due to the current fuel strike we're unable to supply transport for away fixtures.'

'****!', I replied.

'SSM, have I told you your posted?', said OC HQ Sqn.

'Taff your in charge now', I replied.

Despite all these set backs **Sgt** 'Taff' **Morgan** and **Cpl Stu** 'The Bid' **Kelly** managed to keep our heads above water which resulted in the Stallions getting through to the first round of the major units cup, having convincingly beaten the Second Battalion, Royal Anglians. The next round was a different story, having drawn 22 Air Defence (The Welsh Gunners) away. After the long trek from Brawdy to Kirton-in-Lindsey (eight hours) **SSgt Neil Sorley** warmed us up for the big game. The whistle blew for the start of the game and within two minutes **WO2 Craig Shrives** scored a try between the posts. To put it bluntly, the opposition was gutted. The Stallions put up a brave fight but could not stop a team who had the Army scrum half and some other excellent players. The match ended in a 26 to 7 win for the Welsh Gunners but the Stallions turned in a fine performance. The season has continually been hampered by teams cancelling games after they had realised where Brawdy actually is on the map! If it were not for the few enthusiastic individuals such as 'Taff' and 'Stu' who arranged fixtures against local sides, Regimental Rugby would have been none existent. Next season will start on a high with a tour to Belgium and Holland, HQ Sqn look forward to retaining the Russ Cup Seven-a-Side trophy and the SNCOs and Officers look forward to the big match against the juniors in December (the less said about last year, the better). Finally, thanks to all those fossils who have come out of retirement this year (**WO1 Richie Angove**), and to the youngsters such as **Sig Clive** 'I'm not drinking' **Clayton** who have been coerced into playing at short notice. A special thank you goes to **Capt Rob** 'Yellow card' **Lane** for sin binning me as soon as the CO and RSM appeared on the side line in the first round of the cup.

QUARTERMASTERS (TECHNICAL) DEPARTMENT
by WO2 (RQMS) Gemmell

QM (Tech) **Capt Turnbull**
RQMS (Tech) **WO2 (RQMS) Gemmell**

Another busy six months for the department, firstly the Department would like to say welcome to recent arrivals **Sig** 'Slug' **Owen** from 7 Sig Regt and **Sig** 'Spud' **Lockley** from Blandford. Secondly to say farewell and good luck to **SSgt** 'Spike' **Hughes** who has moved to be SQMS 245 Sig Sqn (EW), **Sgt Ian Millham** to a recruiters post in Aldershot and finally to **Cpl Chris Coward** and **Sig Caz Baddeley** to Civvy Street. Congratulations go to **Sgt Si Ferrer** and **Cpl Laura Bastin** and also to **Sig Mark Hamblin** and **Sig Liz Binns** on their recent marriages, we hope the future holds all they wish for. Some recent Regimental commitments have seen the Department having to up the tempo including the Regimental Board of Officers, a VVIP Visit, the Logistical Support Inspection and the Ammunition Inspection, all of which we have come through relatively unscathed. Some notable deployments from the Department have included **Sig Stratton** and **Cpl Lewis** on Op Agricola and **Sig's Owen and Hamblin** on Op Peninsular. Having just completed the Squadron ITD Training Camp we are all now ITD'd to death and ready to face the challenges that lie ahead.

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
Sqn Comd **Maj Gillespie**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Watson**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS TROOP – *by WO2 (FofS) Amies*
Tp Comd **WO2 (FofS) Amies**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Gemmell**

Despite being the smallest Troop in the Squadron we now have a command structure to rival Regimental Ops in it's complexity. The Tp OC, **WO2 (FofS) Andy Amies** passes information down to the Admin Sergeant, **Sgt** 'Archie' **Gemmell**, who passes some of it down to the I/C sections, **Sgt** 'Taff' **Morgan** and the MT Sergeant, **Sgt** 'Taff' **Kinsey** who then pass whatever little information is left to the shop floor. Congratulations go to the Admin Sergeant who has the same name as the RQMS, and isn't afraid to use this fact to personal advantage, and commiserations to 'Taff' **Morgan** who still hasn't escaped from the Tech Workshop, keep trying! Aside from dealing with irate farmers this has been an enforced period of inactivity for the Troop, apart from servicings, PRE, First/Second Lines etc, etc! The ED Bay has been substantially reinforced with the arrival of **Cpl** 'Linford' **McSherry** and **LCpl** 'Tanker' **Thompson**. Still the MT Sgt has managed to claw his way onto the LEWT roster to resume his parachuting career so at least there is one happy face on the shop floor. Our thanks go to TM Tp for replacing every Tech who departs, no matter what rank, with a new guy straight from the factory. Welcome to **LCpls** 'Unlucky' **Peters**, 'Spike' **Trearty** and 'Who?' **Easom**. The Squadron Orderly room has sadly said goodbye to **LCpl** 'Griff' **Hambleton**, who has been replaced by **Cpl** 'H' **Clarke** (a former member of the Corps who wanted to return to Brawdy). A big hello to the new YofS, **WO2 Lee Davis**, who joined the unit in July 2000 but has yet to get a mention in *The WIRE*, and is chuffed to bits to have a FofS as his Tp OC! Finally a plea to MCM Div for more Welsh people to be posted here as there's just not enough 'Taffs' in the unit!

OPERATION PENINSULAR – *by Sgt Gemmell*

Mid Wales is known to have some of the most green and scenic land around within the United Kingdom. Members of 226 Sig Sqn (EW) were about to find out how green it really was as they deployed on Op Peninsular. Op Peninsular was the support given to the foot and mouth crisis by 14 Sig Regt (EW) at a most crucial and important time in the attack to stop the spread of the disease. On this operation there were no medals to be gained, as we were about to find out. After a short briefing on the dangers of badgers, to this day we still never understood the logic of this as our main task ahead involved cows and sheep, all the SNCO's and Drivers were unofficially signed in as members of MAFF. We deployed to a small village called Montgomery, sorry I meant a town called Montgomery (as it had a bank). The owner of the hotel was well pleased to say the least as he had not seen any outsiders for three months and was about to lay off half his staff. The Ops room was soon set up by **Capt Higgs** from 245 Sig Sqn and his driver **LCpl** 'Spud' **Taylor**. With all the rooms taken in the 5 star hotel (well it seemed like a five star at first) we were issued our rooms with **Sgt (Sig)** 'Admin' **Gemmell** and his driver **Sig Chris Lloyd** (famous for being quiet) gaining the family room. You can guess who kept bumping his head on the beams as he got into his single bed. The first LO teams on the ground, led by **SSgt Jeff Murray** and **LCpl Mick McGhee** from Romeo Tp, were soon to meet a very mixed reaction from the farmers they encountered, as fears fuelled by the media and local speculation. This led to some very angry reactions at times with the threat to use force if the Army were to take control of their farms. These fears were soon put to rest as the Team LOs set about reassuring the farmers of our intentions and to keep them updated with the latest news from the MAFF officials. This proved to be a good relationship and we were soon to become very popular in the district with our friendly and caring approach to the farmers needs. At times this included getting in the shopping or delivering the mail, as well as building fires and assisting in the slaughter of their infected animals. Meanwhile back at the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff **SSgt Eric Head** and **Cpl Steve Birchall** (OIC Sharking) were big timing it in a top class hotel and having sandwiches with Big Tony (PM).

640 SIGNAL TROOP (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
by LCpl Cranswick

Tp Comd **Flt Lt Rayner**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Head**

Since the last edition a lot of the Troop have gone back to nature but not in a way they might have imagined. With the Regiment being already involved in the foot and mouth crisis with Op Peninsular, members of the Troop were finally called into action in the South Wales region and like anything else some were more involved than others. God knows how **Cpl Steve Birchall** made it through two weeks of the sheer hellish Cardiff nightlife; by the look of it he certainly didn't starve! Once again it has been another busy period of comings and goings. Good luck to **Sgt** 'Mad dog' **Mount** and **Sgt Andy Nichols** who are both on their Yeoman's course. Tearful farewells to **Cpl Steve Frost**, who is off to Digby's radio room and **Sig Adam Welton** who is turning to the civilian side. The Troop new boys are **Cpl Paddy Briscoe**, **Cpl Glenn Feeley**, **Cpl Tommy Scanlan**, **Cpl Robbo Robson**, **Cpl Daz Pond**, **LCpl Adam Chant** and **Sig Mick Luxford**. Special mentions to the boys in RAF blue, **JT** ' Peanut' **Clements** and **JT Nick Wilkinson** who are sampling the delights of Brawdy for three years and a big G'day to **Cpl Jason Reid** on exchange from the Australian Royal Signals. Strewth! The Troop is looking forward to Ex Whale Search in June and Ex Eagles Strike in July in which the Troop will no doubt shine in their new revamped formation. The 640th ride again.

ROMEO TROOP - *by Sgt Dunn*

Tp Comd **2Lt Jones**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Murray**

Firstly I want to kick things off by welcoming back the Troop OC after what must surely be the longest Troop Commanders Course on record. We have our suspicions that he did two courses just to keep away from the Regiment….

Romeo Tp has seen a good many comings and goings in the past couple of months. Starting with the tearful goodbyes. Farewell, to **Cpl Karl Hickenbotham**, leaving us in order to bolster the ranks at the Air Warfare Centre in Waddington. Also farewell to **LCpl Sarah Burton** (don't call her Shona) who has decided to give up the hard life in the Royal Signals and see what it is like to slum it with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Also **Sgt Chris Gibbins** has taken control down in the PRI shop for his last few months in the Regiment before being promoted to civilian life. Finally, **Sig** 'Chops' **Copestake** who is on the verge of a move to Germany. He wishes his posting would arrive as quickly as the local fire brigade did at his MQ when a little midnight snack went 'Pete Tong' in the kitchen. Oh well 'Chops', that's what home insurance cover is for.

Now for the emotional welcomes, a whole scramble of new arrivals. Welcome back to the Troop for **Sgt Gav Wilson** and wife **Tracey. Gav** served with Romeo Tp so long ago even he doesn't want to remember it. Also welcome to **Cpl Richie Canale**, don't unpack mate you're off to Sierra Leone and **LCpl Claire Ashdown** fresh from 20 Armd Bde. Straight from the DISI factory at Chicksands come **LCpls Dan Evans** and **Justin Eldridge**, get some webbing from the SQMS lads you're on exercise tomorrow. Last but no means least **Sigs Edge, Johnson 232** and **Waite**. There's just about enough room to mention that recently the Troop have been involved with the MAFF efforts to halt the spread of foot and mouth disease in Wales and a very successful HF exercise involving a number of TA units in the Midlands. Those not getting involved with such little activities have been helping to form the SPEARHEAD commitment for the Regiment.

RIGGER MARSHALLING COURSE – *by Sig Rees*

Being an airmobile squadron it is essential for 226 Sig Sqn (EW) to train new Rigger Marshall's (RM). On Tuesday 29 July 2001 we were about to find out what being a RM was all about. We entered the camp cinema to find **Sgt Chris Dunn**, the Sqn Heli Handling Instructor, ready to take us through the theory side of things. Armed with handouts, power point slides and the worlds supply of videos, the course had begun. At first it was a minefield of information with little time to digest it all. The near vertical learning curve levelled out somewhat on Thursday when the course put their theory into practice, using a Gazzelle helicopter to practice rigging of strops and underslung loads. The course did well and was now looking forward to rigging the Chinook that was booked for the next day. On Friday 1 June the course gathered in one of the hangars for a written exam. Having all passed successfully, it was time to fly a number of different loads around the airfield to see if the HUSLE equipment was up to the job. The Chinook helicopter arrived on time. All personnel were given the safety brief and some useful hints to help with the practical side of the course. Out on the airfield the course was split into four teams up and down the runway. Final checks were done on the various combination loads that were about to be lifted. These included:

- Landrover wolf and trailer combination.
- 16/24 KVA generator, trailer mounted.
- Tandom fl tonne trailer combination.

These lifts were ferried between the four teams on the ground who were putting all their new found theory into practice. A number of Landing Point Commanders (LPC) were keeping a watchful eye on the newly qualified RMs. The Chinook did a total of 12 lifts, moving the combination the RMs had rigged. Thankfully nothing fell off and the whole of the practical session went smoothly. Finally the Chinook touched down, all course personnel boarded for a trip down the Welsh coastline and back across the farm land at low level. Once back at camp the RMs were told they had all passed and were presented with their Rigger Marshaller Currency Certificate. A big thank you to **Pte** 'Willy' **Williams** who, at short notice pitched up and took some splendid pictures of the practical session in progress.

A view from the ground.

LCpl Ashdown doing her best to catch a lift in a Chinook

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
Sqn Comd **Maj Drinkall**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Mitchell**

It has been a busy two months for the premier Squadron in the Regiment. The decline of foot and mouth has seen the boys released from Op Peninsular duties within Wales, leaving more available to deploy to Sierra Leone including the Sqn 2IC, **Capt Mark Davis**, on CASTS as well as replacing the odd member of 14 Sig Tp when on R&R from their on-going tour in Kosovo. Those remaining have been getting their ITDs out of the way and limbering up for the Inter-Squadron athletics in which they came an impressive third. We have had a welcome addition to the Squadron in the form of six JTs from RAF Digby. The girls have thrown themselves into Squadron life, in particular, competing with great gusto on the female team in the recent Russ Cup Athletics Competition. More from them to follow....

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS TROOP – *by Sig Mclaughlin*
Tp Comd **Capt Davis**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Newton**

The last few weeks have been a busy transitional phase for 237 Sig

DON'T BE DISSAPPOINTED, COPY FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE MUST REACH THIS OFFICE BY 15 AUGUST 2001

Sqn's (EW) SHQ Tp, with a high proportion of our man power being posted in or out. We would like to say goodbye and congratulations to **LCpl Jim** 'Madman' **Bradford**, who has deservedly gained promotion just after posting to 30 Signal Regiment. And a belated welcome to **Sgt Brett** 'The Invisible Man' **Newton** who has since stepped in as SHQ Tp (MT) SNCO, (we think). We would like to welcome **LCpl Glen Russell**, posted in from 7 Signal Regiment. We would also like to congratulate **LCpl Pete** 'Teeth' **Russell** on promotion last week whilst on tour in Kosovo. 237 Sig Sqn (EW) has recently been involved in 14 Sig Regt (EW) Athletics Competition. The SSM, **WO2 Dave Mitchell**, competed in a number of events, including the 400m hurdles, in which he was victorious. (Questions still abound on who was holding the stopwatch). **Sig Graham (Jnr) Luddit** also took part in the 3000m steeple chase for SHQ Tp, with a somewhat adapted technique to his race. SHQ Tp was eagerly cheering on the Squadron, including **Sgt Kev (Mac) Macdonald** - congratulations on his new arrival, baby **Connor**; **LCpl Paul** 'Very' **Strange**; **Cpl Craig** 'Seth' **Campbell** - the biggest, loudest care bear of the Squadron who is in the process of re-trading to the Int Corps; and **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Garvey**, who was too busy daydreaming about his future leave to Acapulco.

14 SIGNAL TP (EW) - OP AGRICOLA (KOSOVO)
by Sig Kerry Burrows
Tp Comd **Lt Waddell**
Tp OpsWO **WO2 (Supvr R) Osborne**

May has been and gone and June is upon us. Slowly but surely the weeks are flying past. Within the Troop we have two distinct environments. Firstly, we have those at the sharp end. These are the men who man the detachments out and about in the countryside and they are the Troop's mountain men. Such heroes include **Sig Rob** 'I know how to light a Puffin Billy' **Fraser**, **Cpl Dave** 'Call the Blackhawk, I've been bitten by an insect' **Hall** and spearheading the rain dances, **Cpl Jinna Garner**. The other environment is Ech and here you'll find all the Ech Wallahs, who fondly refer to themselves as mongs. No really! Other than the boss - **Lt Phil** 'Mmm doughnuts' **Waddell**, and the troops' OpsWO, **WO2 Mike** 'What do you mean day off' **Osborne** - the whole effort in supporting the out-dets is held together by IC Rubb Shelter, **Cpl Matt** ' Just for the Men' **Turner**. The work at both ends is constant and most days merge into a sort of groundhog-day, but this doesn't happen without any comic incidences. Shortly after the visit from CO 14 Sig Regt (EW), the real memorable 'classics' occurred.

As May draws to a close, how could we ever forget **Sig Jamie** 'Pattyman' **Pateman's** spectacular table clearance in the bar? A steady flow of verbal pokes and slates - in good humour of course - saw to the demise of at least half a dozen bottles of beer and 'Pattyman's' tempestuous exit from the bar. June arrives and once again our beloved 'Pattyman' provides the drama: we convinced him that it was necessary to travel with a shotgun on the roof of the RB44. And so it came to pass that he wedged himself between the canvas and the cab, kitted out in his body armour and helmet, armed with his LSW! The final part of the journey up to the hill top site was particularly rocky and he arrived looking pretty shaken only to be greeted by a committee of Royal Engineers as well as the crew's det. Oh how they laughed.

Since then, there have been just too many incidents to list, but needless to say, the Troop has been kept entertained. Now June has arrived and still, there's much of the same. The Troop has moved up into another gear, working hard on its latest deployment, but also preparations are underway for the troop's recovery to the UK come early July. All in all, the tour has been a good one; lots of laughs and calamities. Yet through all of this, the Troop has managed to work through its technical problems and above all, maintained its professionalism through and through.

THE RAF HAVE LANDED AT BRAWDY (AGAIN)!
by Lt Halpin

We've got the beach, we've got the surf.... and now Brawdy's got the Babes! The official line is that 14 Sig Regt (EW) (currently a tad short of females) needed more Intercept Operators - so was it a coincidence that six out of the eight are women JTs recruited from the dark depths of RAF Digby? How come 237 Sig Sqn (EW) managed to nab all the females? Morale at 14 Sig Regt has certainly improved with the new arrivals - and the girls are welcome too! So were they coerced or did they volunteer? **Lt Halpin** investigates, grabbing a moment with the busy new arrivals as they take a break in the sun from their Odette Operator's Course:

'What were your expectations of coming to Brawdy?'

'We'd heard that it was all about painting tanks - and were even given paint brushes as a leaving presents!', says JT Fegan (237 Sig Sqn).

'And have you had to use them yet?'

'Well we did paint a generator!'

JT Clements (226 Sig Sqn (EW)) puts it more succinctly:

'I was expecting a lot of bulls**t,' but added straight away, 'It's been fine though, the lads accept that we've had different training and make allowances for us.'

'Are you getting fed up yet with all the crap RAF jokes?'

'We give as good as we get; we've got lots of crap army jokes!', JT Barnes (237 Sig Sqn (EW)) shoots back. Atta Girls!

'So it's not as bad as you thought then?'

'Oh no, we get to see the sun and enjoy it on days like this,' says JT Cochrane (237 Sig Sqn (EW)) (good attitude), 'and we get the opportunity to deploy; it's going to be a much less passive role than at Digby', adds JT Richards (245 Sig Sqn (EW)). The lads are both off to Oman with 226 Sig Sqn (EW) in September along with JT Wilkinson (226 Sig Sqn (EW)) while the girls are heading off to Chicksands for six months' language training in preparation for deployment to Kosovo next year. Dobra Sreca! Since their arrival last month the JTs have been taken through a comprehensive Regimental Induction under the watchful eye of RAF, **Sgt Byrne**. As well as doing the two week Odette Operators' Course instructed by **Capt Dave Divine** (congratulations on commissioning sir!) and the extremely slim line **WO1** 'Buzz' **Burrrows**. The girls have certainly been making most of the delights of Pembrokeshire in their free time, 'We went horse-riding along Newgale Beach last weekend, it was fantastic', enthused **JT Cochrane**. The girls went on to say that the Stables would give them a good discount for a group of ten; here's your chance lads! What are you waiting for?!

Newgale Beach

'Brawdy Babes'
(L-R) JTs Barnes,Copley, Fegan, Cochrane and Harvey

RAF reclaims Brawdy! The Odette Operator Course
Back row (L-R) Sgt Byrne, JTs Clements, Cochrane,
WO1 Burrows, JTs Harry, Richards
Front row (L-R) JTs Angus, Fegan, Barnes, Copley, LCpl Driscoll

AND FINALLY....

We look forward to welcoming 14 Sig Tp (EW) back from Kosovo at the begining of July. We will be returning as a Squadron early next year. Before that, elements of the Squadron will deploy in support of 226 Sig Sqn (EW) on Ex Saif Sareea in Oman in September. In the meantime there is a summer at Brawdy to enjoy! 237 Sig Sqn (EW) will be featuring prominently in the forthcoming Corps Windsurfing Championships at Dale; **Lt Laura Halpin, WO2 Tony Watters, Sgt Brett Newton** and **Sgt** 'Taff' **Willumsen** will be donning the necessary rubber (it's not that hot here) and competing for the Regiment in the Novice Event. The OC Sqn, **Maj Dave Drinkall**, is keen to get a ladies squad together for the Army Canoe Championships. Finally, good luck to all those competing in the Morrison Cup at Blandford on 16 June.

245 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
Sqn Comd **Maj Hodges**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Shepherd**

OPERATION PENINSULAR – *by CaptHiggs*

Between March 27 and April 13 the Regiment deployed three troops to aid MAFF in the fight against foot and mouth disease in Wales. The Troops, which were a mix from across all four Squadrons, deployed to Anglesey, Montgomeryshire and Monmouthshire, with a Squadron Command element in the MAFF Office in Llandrindod Wells.

The Anglesey Troop deployed with an initial brief to assist with the security of slaughterhouses and disposal sites. It was not long, however, before they found themselves doing the unenviable task of manhandling carcasses, so they could be transported from one disposal site to another. The Monmouthshire Tp, tasked by the MAFF Office in Llanishen, initially deployed on mapping tasks, identifying dangerous contacts and contiguous farms, but they were soon moved on to farms to control slaughter and disposal. They were so diligent in controlling site security that they even took a postman who had strayed on to a suspected farm and stripped him of his clothes and shoes, so that he had to complete his rounds in a set of disposable paper coveralls. The Montgomery Tp worked directly with the local Police, Farmers' Unions and Animal Health Officers on farms around Newtown and Welshpool, deployed in LO teams to farms, where they supervised slaughter men and contractors in the work of culling and disposal, as well as securing the site and licensing movement. There was hostility from the farmers during the first few days of the deployment, as they had been told that the Army would arrive armed and ready to kill animals on sight. Once the teams were in place, and the work had started on the farms they realised that we were sympathetic to their situation, and strong ties were soon developed with many of the farmers and their families. The Troop in Montgomeryshire was relieved in place by the HCR, and before we could return to barracks, in Pembrokeshire, which is in a 'clean' part of the country, we were placed in a three-day quarantine in Sennybridge. The time was not wasted however and once the vehicles had been thoroughly disinfected the Regimental Training Wing provided gripping entertainment in the form of ITD training.

The crisis had been in the Press for several weeks before we deployed, but even after having worked in the farming community it is hard to appreciate how devastating it is for farmers, particularly dairy farmers, to have all of their stock destroyed as a precautionary measure. It was with sadness that the Regiment learned that one of the farmers whose stock we had culled took his own life the week after we returned to barracks. While many areas of the country have now begun to open up, the crisis is not yet over.

XVI 16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col Tony Morphet**
RSM **WO1(RSM) Fisher**

'The Four Kevins'
Newly commissioned Capt Fowler with
Capts Barker, Stainburn and Fitzpatrick

The photo is of the four **Kevins** in the Officers Mess, note the weeny **Kevin** clutching his drink. The photo was taken on the commissioning of **Capt Kevin Fowler**, shortly before he removed his trousers, jumped in the pond and got posted to 7 Sig Regt. Good luck in your new job, and the subbies of 16 Sig Regt have promised to salute you next time we're loitering in Bradbury Barracks.

230 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj I. Lawrence**
SSM **WO2(SSM) R Hood**

A mention must go here to the Squadron Foreman, **SSgt (FofS) Bob Pace** who never gets a mention in *The WIRE*.

EXERCISE POLAR BACKSTOP

On 17 February, 230 Sig Sqn along with members of 255 Sig Sqn set out on Ex Polar Backstop which was to be a memorable and exciting skiing exercise. Co-ordinated by **Lt** 'Everything is under control' **Knightly Brown** it was to be a very successful week that let some of the members of the exercise show some real character. We arrived at our lodge with **Sig** 'I'm the driver' **Bedford** skilfully driving the coach across the snow and missing most of the other traffic on the roads. The slopes were dominated with skills from **Sig** 'I can ski really well with out falling' **Denham , LCpl** 'Mad goggles but I can just about stand' **Smith, Sgt** 'Don't I look good' **MacKenzie** and also **Cpl** 'Snow Plough' **Roberts** and some of the members can still here **Sgt** 'Lucky Dice' **Wilkinson** screaming and it is still debated whether he put his hand in his pocket all week. When it was decided that the members of the exercise would have a night out some of the lads decided to impress the local ladies with tales that they were a boy band **Cpl** 'I can dance' **Finney , Sig** 'Ricky Martin' **Doherty** and **LCpl** 'I'll stand here and look good' **Perry**, so a big thanks to Random Answer and we hope to hear more from the band in the future. However, these were not the only stars of the exercise with **Sig** 'Snake' **Wood** trying his hardest and a big thank you to our entertainers **Sigs** 'Let's streak in the snow' **Patman** and **Ansell** , what a random thing to do! All in all the exercise was very successful and a good time was had by all, can't wait for Polar Backstop II.

Sig 'Lord Billy the Coach Driver' Bedford, and Sig Hatchard

A short break during some arduous adventure training

TRUNK NODE 015
Tp Comd **Lt Knightly Brown**
Tp SSgt **SSgt McNeill**

Hello and welcome from TN 015. It's been a strange month with lots going on. Unfortunately due to the foot and mouth out break (including in the females accommodation), most of the exercises have been cancelled and the Troop has been concentrated mostly on vehicle maintenance (allegedly). The Troop recently contributed their efforts towards the Leicester Trophy swimming event, the team members; **LCpl Billy** 'The Fish' **Merrick**, **LCpl** 'Boar' **Bufton**, **Sig** 'Not so fish' **Irwin**, **Sig** 'Canoe' **Cameron**, **Cpl** 'Halibut' **Hall**, **Sig** 'Billy' **Bedford** and **Sig Lisa Harris**. Finally, Trunk Node 015 would like to say a final farewell to the finest ED in the Corps, **Sig Hatchard** who is leaving us for 1 Div, and **Cpl Lowes** who has already left for the pastures of 2 Sig Regt.

TRUNK NODE 016 - *By Cpl Shackleton*
Tp Comd **Lt Pittaway**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Shield**

Recently life in the Troop has been nothing less than the usual thrills, spills and adventures we have all come to expect, along with a few noticeable changes of faces within the ranks. Firstly the Troop would like to extend its warmest welcome to the arrival of **SSgt Russ** 'Haven't I got a loud voice?' **Shield** into the chair, along with **Sgt Bri** 'NATO Champion' **Clark** both of whom have taken well to daily life within the Troop. Also we wish to welcome **LCpl** 'Paddy' **Grills** with **Sigs** 'Jase' **Holt** and 'Felix' **Feline**. As always the lads have been out getting involved in anything we can, most recently in the Leicester Trophy Swimming Competition with excellent performances from all who participated, in particularly **Sig** 'Warrington Champion' **Doherty** and **Cpl** 'Which way's the finish?' **Tyrrell**. But the greatest applause has to be saved for our new Staff Sergeant who wasted no time in teaching the Regiment the spirit of never giving up under any circumstances! Not even when the officials call a false start! Outside of work hours the Troop recently tried its hand on the racing track with an afternoon Go-Karting were a fierce competition of driving skill was had. In the end there can be only one winner and after thirty laps of dog eat dog racing and numerous warnings **LCpl** 'Dougie' **Douglas** and **Sig** 'I was robbed' **Wilson** failed to get passed **Cpl** 'Smiler' **Shackleton** to win the day. A mention also has to be given to, probably the biggest under achiever of the afternoon, **LCpl** 'Crash Test Dummy' **McCrum** who managed to hit or drive over everything but the racing line! A very impressive drive for someone employed as the Brigadier's driver! Our congratulations go out to **LCpl** 'Exercise begin' **Heywood** on getting married and to **Sig** 'Flis' **Cull** who is about to get married very shortly. Finally our biggest thanks would like to go to **LCpl** 'Tarentino' **Walsh** who since taking over the bar has provided the single soldiers with a second home to find refuge from the trials of everyday work.

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Laura Clark**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Lewis**

Support Tp lately has undergone the same sporty pursuits as the rest of the Squadron. The Morrison Cup Athletics in Herford saw some notable performances, **Sig Daniel** put in a valiant effort in the 100m hurdles against some tough opposition. **Sig Delaney** did well and came Third in the Pole Vault, and **Sigs Ansell** and **Duffield** both put in a massive effort in the 4x400m relay. **Sig Jackson** did well in the Discus despite an injury. The Leicester Trophy Swimming saw some great and not so great performances. **Cpl** 'Fish' **Finney** introduced a new swimming stroke to us all. Everyone who took part put in a fantastic effort, and brought more than a couple of smiles to peoples' faces. New additions to the Troop are **Sgt Dix** from 252 Sig Sqn and **2Lt Clark** from RSTCC. Goodbye to **LCpl Dickeson**, **Sgt Gudge** and **Sgt Reid** , good luck to you all.

255 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Capt Kevin Barker**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Al Ironside**

The Squadron has bid a hearty and sad goodbye to the OC, **Maj Tony Burgin**, who leaves us to travel 'up the road' to join G6 UKSC(G). All of us at 255 Sig Sqn wish **Maj Burgin**, **Cathy, Gemma** and **Daniel** all the very best for the future and we expect to see you very soon at your leaving 'do'. It may look like we are a bit tight-fisted and haven't bothered putting our hands in our pockets to send you off in style but we shall certainly ensure you get a suitable send-off prior to the Squadron's departure to Oman. Even though you have now left I am sure you will be glad to know that for the second time running the Yeoman has been censored and no mention of Winnie the Pooh will be made (oops). On behalf of all the members of 255 Sig Sqn we would like to wish you the very best for the future for both you and the Burgin clan and to thank you for steering the Squadron so well.

Also moving is **WO2 (FofS) Matt Duff**. Again a big thank you and goodbye to **Matt, Emma** and **Sam** who are escaping to Cheltenham. Moving across to take his place is **SSgt (FofS) Campbell** who has transferred over from SCP(R). Thank you to **Matt** for all you've done for the Squadron and for your influence in the sale of Visio and other assorted software packages. The Foreman has been an invaluable asset to ARRC MAIN deployments not least because he often doubles up as the Tropo Det, on account of his ears. Also departing SHQ is **SSgt** 'Rocky' **Hudson** who has swapped with **SSgt Jayne Lawrence** from 252 Sig Sqn (hello). Again a big goodbye to 'Rocky' and thanks for all your support over the last four years.

The Squadron has gone through some other big changes with our numbers swelling considerably as everyone rushes to be 255 Sig Sqn! We have now taken on all CIS responsibilities for all ARRC sites on deployment as CIS Tp transfers from 252 Sig Sqn. Hot-footing it behind them came Bruggen Tp (formerly H Tp) as they also became part of the gang. For all the new faces a big welcome to 255 Sig Sqn. The Squadron can face a bright and interesting future which see us not only growing but taking on a greater number and more varied roles.

MAN TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Brian Jeffery**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Fred Fensom**

Hello to **LCpl Phillips** joining the Troop from 7 Sig Regt and **Sig Green** straight from the factory, a sad farewell goes to **Cpl Kev Parkes** as he leaves to re-badge to the AGC. **Kev** will be sadly missed within the Troop and we all wish **Kev, Vicky** and family all the best for the future. Congratulations to **Sig Douglas** on his recent marriage to **Louise**, they are now awaiting the birth of their first child later this year. Congratulations also go to **Sig Ashley Beardsley** on getting married and to **2Lt Brian Jeffery** on his recent engagement.

The Troop is now back to strength after those attached to BRITFOR Troop in Bosnia have returned to sunny Germany. It is an end to an era for MAN Tp as we have now passed the commitment for ARRC main back to 7 Sig Regt, to enjoy the role of Rear Support Command (RSC) instead. The last few weeks have been involved in build up to Ex Saif Sareea later this year in the Oman which many members of the Troop will be deployed on. In the sporting side **Sig Julie Steele** has recently just returned from boxing in Herford. After a very close match **Julie** just lost to her opponent but our praise goes out to her for putting in a top effort with the assistance of her coaches, **WO2 (QMSI)** 'Sideshow Bob' **Price**, **Sgt Rob Kirk** and **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Appleby**.

Although the thought of exercise isn't always the most appealing a few members of MAN Tp are resorting to some desperate measures. In the duration of one week **LCpl Steve Carroll** broke his ankle and underwent major surgery, **LCpl Evo Boothby** broke his arm and **Sig Jamie Buyers** has also been under the knife after breaking his hand. The sad fact is **LCpl Carroll** and **Sig Buyers** were playing football for the recently founded Stella 'well-hard' football team. This has now been re-named the shandy 'Well-soft' football team.

BRUGGEN TROOP
Tp OC **Lt Lee Rickman** (New boy in the chair)
Tp SSgt **SSgt Gaz Tinsley** (Old man of the Troop)

Well for the third time in two years H Tp, or Bruggen Tps as we are now known, have been transferred. In a deal worth millions the Crazy Gang are now on the books of 255 Sig Sqn. We are starting to feel like the 'Stan Colymores' of the Regiment. Hopefully this will be our last port of call prior to the Troop demise in March 2003. In addition to our normal work at RAF Bruggen the Troop is also in line for some small tasks in the more exotic countries such as Oman, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Norway and Ascension. There is always the call for more Mechs in the Balkans this is met by the intrepid crews that flit back and forth under the watchful eye of **SSgt** 'Bing' **Crosby**.

Hello to **Lt Rickman, Sig Smart, Sig Ferris, Sig Hanlon, Sig Hansen** and his wife. Goodbye to **Capt Stonier** (OC leaving for 2 Sig Regt, York - Best wishes from the lads and lasses for the future, **Cpl Lewis** (Back to the LAD), **Cpl Shaw** (North bound to Herford), **Sig Grebby** (Now a Mister).

On a glorious Sunday the 13 May 2001 the whole Troop and their families fell on to the Fear Dry INN estate in Bruggen to have the traditional BBQ. All was set up by 1300hrs, the volleyball net, the goal posts, softball area and of course the bouncy castle for the little ones and the children! They arrived in their droves all suffering from the Final Football club do, with their stories of **Ben McFaul** and his amazing glass balancing antics. The beer flowed, nice and cold and plenty of it. The first challenge of the day was the singlies versus the wives at volleyball, after some dodgy refereeing from **SSgt Gaz Tinsley** and **Cpl Mick Makin** and some serious whinging from the Singlies the blokes won 21 to 19. The quiz was next, **Sig** 'Taff' **Davies** had worked all week on this, it was going to be testing and tough he boasted (It might even stump the Tech

SSgt). However, unfortunately after one or two light refreshments too many, **Sig Davies** lost the plot and any recollection of the scoring so we had to abandon the Quiz. This was much to **SSgt Mark Sherwood's** disgust, as he wanted to show that behind the body and those amazing dancing pecs was a brain (even though he got Pig and Butterfly mixed up), easily done I suppose. Thanks to **Ben McFaul,** 'Taff' **Davies, Mick Makin** and the guys for a fantastic day. Well done to all who have participated in the numerous sports events held lately, especially to the Basket ball team who won easily the Regiment Trophy, to the Softball team who won the Station title. However, commiseration's to the volleyball team as they were useless.

THE METAMORPHISIS OF CIS TP

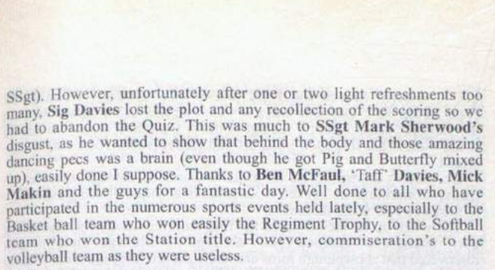
April has been a busy time for the Troop. No sooner than we had transferred to 255 Sig Sqn we were also joined by assorted members of 7 Sig Regt. A big welcome to all those who have made the move. With this amalgamation came the added responsibility of building and manning another headquarters and the Troop is now responsible for undertaking all deployable IS tasks for HQ 1 Sig Bde. It was therefore with some sadness (and with little ceremony) that the former Borneo (CIS) Tp was split into two parts with the IS element transferring into 255 Sig Sqn on 30 April as CIS Tp, whilst COMMCEN BFG and ADA Rheindahlen retain their slippers, reformed under control of SHQ 252 Sig Sqn. There is always the danger that a Troop that is made up of unrelated elements including COMMCEN, Crypto and IS will become fragmented. However, Borneo Tp has maintained a cohesion and unity that has done it proud. There will be a function shortly to mark the occasion.

SAN TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt** 'Admin Is A Place In China ' **Lyons**
Tp Sgt **Sgt** 'Through A Straw' **Green**

The Troop has been busy with the usual det maintenance, but just to keep us happy our new arrival from 1 ADSR **Sig Andy Duncan** (welcome to the Squadron) put on a fine display of emergency stitching for the RSM's parade. We must say goodbye to **Sig** 'Mad' **Chris Stewart** who has gone to civ div and also **LCpl** 'Biff' **Fisher** who has gone to be trained in the dark side of the force at 11 Sig Regt and is retrading to Tech.

EXERCISE BAVARIAN BACKSTOP

Ex Bavarian Backstop was a 255 Sig Sqn adventure training exercise held (surprisingly) in Bavaria. The Exercise allowed 40 members of the Squadron to take part in either trekking, rock climbing or kayaking, with all those who went trekking coming away with their Summer Mountain Proficiency qualification.



LCpls Savage, West and Jefferies overlooking the Alpsee

The area around Kranzegg provided us with some excellent walks, although not everyone agreed that the views from the top of the mountains compensated for the effort put in to get there! **LCpl** 'Fred' **West** didn't understand why we couldn't go up in the cable car and then walk down! **2Lt Brian Jeffery** certainly found his 1-day visit to the ex very tiring and took every opportunity to stop for a breather!

2Lt Brian Jeffery recovering after an arduous climb

The kayakers enjoyed the calm of the Alpsee before progressing onto moving water, including the weir and rapids at Marienbrucke. **LCpl** 'Mac' **MacDonald** particularly enjoyed his experience of the rapids as he emerged from the water (after much pulling on the safety line by **Sig Michelle Jelfs**!) minus his kayak and paddle!

Sig 'Clutch' McCulloch and Sig Mike Grainger comparing throwline technique

The nearby towns provided excellent venues for sampling the local beer and the Karting Bahn at Fischen gave the budding formula one drivers a chance to shine! The fastest lap of the evening went to **WO2 (FofS) Matt Duff**, although the competition was tough! The greatest achievement of the evening was not getting thrown off the premises as numerous karts attempted to destroy the circuit and each other! Overall the ex was a great success and a lot of fun was had by all, with the added bonus of some of the soldiers gaining qualifications as a result of the hard work they put in and their enthusiasm.

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj G. Pickersgill**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Hannah**

LIFE IN THE SQUADRON

The Squadron has changed significantly over the last three months, losing all its deployable assets amounting to around half the previous size of the Squadron. These have been shifted in their entirety over to 255 Sig Sqn which should give them something to do for a change. The Squadron now has 115 personnel that should give the OC a bit more time to improve his handicap. There have been plenty of adventurous training activities going on, some of which are described below:

EXERCISE BOSUN BACKSTOP
SAILING AROUND DENMARK

27 May 2001 - After a six-hour journey to Kiel from JHQ, the crew moved into temporary accommodation for a night before we took the boat over on Sunday morning. Once showered, we were all ready for some fast food as we were too late for the cookhouse. Once suitable filled from McDonalds, we discovered that the bar in the yacht club was open and fairly busy with arrivals for the courses beginning on Monday.

28 May 2001 - Whilst **Capt Bates** was taking over the boat in the morning, we were given the task of buying the fresh rations required for the first part of the journey. This and the loading of all our kit took some time, so we did not really get settled in the boat until about 11 o'clock. We were then shown various parts of the boat including the odd names given to parts of the sails, ropes, navigation equipment etc. After a safety brief and lunch we departed Kiel at around 1300hrs towards our destination, Eckenforde, just up the road from Kiel. A good deal of time was spent getting used to the basics, including steering, changing sails, tacking and gibing, and the rules involved in sailing. During the journey the winds picked up significantly which caused a few worried faces amongst the novice sailors. This was the sign of things to come, and the main sail was reefed in so we could control the boat a little better. We eventually arrived at Eckenforde at 1700 hrs and spent some time preparing the boat whilst mother-watch prepared a sumptuous spaghetti bolognaise.

29 May 2001 - Oh dear, so this is what sailing is all about. With winds gusting up to 40kts and heavy seas rolling the boat from the outset, we had to rig the storm jib and did not even raise the main sail because of the arriving storm. As the wind was behind us, the boat rolled with the high waves in a way which made everybody instantly feel ill. The destination, Marstal in Denmark was some 30 miles away so we were trying to prepare ourselves for a long journey. Unfortunately it was not long before **Leon** 'Chunks' **Crayton** was sick, and this made the rest of us feel even worse. It was all we could do to stop ourselves being ill, so we were kept busy by trying to control and maintain the boat in the rough seas. Eventually, we arrived at Marstal at 1900hrs and began to get the colour back in our faces.**30 May 2001** - Initially, our destination was to be Faaborg to the North West of Marstal on the mainland. After negotiating some very slender deep water routes we came out into open water and were able to raise both the mainsail and foresail as the weather was calmer than the previous day. However, the wind had shifted considerable and we found ourselves heading straight into wind and therefore had to keep tacking to head for Faaborg. After some hours of this, **Capt Bates** realised that it would be unrealistic to achieve Faaborg that day, so we altered course for Svenborg to the North East of us. Sailing with the wind made the yacht travel quickly, achieving speeds of up to eight knots. We arrived at Svenborg at 1800hrs and immediately began preparing the curry that was eventually gobbled up by the hungry crew.

31 May 2001 - Svenborg proved to be a beautiful town with many friendly people. As some of the crew were avid fisherman they wanted to try out their fishing skills in the harbour, and were given a few hours to try and catch dinner. It was to our surprise that they returned with four

good-sized fish that made their way to the dinner table later that evening. **Capt Bates** took the crew out for the remainder of the day teaching safety drills like man-overboard and dropping anchor. As the weather was fairly calm we set full sail and practised tacking and gibing, as well as some of the crew being raised in the bosun's chair over the side of the boat. We returned to Svenborg later that evening and cooked our fish (and also plenty of pizza).

1 June 2001 - We set off from Svenborg at around 1030hrs towards Rudkobing, a small fishing town to the South East of Svenborg. As much of the sea around Rudkobing is very shallow, we had to pilot the boat through narrow deep-water channels in order to approach the town. A fine day weather wise that meant that we all finished the day with red sea-dog faces. I was given the chance to go up the mast in the bosun's chair in order to take crew photo. It proved to be higher up than I expected. Saturday night in Rudkobing was an interesting affair. Of the three bars in the town, everybody seemed to congregate in the one place, and we ended up playing an impromptu pool tournament.

2 June 2001 - We began the last and longest leg of the journey back towards Kiel. Unfortunately the wind was directly against us that meant we either had to tack all the way back or motor for much of the way and hope that the wind swung around a little in order to get some power out of the sails. **Capt Bates** was a little worried about the time factor and decided to motor much of the way. The weather was more forgiving than the outbound journey but we weren't willing to take any risks this time and the whole crew kept popping sea sickness tablets just in case. We were able to make some sail power for part of the journey, and returned to Kiel at around 1930hrs, just when another four boats from other courses were returning. **Capt Bates** looked a little flustered as everyone was watching him try to reverse the boat into the narrow berthing space. Once the boat was tidied up ready for handover the next day we all went out and had a meal.

All in all, the expedition was great fun, and everyone gained something from it. Although the sea sickness experience will stick in everyone's mind, we enjoyed six day's sailing around the waters of Denmark and discovered that the Danish people were very friendly and welcoming to a boat full of British squaddies.

RSSST(G)
Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Briers**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Holloway**

EXERCISE TEAM EDIFICE 2001

Ex Team Edifice was a Royal Signals System Support Team (Germany) adventurous training exercise which took place in Mayhofen, Austria over the period 14 - 21 April 2001 and was based on alpine skiing. **Sgt** 'Cozzy' **Costello** organised the event, his initial brief to all the participants was that all they needed was a passport and some 'non-ribbed' socks. The team invited **Capt** (Tfc) 'Rollover' **Roden, Capt** (TOT) 'Sleepy' **Steven** and **WO2 (SSM)** 'Port Monkey' **Hannah**, all from 16 Sig Regt. Day One was a 0600hrs we met in the camp. We then gleefully set off to Austria, via **Sgt** 'Cozzy' **Costellos**' house so that he could collect his forgotten passport and ribbed socks (first fine of the week).

On arriving at Mayrhofen, the group was met by the sight of over two metres of snow, on the Penken mountain. An absolute blessing especially in the last week of the ski season.

The warm up on the slopes in the first morning ensured all the skiing participants had regained their 'ski legs', while **Sgt** 'Demon' **Dix** discovered that snowplough turns are rarely carved, they are more usually ploughed. After lunch **Sgt** 'Al' **Costello**, set **Sgt** 'Dixie' **Dix** to work, ploughing the green 'nursery' slope while he led the skiers to the infamous red number seven ski-route. This route was to earn the name 'manic molly's mighty mogul mountain' as the skiers quickly learned that horrible cruddy wet snow on this, un-pisted route, defied all attempts to ski parallel. Confidence shattered we rejoined 'Dixie' on the Nursery slope.

Wednesday saw the team on Snow Blades, these extremely small skis seem very awkward initially but can be mastered within 20 minutes. For the whole day the team, irrespective of skiing standard, skied together and completed all the slopes. Blades are great fun and everyone should try them. You can even chill out on the slopes with the snowboarders!

The exercise participants rapidly discovered that **SSgt Steve Holloway** likes to tell everyone 'I'm not being funny, right' before his next sentence. However, his comical postures on the slopes and antics during the Après-Ski events, severely disproved this figure of speech. Thus **SSgt** 'Charlie Chester' **Holloway** made an outstanding contribution to the week by being nominated, every evening, for thick of the day! **WO2 (FofS)** 'Sooty' **Edge** made a notable contribution by ensuring we could always see the other group (day and night) due to his yellow banana skin ski suit. Day Three saw the team trying some jumps. **WO1 (FofS)** 'my wrist hurts' **Briers** set the standard by attempting a jump and landing on his head yards away from his skis. After this the group decided to remodel the jumps, to great effect. **WO1** (FofS) **Briers, WO2** (SSM) 'Port Monkey' **Hannah** and **SSgt** 'Norman' **Carter** started a 'buzz the snowboarder' competition which proved very challenging. **FofS Briers** being the winner with a total of eight!

The team was sorry to lose **Capt** (Tfc) 'Rollover' **Roden** when he decided to ditch his skis and dive off the black slope breaking his collarbone. The fact that **Capt Roden** was extracted by piste machine caused an element of jealousy as **SSgt** 'Charlie Chester' **Holloway** had wanted a ride on it, all week. The week proved a great success with all participants showing considerable improvements in their skiing. **Sgt** 'Demon' **Dix** was a complete novice on day one and by Day Six was skiing well - winning the face planting competition. The Snow conditions were excellent and Mayhofen is recommended to all.

Back Row (L-R): Sig Glenie, LCpl Berry, LCpl Smith, Cpl Issak
Fourth Row: Sgt Campbell, Sig Halliwell, Cpl Durrant, Cpl Ruckledge, LCpl Elkin, LCpl Atkin, Capt Stevens, Sgt Armatage, SSgt Crossing
Third Row: Cpl Peake, LCpl Faithfull, Sig Heywood, Sig Howie, Cpl Padam, Sgt Coldeck
Second Row: Mrs Turner, Sgt Philips, Miss Stevens, Mst A. MacDowell, Cpl Hicgover
Front Row: Cpl Barn, LCpl Dickinson

SINGAPORE TROOP PAINT BALLING 2001

On 1 April 2001 Singapore Tp 252 Sig Sqn took part in a day's paint balling at D Survivor, Roermond. This was to say farewell to two members of the Troop, **LCpl** 'Ben' **Atkin** and **LCpl** 'Sarah' **Dickinson**. Then day was arranged by **Sig** 'Sarah' **Howie**.

The excitement started before we even boarded the transport, with competitive banter between the Army and the RAF members of the Troop. This continued all the way to the paint balling location. We arrived and were given our equipment and ammunition, and by this time everyone was raring to go. We were split into two equal teams and briefed before deploying onto the area. We had barely started when the boss, **Capt** (TOT) 'Scotty' **Steven,** was removed from the first game, as mutiny struck the Troop and we coated him head to toe in orange paint. Also **Cpl** 'Lance' **Bar** was eliminated very early, this was the person who was nagging everyone before we started to buy extra ammo, when on the area he only managed a handful of rounds himself. This didn't amuse him much and sent him into a sulk for the rest of the day. One of the funniest memories of the day was when **Cpl** 'Lee' **Kilgour**, one of our RAF members of the Troop, normally never to be seen at work, could also be seen in the area. He got so carried away military skills such as dash, down, crawl etc. that he now considering a proper job with the ARMY.

As usual the two mean, green and keen members of the Troop **SSgt** 'Leigh' **Crossing** and **Cpl** 'Mick' **Durrant** got a bit carried away, and introduced full on section attacks and battle drills to the area. That didn't last long they where both eliminated after a couple of minutes. To top the day off **Sgt** 'Dale' **Armitage** and **Sig** 'Geri' **Halliwell** were determined to get one another, but were interrupted during their battle as **Sgt** 'Dale' **Armitage** received a blow to the rear, much to his discomfort, by a member of the Troop who is yet to come forward. This was an excellent day and no matter what team you where on or who you shot it was all quickly forgotten unlike the day will be. The Troop would like to thank 'Sarah' **Howie** for her hard work to make the day possible, and to **Sgt** 'Dale' **Armitage** and **Sig** 'Bobby' **Glennie** for driving the transport.

21 SIGNAL REGIMENT (AIR SUPPORT)

CO **Lt Col P Gillespie**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) A Jenkins**

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Recently, there have been many changes in the personalities within the Regimental Headquarters, far too many to write about each one. Suffice to say, congratulations to those who have been promoted or commissioned, a sad farewell to those who have left for pastures new and a hearty welcome to those new arrivals. In short a summary:

Lt Col Bruce Avison – Previous 2IC promoted/posted
Maj John Mullender – 2IC Welcome.
Capt Ian Hargreaves – Adjt Welcome.
Capt Ady Knight – Commissioned due posting.
Capt Tom Crapper – Previous Adjt Posted.
Capt Tim Godden – RAO Leaving the Army to join the TA.
Sgt Lancaster – Finance SNCO Welcome.
Mrs Dagmar Atkinson – Left the unit, farewell.
Mrs Edna Clark – Left the unit, farewell.
Miss Christine Neal – Finance Clerk Welcome.

With all the comings and goings, RHQ has continued to supply the excellent service that all have become accustomed to. We successfully passed the SPS inspection - even with a few bridges to cross. We managed to deploy **Sgts Mick Elliott** and **Callum Black** (Ops SNCO) to Cypus on Ex Lion Sun and **Sgt Rob Fuller**, who managed to secure himself a six-week tour in S. Africa returned and has since secured a posting to BMATT for six-months. An extremely busy period, we are all looking forward to the next fun-packed period of excessive working hours and unrealistic timelines. Still no change really!

EXERCISE LION SUN MAY 2001

Ex Lion Sun was an exercise for elements of 21 Sig Regt (AS) to train in aspects of Peace Support Operations and to take advantage of the Adventure Training facilities on Cyprus. 95 members of the Regiment deployed on the exercise on 9 April, this included attachments from 16 CS Med Regt, 11 Sig Regt and 14 Sig Regt (EW). An initial range package was organized and run at RAF Akrotiri Ranges under the supervision of **SSgt Hayes** and **Sgt Francis**. A number of the deployed personnel had to get their APWT's out of the way first and then progress on to the Fire Team Assessment and MMTR. The training that began concurrently with the range work covered all of the basic infantry platoon tactics under the expert tuition of **Sgt Langridge**, **Sgt Kidd** and **Cpl Hook**. The first weeks training allowed the exercising troops to become acclimatized to Cyprus' heat and its terrain after the cold and wet of Britains winter. Easter Weekend ended the first phase of training and commenced the confirmatory platoon battle drills using blank ammunition and pyrotechnics much to the CBFs annoyance. This training developed the lessons learned in the first week and allowed the troops to operate as complete platoons.

The next phase of the training was live firing at the other end of the Island at the Pyla Ranges. **WO2 Budding** and **Sgt Churchward** ran this with help on the BATSIM from **Sgt Gronn** and GPMG Overhead fire from **Sgt Francis** and **SSgt Hayes**. This phase was highlighted as one of the most important and we tried to incorporate as many practices as possible including CQBR, ISBR, Fire Team Attack, Section Attack. We also managed to get all the personnel through Ambush and Section in Defense at night, which everybody seemed to enjoy. This phase of training went exceptionally well apart from the regular fires, which halted practices on a regular basis. With the culmination of the training there was the build up to the Final exercise with Rigid Raider training and Orders. The final exercise started with the stock Beach Landing at dawn and then attack up the high ground where the Enemy provided stiff resistance. **Cpl Varley's** section bearing the brunt of the action on the first morning. Later on in the day both **Lt MacDonald's** Platoon and **2Lt Wadia's** Platoon had to operate together to combat fearsome fighting from one enemy emplacement. Day Two saw **2lt Clemence's** Platoon having to deal with the 'Valley of Death', a nightmare thrash through some of Cyprus's hardest terrain. Day three of the FTX saw a heli insertion into another training area and a long hard slog up one of the endless valleys attacking the seemingly invincible Enemy forces. **Cpl Hook** showed his green side with some amazing moves to keep **Sgt Watts'** forces at bay. That night was extremely busy for all of the troops with harassment and attacks. The company responded effectively with a number of ambushes established which caught out some of the enemy. **Cpl Eason** set up an ambush ten yards from where **Capt Johnson** was hiding which meant a long and uncomfortable night for him.

Sig Butcher on his 21st Birthday in a Wessex
a lot older than he is!

2 Platoon – Better than Alton Towers

The next day began with two dog sections leading a search into a 'former enemy HQ' to find some hidden information and **'Col (SSgt) Santoro Hayes'** who was not so cleverly hidden in a bush. Finally the FTX progressed onto the FIBUA attack on Paramali village. With the exception of the Fire Support who failed to insert in time led ably by **Sgt Black**, the attack went very well. The pyrotechnics and amount of blank ammunition used meant for an exciting and aggressive attack. **Sgt Maj Giles** was seen to enjoy physically encouraging the troops. After the endeavors of the previous fortnights training the troops enjoying a well-earned rest with a trip to Egypt encompassing a number of historical sites, the Pyramids and the Museum in Cairo. Then followed a four-day adventure training package conducted by the likes of **Sgt Black** and **Cpl Howe** which saw all troops working very hard on activities such as water-skiing, windsurfing, sailing, mountain biking and horse riding. Overall the exercise was a complete success. The support provided by elements on Island greatly helped the exercise mission ensuring that the Peace Support Operation was authentic and had realism. The training was comprehensive but enjoyable and the troops had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

LCpl 'Val' Vallance proves he doesn't need a bipod

Sig 'Sid - I don't need safety glasses' Reynolds

PRESENTATION OF THE LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

D Comd, JHC, **Brig G. R. Coward OBE** L/AAC visited the Regiment on 15 May. The Regiment took the opportunity to invite him to present LS&GC medals to **SSgt Steve Pattendon**, **Sgt Dave Murphy**, **Sgt Mick Elliot** and **Cpl Brian Kellett**. At the same presentation a Comd Op Agricola's Commendation was presented to **SSgt Mark Stone** AGC, and two JHC Commander's Personal Commendations were presented to **Sgt Mark Ward** for his efforts within 220 Sig Sqn and **Mrs Di Swain** (Officers Mess Manageress) for her outstanding work. Well done to all recipients.

Front Row (L-R): Mrs Di Swain, Mrs Mott (Steve's Mum), Brig G. R. Coward OBE,Mrs Stone, Mrs Elliot.
Back Row (L-R): Sgt Mark Ward, SSgt Steve Pattendon, Sgt Dave Murphy, Cpl Brian Kellett, SSgt Mark Stone and Sgt Mick Elliot

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj David Bizley**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Williams**

VISIT TO SO19

After being told that we had a visit to SO19 on 15 May many of us thought that it meant a postcode and not 'Special Operations 19'. Having arrived in Epping Forest we were given a presentation of how they provide an armed protection force in London. We then went on to their 50m range and fired a selection of weapons ranging from pump-action shotguns to sniper rifles. After lunch we were shown around the helicopters that spy on us from the sky. This included equipment such as infrared cameras and car-tracking gadgets. It was a very good day out and brilliant for those interested in joining the police force.

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS COMPETITION

On 1 June 2001 the Regiment held its annual inter-Squadron athletics competition. Bath University Sports Village was used again as the venue. Bravo Tp had an excellent representation in the Sqn team with **Cpl Mark Smith**, **LCpl Neil Hunter**, **Sigs Carl Jesson**, **Pete Tucker** and **Andy Heighton** to name but a few. It was an excellent day out and it turned out to be a nail-biting competition. All three Squadrons fought hard but the decider of the whole contest was the final event – the 4 x 400m. 244 Sig Sqn just piped the others to the post and secured their victory by winning the overall trophy and the Commanders Cup. The members of the Troop achieved some good performances. Having recently arrived, **SSgt Andy Gill** put his favorite maxim to good use – 'To get ahead shout louder and run faster than everyone else' – he won the pole vault. Maybe he should

change it to include 'jump higher' as well! On the subject of jumping, **LCpl Neil Hunter** reached a Div standard in the High Jump – well done to him. **Sig Carl Jesson** walked away with a pocket full of silverware with a win in the 400m, long jump, triple jump and 4 x 400m. Another star was **Sig Pete Tucker** who won the 5000m and 1500m.

ARMY FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2001 - *by LCpl Smith*

The annual Army Fencing Championship, a three-day event, took place at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot. The Royal Signals once again put in a strong contingent. After having a taste of Aldershot hospitality the night before I managed to make it to the first day's competition, 'The Foil'. Albeit my weakest discipline I actually managed to improve my ranking by three places from last year. On the second day the competition started well for me. Having performed well in the preliminaries, I reached the last 32. I fenced against a member of the ever-strong RHAC team. In a grueling match I came back to win 15-14, putting me through to the last sixteen. Unfortunately, in the following match I lost to **Lt Col Campbell** who went on to be runner up in this event and winner of the championship. In the afternoon it was the Inter-Corps 3-man team competition in which the R SIGNALS 'A' Team came Third. On a lighter note, the Officers v Other Ranks competition took place on the final day. The Other Ranks lost by only one point in the final match. Who said fencing is an Officers' sport? After a weeks hard competition I managed to qualify for the Army team. It is now time to train and prepare for the coming Tri-Service championships at Portsmouth at end of June. find out about Royal Signals competitions contact Capt Anderton-Brown 12 Mech Bde Tel: 94222 4432.

220 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. D. Forrest**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) N. J. Roberts**

MAPPS UPDATE

This Squadron was tasked to carry out the In Service Reliability Demonstration (ISRD) for PROJECT MAPPS for a period of 12 months commencing in Jan of this year. D Tp collected three air portable nodes from the primary contractor, BAe Systems, in Christchurch in mid January. Each node consists of a communications installation and a support installation, both mounted on Steyr Daimler Puch, Pinzgauer 6x6 vehicles. Air mobility trials where conducted at RAF Odiham in the last week of January with one node complete, being successfully airlifted to Barton Stacey Training Area. Weather conditions and mechanical failings of the prime movers prevented all three nodes being lifted. The subsequent plug up and IBDP/IBCP highlighted problems with the supplied draft AESP's. Post Exercise highlighting of the lack of formal recovery procedures and the unreliability of the prime movers have in the main been sorted. The vehicles 1st lines inspections, following the exercise, and the contractors inspection notes has enabled draft IMI's to be produced. The exercise programme has taken a hammering due to the 'Foot and Mouth' crisis closing the countryside. When problems have been highlighted and PXR points have been submitted, highlighting design improvements, (such as right angled coax connectors for the VHF masts to prevent damage) they have been taken on board and made. The result is that the Squadron is having considerable influence in the improvement and development of the equipment. Thus far, the switching equipment has proved to be excellent with the majority of the problems having been on the Government funded equipments.

EXERCISE GAFF DRAGON

Ex Gaff Dragon was a R SIGNALS Yacht Club Sailing Expedition conducted along the South Coast of England. To the six members of the Regiment who took part it proved to be an experience somewhere between extreme exhilaration, total fear and absolute misery depending upon whom you asked and when. The high winds and bad weather over the first three days of the trip pushed everyone to their limits. However, once we reached Dartmouth, the return trip saw the benefit of having the winds behind us for our return leg to the Solent. The race back to Yarmouth and the night sail where highlights with the Regimental boat being the first in, all be it with a bit of an assist. The social side was every bit as adventurous as the sailing. The crews enjoyed a dinner at the Royal Solent Yacht Club hosted by the Corps Yacht Club and a night out in Southampton. The crew's adventures in Southampton will remain the exclusive memories of those involved but most proved to be epic. Those interested in having an adventure on the high seas or the high streets of the Southern Coast should contact the Regimental Sailing Officer.

Ex Gaff Dragon RSYC Sailing Regatta
off the South Coast of England

Which Ways Up
Exercise Gaff Dragon 23 – 29 April 2001

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col N. A. W. Pope**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Pye**

SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Capt G. R. Johnson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dalton**

The Squadron appears to going through a 'calm before the storm' period, aided by the foot and mouth epidemic. The impending tidal wave of the Regimental Open Day on 1 July is soon to engulf us as we deal with the event and roughly 15,000 visitors. We have said some farewells over this period, most notably to **Maj Rod Gladwin** who, after 35 years service, is retiring to Civvy Street. Our best wishes go with him and his wife **Shirley. LCpl Maxine McCall** has also left us on maternity leave and we are able to give a warm welcome to our new SSM, **WO2 Russ Dalton**.

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. W. Cooper**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Keen**

The Squadron would like to bid a warm farewell to the OC **Maj Joe** 'The Bear' **Cooper** who leaves us in two months time, and wish him and **Sarah** all the best all the best at The Land Warfare Training Centre, Warminster.

Maj J. W. Cooper on his Map Reading Refresher Course –
Warminster is to the South

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Flt Lt Paul** 'Wanna be, gonna be a Corps Boy ' **Pearce**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul Storey**

A big How-de-Doody goes out from Alpha Tp here on Club Silkman. It's been a hectic and exhausting month on the sunny beaches of Sierra Leone, involving sports afternoons and getting well oiled on the 45p bottles of Star beer. When time permits we get some work in, because it's not all play! The social life is helping us to get through this otherwise arduous Op tour. The CSE show was particularly entertaining, and we owe a massive round of applause to **Johnny** 'Larium' **Slap** for having the balls to get booed off by so many squaddies. On the physical side of life, **Cpl Paul** 'Gipper' **Richardson**, the Troop APTI, has forced us to do a BPFA on the golden beach of Freetown. The results were aided by the fact that locals were chasing us, trying to sell African Culture. Congratulations on their local promotion from Lance Corporal to Corporal to **Ben** 'I can drink (honest)' **Williams** and **Pete** 'Monotone' **Stainforth** who has had to really work in the ED Dept this tour. This was due to the fact that **Sig Brad** 'HE-MAN' **McCallum** keeps breaking all their power distribution boxes. The Techs have been rushed off their feet too (sunbathing) under the watchful eye of **Sgt Dave** 'Mmmbop' **Hansen**. Luckily though **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Kismul** is keeping tabs on **LCpl Rob** 'Honestly man I aren't drunk' **Wilson** in JTFHQ Mechcon. We say farewell to **Cpl Bri** 'I Love Johnny Slap' **Rawlings** after his posting to 7 Armd Bde, and finally a big thank you goes out to the jiff-job boys and girls of 1 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (215) for showing us the sights. Sorry to see you go back to the UK to do exercises on Salisbury Plain Training Area, but somebody had to make way for the Big Boys to do the communicating!

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt McNair**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Langan**

EXERCISE GANNEL RAM

Ex Gannel Ram was Bravo Tp's adventure training for the year. The Exercise was due to take place in Newquay but unfortunately because of the Foot and Mouth epidemic we had to do some swift re-organisation by segregating the week into daily events. Monday we set off on our early morning adventure to the Imperial War Museum in London. We arrived midday in London at Chelsea barracks where we met Londoner **LCpl Tom** 'Ant head' **Beerling**, a past member of the Troop, who was our guide for the day. We eventually made our way to the museum which everyone found interesting....really!, sorry I mean really interesting. It was then decided we would make use of our time in London and the group then went their separate ways some went shopping and others went to visit more sights in the capital. The following day was a bit more relaxed, the first activity was bowling at the Lakeside Bowling Centre, though **Sgt Keith** 'Happy Days' **Langan** wasn't feeling too 'clever' from the previous day. He was, however, clever enough to suggest a pot for the best score which he ended up winning, nothing suspicious there then. The afternoon's event was ice-skating at the Sky Dome in Coventry where we watched in envy at the ice skating skills of **Sig Matt** 'Torvell and Dean' **Ashley** who was later sin binned by one of the fourteen year old stewards for tearing the ice up. Wednesday's events were rock climbing, abseiling and a trapeze jump that again was a fun day. The Troop was split into three groups that then took turns on each of the events. After seeing **LCpl** 'Ill try anything once' **Yoxall** scarred for life by the trapeze jump, **Sig Lou Allen** was the only one not to do it, even after loads of constructive encouragement by the Troop. Thursday was the last day of our Adventure training spent at the Tamworth Snowdome that turned out to be the most enjoyable. It was a first time for everyone in the Troop at snowboarding although you wouldn't have thought so after watching **Sig Chris** 'Kamikazie' **Jeffers** speed down the slope at the rate of a thousand gazelles. The best sight of the day was seeing how gracefully **Sig Dave Griffiss** could plough into everyone going up the slope on the ski lift. The Troop would like to thank **Cpl Nichol** for organising a great week, Also we would like to welcome **LCpl Steve Sharman** and **Sig Chris Bell** into the Troop and say goodbye to **Cpl Neil Coils** and **Sig Dan Shore** who have both departed to Civ Div.

EXERCISE HURGHADA CONQUEST (DRAGON)

by Sig Hemming

This Exercise was a Sub Aqua Diving expedition to the Red Sea organised by BUOTC. The aim was to enable all participants to achieve their next diving qualification. 30 Signal Regiment's Cygnet Diving Club were offered three slots on the trip and took full advantage. The expedition got off to a flying start via the bar at Gatwick airport, followed by the mandatory hurry up and 2-hour delay wait. After the 5-hour flight to Egypt, the next stop was Papa's Bar in Hurghada, where we were introduced to the local chemical concoction called 'STELLA' (not Artois) beer. The next day it was off on our live-aboard boat for the first of our two week long trips. Diving started that day with a few groggy and seasick bodies. We started our shake down dives to 15 metres and progressed to 35 metres throughout the expedition. First impressions of the Red Sea, WOW, clear water with the visibility up to 40 metres. Tropical warm waters, and a multitude of colours and life. The wildlife was abundant, notable sightings included: dolphins, several huge moray eels (a monster 4m was seen), turtles, large wrasse and groupers, and a single sighting of a White Tip Shark. Many 'nasty beasties' were also seen - Lionfish and their really nasty cousins the Devil Lionfish (you have 20 seconds to live if they sting you), stonefish, surgeon fish (razor sharp spines on their tails). The diving locations were varied and numerous, sometimes three locations a day, with many huge coral reefs and coral towers, plus several wrecks some quite notable. The highlight of the wreck dives had to be the 'Thistlegorm', a wreck from the Second World War, which was almost halved by a German bomb, inside the wreck were Trucks, Ammunition, Rifles, Motorcycles, bren gun carriers and all manner of artefacts from the era. Sharks had still not been seen yet so, **WO2 AI** 'I'll bring the Sharks in close' **Keen** decided it would be a good time to slash his hand to encourage them, fortunately it did not work. Drills, skills and exams ended the expedition on the second week, where I will never forget the 'Walrus' who tried to drown me. Two weeks of unforgettable diving, not to be missed if you ever have the opportunity. The Cygnet Diving Club would like to thank BUOTC, **WO1 (RSM) Steve Dickson** and **Cpl Jim Pike** for allowing us to partake.

EXERCISE ARDUOUS CYGNET
30 SIGNAL REGIMENT LEADERSHIP CADRE COURSE

One of the many Command Tasks – 3 Section at Work

This year's cadre course almost didn't happen, mainly because of the nation's problems with Foot and Mouth. We were very limited, and found ourselves doing the exercise phase on our own camp. This, however, didn't make the course any easier. If anything it was harder, because from day to day we never really knew what to expect. The first week was quite relaxed but after that, the tempo picked up. We all stayed in our own rooms and ate in the cook-house. It was a learning week really, with early starts and late nights. The hardest thing I found was giving a speech in front of a crowd, but with time and practice this task became easier as our confidence grew. For the second week we stayed in transit accommodation (so no home comforts), and had PT every morning at 0600hrs. All except one morning where myself and a few others were a little late, and it got changed to 0530hrs. That's no fun when you're not getting to bed until round about one or two every night. By the end of the second week every body was absolutely ******! That's when some bright spark decided we were to deploy to Hanger 2 on camp to build a command centre, complete with guard room, ops room and briefing room. We split into three Sections, one Section on guard, another patrolling and a third on QRF. Incidents where set up all over camp and we where all given a chance to be the section commander or section 2IC. We also rotated the duties so that each section was given a different challenge. Guard was probably the hardest of the three, as it was the one where we had the least sleep. On the final day of the exercise phase, everything kicked off (as you would expect it would) we where attacked and had to bug out of location. After a short tab we went into a new location where it was decided we would take our base back. It was then a simple task of taking out three Sangers and storming through Hanger 2. By the end of the exercise phase every one was absolutely hanging. But the course was not over yet. No sooner had we got the cam cream of our faces, when it was a quick CFT followed by twice around the assault course. Before finishing for the day. The next day we went to the Royal Armouries in Leeds. This was so we could all gather information for the tasks we where all given as a final presentation before going out for an end of course do. This comprised of a curry and a lot of beer! All in all I think the course went very well and although hindered by lack of preparation time and areas where we could work, the DS did the best they could for us.

258 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj P. Deans**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Forrester**

As per usual life continues its hectic pace up at SHQ. Firstly, on behalf of all the Squadron we would like to congratulate **YofS Pete Goodliff** and his wife **Andrea** on the birth of **Hanna Rose** and send all the family our kindest regards. Another addition to the Ops Team is the return of **Cpl** 'Ronnie' **McDonald** as Ops Corporal and we wish his predecessor **Cpl** 'Gaz' **McKee** all the best for the future in the depths of D Tp. Congratulations also go out from SHQ to **Capt Mogs Southern** on her promotion - 'get the champers in'. Also congratulations to **Sig** 'Gink' **King** (now LCpl) and **Sig** 'Volunteer' **Fielding** on a very respectable first and third on the Commanding Officers' Cadre Course – the Squadron has now produced outstanding results on two consecutive cadre courses – no other comment necessary! Whilst all this has been going on the OC, **Maj Phil Deans**, has managed to fit in a Recce to Oman for Ex Saif Sereea and returned with valuable information and not a bad tan either. Things have been additionally hectic in the admin office as **Pte Nicki Mitchell** has disappeared on an upgrading course. Meanwhile the Squadron has carried out an Inter-Troop roll change between JTFHQ and Spearhead R1, with all the fun that it involves. Finally, all the officers would like to congratulate **2Lt Jules Tydeman** on a most comprehensive set of admin instructions (Wot no FRAGO!) and all members welcome him to 25GREAT Sig Sqn.

DELTA TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Chris Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jim Lyons**

Finally, Delta Tp enjoyed a well earned leave period over April having our passports handed back to us so we could go and travel the world at will. These countries visited included the United States, Denmark, France and Lanzarote. Midway through leave we were unsurprisingly called back to camp for a possible short notice deployment to the war torn state of Macedonia. The furthest we got on this 'Operation', however, was the weighing scales at the Air Mounting Center South Cerney. On return we were straight back in to a familiar routine preparing for JTFHQ Ex Second Run - a Troop level exercise providing communications with VSC 501, 522 HF, Wotan and other information systems. The Troop is now back where it belongs at R1 readiness awaiting our next task. The Troop would like to say goodbye to **LCpl Ian** 'Not Long' **Marsden** and **Cpl M. J.** 'Muddy Funkster' **Holt** due posting to N. Ireland and also to **LCpl Courtney** 'Do it or die' **Watts** who is leaving to 'police' the streets of London. We would also like to welcome **LCpl George** 'Ski' **Sosinski, LCpl** Jo **Keith, LCpl** 'Dr' **Foster** and, recently, promoted **LCpl Si Mackay.** Congratulations go to **Sig Craig** 'Gym Queen' **Fielding** achieving a very creditable Third place on his Regimental Cadre Course. The course was affected this year due to the 'foot and mouth epidemic' and, therefore, was held on camp covering all aspects of internal security. Congratulations also go to **LCpl Matt** 'Potent' **Green** and his wife who recently had twins. He now has the grand total of four children, which is more than the rest of the Troop put together. And finally congratulations go to **Sig** 'DNA' **Mason** for not being a father.

ECHO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Jules Tydeman**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Al Combe**

Echo Tp has had a reasonably quiet few months, with no postings in or out. The main event for the Troop has been the take over of the R1 Spearhead role from Delta Tp and a series of pager tests and callouts, as well as quite a few set-up and tear-downs around various barracks. During Ex Second Run, the Troop deployed to Avon Camp, Salisbury plain, to set-up and test the Spearhead detachments in the field in a tactical role. The set-up and operation went smoothly thanks to the relentless 'Lets set it up here, then tear it down, then set it up again' enthusiasm of **Sgt** 'Big Gay' **Al Barker.** Everyone involved either got to hone their already well practiced skills or, for those who were absent before, got to learn the kit with a fair amount of hands-on experience. **LCpl Sarah** 'Catherine-Zeta' **James** had a 90% learning curve on the WOTAN det and the two CNR dets led by **LCpl Matt** 'Gink' **King** and **LCpl** 'Blinkin' **Mick Allan.** It wouldn't be fair to not add to the list of names here, the two people who helped sustain the life support of the camp: **LCpl** 'Trots' **Trotman** and **LCpl** 'Sid' **Whitelock**, who kept morale going with unfaltering power supply and several chippy runs. The Troop has once again supplied a number of bods to the regimental rugby team for the league season, unfortunately the first excursion wasn't the best. As well as losing to 7 RHA and **Sig John** 'Kebab' **Lawrence** needed seven stitches to his head, whilst **LCpl Chris** 'Fluffy' **Dunn** sustained a knee injury and **Sig** 'Lamby' **Lamb** a nice cut to the eye. The Troop now looks forward to handover of the R1 role to F Tp in July with another Ex Tartan Warrior following on its tail followed pleasantly by a two week block leave period and in the far future Ex Saif Sareea with the rest of the British Armed Forces.

FOXTROT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Mogs Southern**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Stu Fidler**

The Troop would like to extend best wishes for the future to **Cpl Chris** 'Chappie' **Chapman** who has moved on to pastures new in 16 Signal Regiment to work in the cozy confines of a nice office job - 'shiny-ar*e'. Farewell also goes to **Capt Mogs Southern**, newly promoted and off to sunny 8 Infantry Brigade. A warm welcome is extended to **Capt Bill Holbrook** who is coming to the troop from 21 Signal Regiment. The Troop has finally passed on the mantle of JTFHQ to D Tp - Lucky people - and we are now able to relax slightly and turn our attention to more mundane matters, like leave! This should relax us just enough before we take on Spearhead and prepare for the mass exodus to Oman for Ex Saif Sareea.

250 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. J. Cole**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Gautam Gurung**

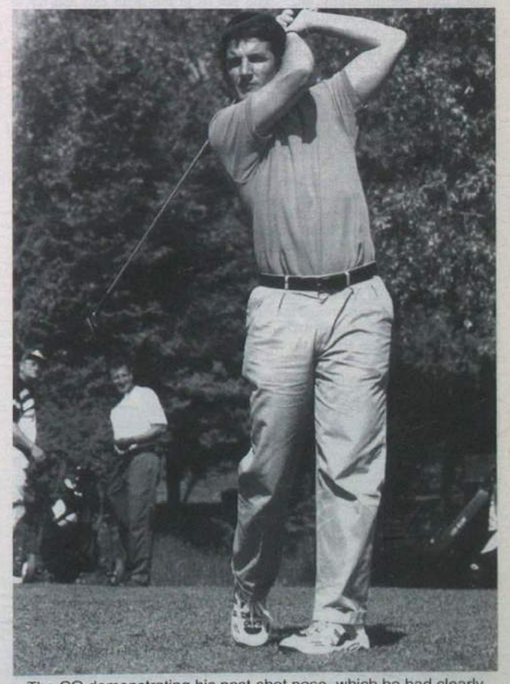
MY FIRST OPERATIONAL TOUR – *by Sig Lewis*

Spending five and half months in Butmir Camp in Sarajevo has not exactly been what I expected my first operational tour of Bosnia to be like. Being a multinational Camp the first obstacle to overcome is the varied language barriers that are presented daily. However, multitude of nationalities is actually one of the plus points of the camp because of the vast amount of cultural interaction that this makes possible. One example of this is that several times a year the NICs of each nationality open their doors to the rest of the NIC community and allow them to try some of their local or national dishes along with some of their national drinks. Another example of such benefits was laid on by the German contingent at Butmir; this was the annual tradition of the October fest, which was open to the entire Camp. This was held in the gym where they laid on traditional food, drink and entertainment. Although I had little to no experience actually working within the COMMCEN the people I was working for gave me the time and benefit or their patience to allow me the time to acquire the skills of working in an operational environment. Even when nearing the end of the tour, when **LCpl Deb** and I were the only personnel left the atmosphere remained friendly and relaxed in the COMMCEN. All in all my time at Butmir and Bosnia as a whole was a valuable and enjoyable time and has inspired me to look forward to my next operational tour with 30 Signal Regiment.

Relaxing after another hard day in Bosnia

BRAMCOTE GOLF SOCIETY DAY – 30 MAY 2001

The Bramcote Golf Society day was held at Brandon Wood on 30 May, with a field of 27 eager participants. All handicaps had been well scrutinised by **WO2 J. P. Paterson**, unfortunately not well enough as the results below show. Everyone arrived at 0900hrs and having received their driving range tokens, golf balls were soon flying in all directions. The first three-ball teed off at 1030hrs with **Lt Col Nick Pope** driving off first, the competition was now well under way. Hours later tired but happy we sat down for the 'Brandon Buster' and the exploits of the day were discussed. A great day was had by all and the choice of venue proved to be a fair test of golf.



The CO demonstrating his post-shot pose, which he had clearly been practising in the mirror the night before the competition
(Photo by LCpl Campbell)

The results were as follows:

Scratch Winner	-	**Sgt Ash Ingham**	(17)90 Gross
Scratch Runner-up	-	**SSgt Andy Dutton**	(16)91 Gross
Handicap Winner	-	**Cpl Jase Curley**	(22)70 Nett
Handicap Runner-up	-	**Cpl Tony Gallagher**	(24)75 Nett (on countback)
Stableford Winner	-	**Sgt Bredan Plant**	(26) 45 Points
Stableford Runner-up	-	**WO1 Andy Campbell**	(28) 39 Points
Nearest the Pin	-	**SSgt Craig Wrath**	(24)
Longest Drive	-	**Cpl Dean Buckley**	(18)
Most Golf	-	**SSgt Phil Green**	(28)

Apparently the numbers on the right mean something!

31 (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col P. D. Wenlock TD**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Young**

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Since our last *WIRE* notes we have said farewell to the Adjutant, **Capt Colin Vaudin**, who has moved on to R Signals MCM Div at Glasgow, thereby ensuring that everyone there is wearing uniform by now. We have also had a change of Foreman of Signals with **WO2 Jamie Harper** moving to JSSU Digby and being replaced by **WO2 Gaz Pearson**, who has been posted in from JCUNI.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj A. Ferguson**
SSM **WO2 Wickles**

The last three months have been a period of consolidation for the Squadron, where we have aimed at expansion, recruitment and training, whilst also supporting the Regiment on those exercises that did take place despite the foot and mouth restrictions. Recruiting has taken place in the Arndale Shopping Centre at Wandsworth. The Squadron had a prime location outside the Pound Shop, with a reasonable amount of 'passing trade'. However, the venture was not very successful despite the attention of local shoppers. It was surprising how many of those who showed any interest were ineligible to enlist, many of whom were Eastern Europeans. More recently the recruitment has changed tactics to leafletting outside local tube and rail stations. There is clearly a knack to leafletting, which takes about 20 minutes to get to grips with.

London commuters are creatures who do not engage in conversation, eye contact, or pleasantries of any type. Holding out our glossy leaflets saying 'Are you interested in....' received the response of a head down fast walk straight past (usually with hands in pockets - the commuters not us!). It was also rather difficult to persuade those with hands full with shopping bags, briefcases etc to show any interest in taking a leaflet! Then there are the crafty ones, who see us at the main exit and try to divert through the smaller side exit, maybe thinking that we were collecting for charity, selling the Big Issue, or conducting market research. Tough luck! We had all exits covered. There is only one way to leaflet successfully. Don't speak to the public (they don't want to speak to you), and just thrust the paper in front of them. They will then automatically take it by some kind of reflex action. It is clear that years of evolution in the gene pool and social conditioning have resulted in this whole tribe of species having lost the ability to communicate. (I can almost hear the cynics thinking 'They should make perfect recruits for the Corps!').

The success of any Squadron depends upon all the individuals within it. Everyone brings their own experiences and abilities, and together with individual and collective training the sum of these assets is invariably greater than its constituent parts. Within the Squadron there is also reliance upon certain key people, to help to achieve our aims. It has therefore been very disappointing that the SSM has been unable to attend due to his excessive work commitments, and the newly appointed Troop Commander for D Tp has also been unable so far to take up post. The lack of such key personnel inevitably places a greater burden on the remainder. D Tp is particularly important to the Squadron, as it is our only Signals Troop, and forms the natural point of entry for most of our new recruits at Southfields. **Capt Mark Windibank** (Sqn 2IC) is now tasked with ensuring that D Tp get the support and training they require. **Sgt Strickland** has a key role to play, and is ably supported by **Cpl Hales**. In his civilian job **Cpl Cox** has volunteered to undertake dangerous and demanding operations at the front line - he is training to be a teacher. We all hope that he achieves his goal, as the education system must by crying out for people of his calibre. Our new PSI **Sgt Carter** is also showing tremendous enthusiasm to develop the team spirit in D Tp, and make good use of his many qualifications. However, as is often the case the unsung and unseen staff behind the scenes continue to play a crucial role. The Quartermaster's Department has been working hard to ensure that all their records are transferred onto Unicom. **SSgt Trype** has dealt with the usual pay queries (eg 'Where's my bounty?') with extraordinary patience and efficiency. Our own LAD have not only kept us on the road, but **SSgt Burke** also put together an adventurous training weekend for the whole Squadron - despite the location having to be changed due to Foot & Mouth. We would be lost without the efforts of our support staff.

Capt Guy Bewsher deserves special recognition for the success of the Regimental Small Bore Target Rifle Team. The Regiment did not have such a team until January this year, and at the risk of embarrassing him, he single-handedly raised, trained, and led the team to some astonishing achievements. Here is his own account:

The Regiment entered two teams in the annual smallbore match. Not having any Target Rifles ourselves, those wanting to shoot promptly joined Chobham and District Rifle and Pistol Club. This gave the squads access to a 25metre range, target rifles and associated equipment, plus a coach. As members of the club we could legally borrow the rifles, so that, having qualified for the finals we could use them at the London UOTC Range. A tense evening of shooting resulted in our A Team winning the District Championship and going forward to the Land Command final. The Land Command final was held at Borden, with both Regular and TA Teams from all UK Districts, Northern Ireland and Germany. The six teams rapidly separated into two groups, the top three, followed by a tight group trying to avoid the wooden spoon. Leaving the top shots to there own match, 31 Sig Regt had a close match, changing places with the other two competitors on an hourly basis. In the end we gained a slight, but deserved lead and completed a hard fought day in fourth place. Not bad for a team with no rifles or equipment is it? The team consisted of **Maj Krishna Gurung, Capt Guy Bewsher** (Team Capt), **SSgt King** and **LCpl Farquarson-Roberts**. The Squadron now looks forward to our Annual Training Camp at Salisbury Plain, coming somewhat earlier in the year than normal. Following last years successful 2 Brigade exercise, we now hope to build up our individual skills that will be tested in Regimental exercises.

41 (PLK) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Capt S. Ong**
SSM **WO2 Watson**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Squadron recently had a change of Command. **Maj Toby Lankester** left the Squadron to become 21C of the Regiment. **Capt Steven Ong**, formerly the Sqn 2IC took Command of 41 (PLK) Sig Sqn on 1 April 2001. **Capt Ong** has a long history with 41 (PLK) Sig Sqn, having originally joined the Squadron as a Signaller in 1990. He was commissioned in 1992 whilst serving with 83 Sqn, he served two tours as a Tp Comd with 41 Sqn, and returned to the Squadron last year as the Squadron 2IC. We wish him well in his tour as Sqn Comd. A big welcome back too to 'T', **Sgt Tania Camp**. Formerly a popular member of the Squadron, **Sgt Camp** is returning to the TA after a two-year absence. Welcome back to the Squadron 'T'!

VISIT OF BDE COMD

On 24 April, the Bde Comd, **Brig Jackson** visited the Squadron. After being briefed by the Squadron OC, **Capt Ong**, he toured the Squadron, observed the Drill Night training, and then met soldiers serving in the Squadron in the bar over a curry meal.

LCpl Warren O'Driscoll and SSgt (FofS) Maurice Byrne proving technicians do work occasionaly

REGIMENTAL EXERCISE 27 – 29 APRIL

Being confined to the boundaries of the TAC does not stop 41 (PLK) Sig Sqn from communicating! The April exercise found us dismounting Lanward equipment into the classrooms, and rotating junior soldiers as operators on a personal tuition basis. **Cpl Julia May** taught us how to dismount the Lanward equipment, whilst **LCpl Chris** 'Penelope' **Hunter** gave an interesting lesson on the Chirp (ably assisted by his beautiful assistant, **SSgt (FofS) Maurice Byrne**). Now just how does that GPS work?

PLK DINNER

Friday 11 May was the annual PLK Association Dinner in the HQ Mess of the Duke of York Barracks. The turnout, as ever, was good, with many old and new faces from the Squadron in attendance. **Col Keith Bruce Smith**, President of the PLK Association, welcomed the Association's guests, the CO, **Lt Col Paul Wenlock**, and the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, **Mr Tony Holt**. **Cpl Julia May** presented the Association with a cheque for over £500, raised by the JR's bar, which the Association gratefully received. **Col Bruce Smith** thanked the retiring Secretary, **Mr Alan Easton,** for serving as Secretary of the Association for over 20 years. His successor, **Mr Steve Bland**, will be doing well, if he can manage even half as good an innings!

BRIGADE EXERCISE 11-13 MAY

The Squadron blow off a few cobwebs at Kenley airfield the following day, over the weekend of 12 /13 May. This was the first time we have deployed since the outbreak of FMD, and we took some getting back into practice. **Cpl Kevin** 'I'm bored' **Bedwell** decided he didn't like the colour of the Lanward computer screen, and thought he might press a few buttons to see if he could change it, crashing the whole system in the process.... The Trg Maj, **Maj Tim Cooper** saw the funny side of it ...Not! We decided however, to fully take advantage of the fact that we were on an airfield, and managed to fit in a couple of glider flights between shifts. **LCpl Pearl** 'Smiley' **Sethna** proved she too can grin like a Cheshire Cat, whilst **SSgt Bob** 'GI Jane' **Stanton** established, once again, that he really doesn't have the stomach for flying...

CRETE EXPEDITION - *by Sgt Brian Traynor*

41 Sqn had a number of members on the recent Regimental mountain-walking expedition to Crete. One of whom was the soon to retire NRPS **SSgt John** 'Romeo' **Mackins**. **SSgt Mackins** acquired this nickname 'Romeo Mackins' whilst away - something to do with a Dutch tourist, but he's being very coy about it. The SSM, **WO2 Robin** 'Hatless' **Watson** had a lucky escape when nearly following his hat into the dock at Pyraeus Harbour. One of the teams did go astray, heading into a valley when they should have been on a mountain ridge. This was not due to poor map reading, but more to do with the poor quality of Cretian Maps. Honest! All in all the troops returned in better condition than they departed, having thoroughly enjoyed the expedition, prompting the quote 'It's been emotional'.

56 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj S. Streete**
SSM **WO2 Godden**

We have welcomed 14 new recruits into the Squadron during the last two months and hope that they enjoy being a member of the TA in Eastbourne. Their training has started but so far, has not been affected by the FMD. We welcomed **Brig John Powell OBE** who came to open the refurbished LAD workshop, thanks to the SE RFCA. It is now much improved and **Sgt Gary Windham** and his team are busy trying to get it dirty again. We were also visited by **Col Chris Argent** from 2 (SE) Bde who enjoyed reminiscing about what the Squadron had been like when he was there as a Tp Comd back in the 70's.

NATIONAL TERRITORIAL ARMY OPEN DAY

Oscars were abundant on 31 March as the Squadron moved out into Eastbourne Town Centre to recruit. Two scenarios were prepared and the sight of blood and guts, accompanied by heart-rending screams following a 'road traffic accident' entertained the public. **Sig Trish O'Sullivan** had certainly set the scene well by providing lots of simulated injuries and masses of 'red fluid'. Throughout this excitement, **Sgt Kevin Young** seemed to be suffering from verbal diarrhoea as he kept up a running commentary about the scenario, the Squadron, the TA, the weather, his job and anything else that came to mind. **Sgt Tim Odam**, who had visited every pub, café, night-club, taxi rank, sports centre and more in the area, delivering posters and flyers about the event, enjoyed spending the day driving around in a cut-down, camouflaged Rover, thanks to the skills of **Sig Ring**. It all worked though, as we had 17 potential recruits signing on three days later!

RECRUITING

Maintaining this as our main theme, the recruiting team, headed up by **2Lt Rob Wood** and **Sgt Tim Odam** repeated the scenarios from the TA Open Day in Eastbourne at the Eastbourne Youth Weekend and then again in Seaford a few weeks later. The local paper has been bombarded with pictures and stories that have certainly highlighted our cause. **Sgt Tim Odam** also spent the weekend at Newhaven Fort, along with all the enthusiasts in the South of England, looking at old kit, watching people dress up in the old uniforms and listening to all the reminiscing. Quite a weekend! The camouflaged land rover has been used widely as a recruiting vehicle, complete with all its recruiting banner, much to the embarrassment of the SSM, **WO2 Kevin Godden**. Whenever he is instructed to take it out, he drives without looking at any of the waving members of the public and refuses to go via any traffic lights in case they turn red and he has to stop!

TRAINING

At last we have been allowed out! Having spent one weekend communicating from our garages and another at Bramley, the Det. Comds were delighted to be able to take their dets out independently with just their crew, at the last Squadron weekend. Despite the fact this meant going back to eating compo rations and spending some time spraying the vehicles, boots and anything/one else who got in the way, it was preferable to training in barracks. **Cpl Jo Reader** was very amused to talk **Capt Anthony Lamb** through changing the frequency on the radio, despite being 30 miles away and he was delighted to be able to achieve it. We've heard about nothing else since then!

MAYOR'S WEEKEND

Having been awarded the Freedom of the Town, the OC, **Maj Sarah Streete**, as Honorary Freeman, joined the Civic Party on Mayor's Sunday whilst the rest of the Squadron showed off their marching skills. Following a church service, everyone marched down to the Town Hall for an inspection by the new Mayor. 56 Sig Sqn (V), lead by **Capt Anthony Lamb**, looked as smart as ever. This was followed by a families lunch back at the TAC.

83 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj J. Carmichael**
SSM **WO2 Stevenson**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl Jay Eastwood-Bell** and **LCpl Garath Burgess** on their recent promotions. Both achieved excellent reports on their promotion courses. Well done.

EXERCISE COCKNEY SNELL 18-20 MAY 2001

Well done to all those who took part in the Squadron Weekend, Ex Cockney Snell. As the name suggests the weekend was organized by **Cpl Tia Snell** and was her first Exercise in her new role as potential Squadron Yeoman. Ex Cockney Snell involved deploying the Squadron Communication assets to locations around Southern England. Detachments were scattered between Abingdon, Bramley and Stoney Castle and were tasked with communicating and administering themselves in a tactical environment. Well done to **LCpl Stuart Farquharson-Roberts** who invented his own version of an all arms tactical BBQ evening! This weekend's Squadron driving award was fiercely fought for but finally clinched by **SSgt Matt Cahill** for his endeavors in trying to avoid foot and mouth contamination. Not only did he leave Abingdon airfield a Squadron plaque but also a new gate! Thank you to **SSgt Tony Wringe**, the Squadron PSI, who acted as mentor to the exercise offering many words of wisdom.

SQUADRON OPEN NIGHT 5 JUNE 2001

A big thank you is extended to **Cpl Sid Ahluwalia** and his recruiting team for their efforts in organizing a successful Open night. The event was well publicized in the metro underground paper and an impressive display was set up at the main gates to the TAC. Running concurrently with this event was the hosting of 206 Chiswick ACF Royal Signals who have been invited to join us the first Tuesday in each month. The purpose of their visits is to strengthen links and to provide comms training. Members of the Squadron also conducted Ex Newman Dundee, a 2 (NC) Sig Bde sponsored HF Communications Exercise run by 2 Sig Sqn (V) Dundee. This was a successful evening with a few names taken of potential recruits. Good efforts all round.

EXERCISE COCKNEY LEVKA-ORI - *by Capt Henry Taylor*

Ex Cockney Levka-Ori was a Regimental Level 3 Adv Trg exercise conducted in the remote Levka-Ori mountainous area of Western Crete over the period 3-12 May 2001. In all 18 Territorial and Regular Army soldiers took part in the expedition deploying as two teams led by **SSgt Alf Kirkham** and **Capt Henry Taylor** with a support team led by **SSgts Willie Loch** and **John** 'Romeo' **Mackins**.

Over a five day period, the aim was to complete the high level E4 trail between the villages of Petres on the Askifou plane and Sougia on the coast via the Samaria Gorge whilst bagging a few peaks along the way

like the 8000ft Mt Pahenes. The only problem was that fate took an unkindly hand with the weather and the main party ended up being confined to port at Piraes for 36 hours due to a Force 8 gale raging in the Aegean. OK for some who were keen to maximise the extra curricular bar activities, nevertheless we were able to arrive at Souda Bay and meet up with our Greek LO, or as some wag put it, hello LO. Late that afternoon we set off and after a strenuous climb were able to reach our first bivvy site for a good start next day. After an early rise we set off up the Mt Kostos knife ridge into a very cold and weather beaten sky, who said that Crete was a soft touch? After several hours of going up and down slopes we hit the 6000ft E4 trail line, the only problem was the 'trail' was little more than a dotted line of someone's imagination with dangerous scree pitches. Nothing like the beaten trails of the alpines.

It was later on that we hit the first of what the LO called 'glaciers' and it was after several of these winter snow gullies that we were forced to re-evaluate our progress and decide to drop into a valley system for the shelter. When I say drop, I was of course referring to **Cpl Trish O'Sullivans** technique of taking off her 'Green & Grey' Bergen and then watching it bounce down the next 2000ft. Why is it that when you are looking for a lost Bergen, it is never the bright 'Red or Purple' one? What then happened was that our valley turned into a very complex criss crossed ravine and spur area with our only exit blocked by a series of large limestone sinkholes. Finally after several more hours of feeling our way across very broken ground we were able to break through to the Nialto plateau for a very welcome celebration thanks to the LO who had been carrying bottles of wine and brandy. Who ever said, beware of Greeks bearing gifts must surely forgive us on this occasion.

The logistics in moving both teams and equipment was complicated due to the lack of road infra-structure, rugged terrain and the fact that we only had one minibus to move the two teams over to the Omolos plateau. This resulted in the two teams trekking down the spectacular Samaria Gorge over two days before RV 'ing at sea level on the coast at Agia Romali which was made famous for the WW2 evacuation of over 40,000 allied troops during the 1941 Battle of Crete. Some climbing was carried out in exploring the ancient Turkish fort at the top of a steep 3000ft climb from this isolated village. However, it was all too soon before both teams were forced to recover around to our destination at Sougia via the once a day ferry, which fortunately was not cancelled as it was for the next two days due to heavy seas.

The recovery back over the mountains to Souda Bay was not without some appalling weather over the newly made mountain passes. At one point our minibus driven by **SSgt John Atherton** had to contend with large rock falls onto the track surface with visibility down to 3-4 feet with 1000ft drops on either side. We eventually arrived and had just sufficient time to visit the British and Commonwealth War Grave site at the head of Souda Bay and pay our respects. A very moving but serene setting and it was all too soon before we were boarding our ship to sail back to Athens and fly home.

The final comment is not mine but sums up everyone's feelings, *Wow what a week . . . . . when do we go back and finish the job?* As with all exped's this would not be complete without the awards:

a. We're late as we decided to bag our first peak
   - **SSgt Alf Kirkham**
   (They got lost and ended up climbing the wrong hill)

b. Hello LO, whenever he met the Greek Liaison Officer
   - **Sgt Nick** 'Matey peeps' **Tuck**

c. For some nimble footwork in dodging a large flying boulder
   - **Cpl Jo** 'Wot the **** was that?' **Reader**

d. I wonder what Raki tastes like? Within earshot of our Cretan taverna host
   - **Sig Stella Jennings** (What a hang over!)

32 (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col J. K. McKee MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. J. Russell**

RSA GLASGOW BRANCH DRUM HEAD SERVICE

On Saturday 29 April 2001 the Regiment hosted the Glasgow Branch of the RSA for a Drum Head Service and Beating of the Retreat to commemorate their 10th Anniversary. The **Rev Stephen Blakey** held the Drum Head service in the Regimental Drill Hall followed by a Beating of the Retreat performed by the Royal Signals Pipes & Drums. The parade was taken by **Maj Gen Anderson** who thanked to Regiment for an excellent day.

The Beating of the Retreat by the Royal Signals Pipes and Drums

GIRL POWER – THE NEW SPICE GIRLS

In the final month of her tour as RSM, **WO1 Angie Hilborn**, was able to form the next Spice Girls when **WO2 Rowena Clark**, **WO2 Norma Sproul** and **WO2 Lynn Bertram** were either promoted or posted as SSMs to make up an all female team with **WO2 Karen Swan** already in post as SSM 52 Sig Sqn (V). The RSM's commissioning and posting to 3 (UK) Div and Sig Regt must put her in the frame as Ginger Spice, but who do the other four represent ?

The Spice Girls

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

Sqn Comd **Maj Cammy Payn**
SSM **WO2 Norma Sproul**

EXERCISE GRAND PRIX 2 2001 – *by Captain Steve Milsom BEM*

Trg Maj: 'Ops O, how do you fancy going to Kenya?'
Ops O: 'But Sir I've already been'
Trg Maj: 'So, 1 LI need a Jungle Warfare instructor and you've nothing better to do, have you?'
Ops O: 'Er, no Sir'

So it was that I found myself 'volunteered' for Ex Grand Prix, an Infantry Battle Group training exercise held three times a year in Kenya. Still it wasn't all bad, having been several times before I knew what to expect and relished the opportunity as an over 40-year old to still be running around with the Infantry!

Kenya has been a major British Army training location since the Mau Mau uprising in the 1950's. Based in Nanuki in the Central Highlands it offers a wide range of challenging training environments, ranging from desert in the north, rocky Savannah in the Highlands and jungle around the slopes of Mount Kenya, with adventure training opportunities on par with that of Cyprus. Much of the training takes place at altitude (1000ft higher than Ben Nevis in places), this coupled with temperatures of 40 C in the north, make structured acclimatisation training a must. Most battalions follow a similar training cycle with a weeks acclimatisation training under company arrangements, companies then complete a three way round robin of jungle training, life firing and adventure training, usually run by external PRTs (Permanent Range Teams) thus allowing companies to remain at full strength. The exercise culminates with a Battle Group live firing FTX at Archers Post with a battery of 105 Lt. guns in support. Total exercise duration is from 5-6 weeks.

As previously mentioned I had been 'volunteered' to work with the jungle PRT at Kathendini, on the slopes of Mount Kenya. Despite what you may have heard to the contrary this is 'Real' jungle, albeit rather more pleasant than SE Asia. It is generally drier, cleaner and with decidedly fewer creepy-crawleys, it is also pleasantly cool in the evenings. However, it is not without its hazards, elephants and water buffalo pose a real danger, especially if you get between them and their young, and the rivers are prone to flash floods, claiming one soldier's life in 1999. For most soldiers this was their first experience in the jungle and the training was pitched accordingly, with the emphasis on basic skills. After a short settling in period, the company was split into platoons and during a three-day cycle covered jungle navigation, CQB ranges and survival, including the slaughter and consumption of a goat. The last three days were tactical and usually involved a patrolling phase, culminating in a 'West Side Boys' scenario camp attack which was very apt as the LI were deploying straight to Sierra Leone after the exercise.

The adventure training package was well received by everyone, with opportunities to participate in a range of activities, from sub aqua diving in the Indian Ocean to ascending Mount Kenya, which is Africa's second highest peak. There were also Game Safaris and the normal water borne activities, which were located at Lake Naivasha in the Rift Valley. The budgeted Battle Group all up strength is approx. 750 personnel, a figure rarely achieved due to manpower shortages. Therefore, there are nearly always vacancies for individual reinforcement from the TA. The Royal Signals element is small, limited to a rear link det provided by 30 Sig Regt but skilled trades are always in demand, particularly drivers, medics and chefs. Also range-qualified personnel are required for the PRT's, the experience of a live Battle Group attack, following up a creeping artillery barrage is something every soldier should have at least once! Grand Prix's run from November to March each year and the trawl for volunteers starts several months before each deployment, speak to your Training Major and get your name down for the next one!

Capt Milsom checking out the plant life in Kenya

Capt Steve 'Rambo' Milsom during Jungle warfare Training

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

The Regiment would like to wish a warm welcome to the new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Steve Russell** and his wife **Tracey**, we hope they have a great time in Scotland. We would also like to welcome the new PSI Tech for HQ Sqn, **Cpl McDonald** and his wife **Maureen**. Congratulations to **WO2 (RQMS) John Addison** on his recent promotion and appointment as RQMS (V) and to **WO2 Norma Sproul** on her appointment as SSM HQ Sqn, while the SVWO, **WO1 Terry McVey**, moves to become OC Regimental Comd Troop. We wish them all well and hope they enjoy their new appointments.

51 SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

Sqn Comd **Maj Morna Strachan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Lynn Bertram**

The recent National TA Open Day saw a steady influx of visitors to Gordon Barracks, including a visit from Commander 51 Highland Brigade, **Brig Simon Allen**. During his visit the Brigadier was seen chatting with **LCpl Alison McKay**. **LCpl McKay** is due to start flying lessons in the near future and is believed to have negotiated a spin in the Brigadier's chopper.

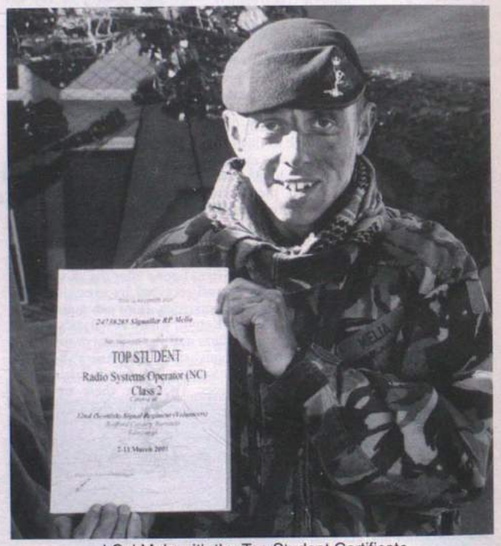
Brig Allen and LCpl MacKay

EXERCISE MAPLE SALTIRE - *by Sgt Ali 'I'm only a tech' Jamieson*

Sgt 'Vodka Snorter' **Webb, Sig** 'Campino' **Hardie** and myself deployed as part of Ex Maple Saltire to a surprisingly sunny Canada. The Exercise was fraught with disasters from the very beginning with snow-drifts blocking the road on the way to Milton Keynes. A crashed Mini Bus on the Forth Road Bridge and a last minute dash to Bicester to pick

Sgt Ali Jamieson in Canada

Girlie Tech
Sgt Ali Jamieson teaching Sgt Webb the Tech Dance in Canada



LCpl Mela with the Top Student Certificate

SSM Bertram congratulates OCdt Bruce

up the undelivered Arctic Kit, which subsequently we did not need. We had an excellent time in Canada where **Sgt Mike Webb** introduced the locals to Vodka Snorting from a teaspoon and **Sig Ian Hardie** sickened us all with Campino Strawberry and Cream sweets. After attempting to snow board, trying our hand at Husky Dog Sledging and emptying the Grabber Machine in the local pub of all its cuddly toys we reluctantly left Canada with twice as much kit as we went out with.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl Ricky** 'I'm on my way now' **Melia** on two counts. Firstly on achieving top student at the Regimental Trade Training week held at Redford Cavalry Barracks in Edinburgh, and to his long awaited and well deserved promotion. Congratulations also go to ex-SSM, now Squadron Second in Command **Capt Ian** 'Davie' **Crockett** on his commissioning. Congratulations to **2Lt Colin** 'I'm a rocket scientist' **Bruce** on passing his commissioning course and for achieving top student from Aberdeen and sixth overall in Scotland in the recent MTQ 2 exams.

33 (LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col E. A. Davis**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Day**

On 7 April the Regiment took part in a sponsored road relay run, in order to raise money for the British Heart Foundation (BHF). The reason for choosing the BHF was due to the sudden loss of **Maj Mike Brown**, OC 80 Sqn, who died so tragically last year of a heart attack, at the age of 42yrs. The relay-run passed through all the Squadrons within the Regiment, starting off at 42 Sqn (Manchester) and finishing at RHQ (Liverpool). After a quick photo shoot at 42 Sqn, **Capt Whelan** (PSAO 42 Sqn) leading by example volunteered to run the first leg, each leg being no longer than three miles (honest!). Everything was going well until, of course I know the way, **SSgt (FofS) Andy Owen** set off on his leg. The support vehicle crew being extremely considerate allowed him to run two miles out of his way before passing on the good news, much to the pleasure of **Cpl Dave Neal.** Upon arrival at 80 Sqn there was just time for another photo call and then on to RHQ. At the same time in Liverpool **WO2 (SSM)** 'Robbo' **Robertson** was coordinating the leg from RHQ to 59 Sqn and back. No mishaps or navigational errors this time just the weather to contend with. In order to ensure that both sets of runners were to finish at RHQ together, split second timing was required. Better late than never 80 Sqn! Then it was inside for yet more photos. In conclusion I would like to thank all those who took part, not just the runners but also the support team, not forgetting the BHF for providing T-shirts and banners. At the time of going to press the final figure raised stands at £1772.30.

80 Signal Squadron
Back Row (L-R): Cpl Bland, Sgt Birmingham, LCpl Cross, Sig Ewan
Front Row (L-R): Capt Hopkins, Sig Kay, Capt Sirr, Cpl Patton, SSM Hale, Sig Dunbarin, Sgt Richards, Sig Patterson, SQMS Collister

42 (CITY OF MANCHESTER) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Mica Cummings**
SSM **WO2 Maurice Aarons**

EXERCISE EBOR MANCUNIAN - 15 -18 FEBRUARY 2001

Ex Ebor Mancunian was a 42 Sig Sqn winter adventurous training weekend which took place in the Cairngorm mountains over the period 15 - 18 February 2001. Thirty members of the Squadron were based at Rothiemurchus Lodge, near Aviemore in Inverness-shire with the object of the exercise being to qualify as many people as possible as basic ski proficiency (alpine) skiers.

Fortunately, the party enjoyed near perfect skiing conditions with deep snow and blue skies throughout the four days. The Squadron was lucky to have the services of **SSgt Glenn Martin** as the chief instructor, ably assisted by **Cpl Jo Neal. Glenn** has been skiing for many years and is a qualified Joint Services Ski Instructor, both Nordic and Alpine, as well as being a UK Snowsport Alpine Ski Leader. **Jo**, who is a regular serving with 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn in Hereford, and also the wife of the Sqn MT NCO, **Cpl Dave Neal**, had recently qualified as a skiing instructor and was cutting her instructional teeth on 42 Sqn.

The trip proved to be a huge success with every member of the party mastering the basics and being able to negotiate fairly steep slopes without too many 'wipeouts' on the way down. The location could not have been better as Rothiemurchus Lodge enjoys an enviable position, nested in the heart of the Cairngorms just seven miles from the highland village of Aviemore with its excellent 'après ski' facilities. The lodge complex is for the exclusive use of regular and reserve personnel of all three services and their families to enjoy outdoor pursuits in some of the most beautiful scenery in the British Isles.

42 Sqn skiers posing with (front row kneeling)
SSgt Glenn Martin (Chief Instructor)

The Novice Class
(L-R): Cpl Loll Galagher, Sig Francis McAndrew, Cpl Jo Neil (Instructor), Sig Susan Clare, Sig Karen Forzatti, Sig John Tan, Sig Stuart Ross and Sig Alex Thomas

NATIONAL TA OPEN DAY (31 MARCH 2001)

As part of the TA National Open day, 42 Sqn opened its doors to the public on the 31 March 2001. Various stands displayed the Squadron's communications equipment and there were plenty of military stands and novelty stands to keep the youngsters happy. The most popular, proving to be **SSgt Bob Duffield's** simulated war games computer stand complete with ear splitting sound effects and booming music. The Squadron was fortunate to have a VIP visitor on the day in the shape of **Brig Andrew Durcin**, the Deputy Inspector General Territorial Army. He was accompanied by **Lt Col Linda Harrison TD** who is an ex-commanding officer of 31 (City of London) Sig Regt (V) and who is now on the TA Inspectorate Staff. They were met on arrival by the CO, **Lt Col Elton Davis** and Sqn Comd **Mica Cummings**. Although the heavens opened and the rain was lashing down as the Brigadier arrived, he none the less enjoyed his visit and talked to the majority of the Squadron members before departing full of hamburgers and chips served from **Sgt Lesley Ward's** fast food stall.

Brig Durcin talking to Officer cadet Charles Vincent whilst the Sqn Comd looks on

Brig Durcin pictured with our attached Australian Signaller, Sig Karen Forzatti and Sig Servane Gouda who were running the children's indoor assault course stand

ITD WEEKEND (21 0 22 APRIL 2001)

The Squadron organised an ITD training weekend at Stensall Training Camp near York over the weekend 21-22 April 2001. Thanks to the drive and enthusiasm of our SPSI, **SSgt Sam Faulds**, the weekend was a great success, with even the weather co-operating and blue skies with warm sunshine persisting over the whole period. Due to the restrictions imposed by the foot and mouth crisis, the Squadron were unable to go on the ranges, but instead, utilised the Small Arms Trainer (SAT) to carry out the APWT.

NEW SSM - WO2 MAURICE AARONS

WO2 Maurice Aarons has recently been appointed to the top soldiers post in 42 Sqn. **Maurice** has been a member of the Squadron for 24 years joining in October 1997 as a Combat Lineman and becoming one of the most reliable and loyal attenders over this long period of time. **Maurices's** main claim to fame, is to have entertained **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal**, to tea in the back of the line waggon during 33 Sig Regt's Freedom of Knowsley celebrations in Liverpool in August 1988. **Maurice** also took part in the 1997 Regimental Charity Expedition which drove from Liverpool to Odessa in the Ukraine to deliver badly needed medical supplies to the hospital for children who had survived the Chernobyl disaster. **Maurice** is a member of the Military Guard Service for our TA Centre here in Rusholme, Manchester and lives in Marple, Stockport with his wife **Gill** and his four children **Damon, Alexis, Anika** and **Sebastian**. Originally from Jamaica, he is a keep fit fanatic and a very keen sportsman. He was awarded the efficiency Medal (TA) in 1989 and has recently qualified for the Volunteer Reserves Service Medal (VRSN).

WO2 Maurice Aarons, flanked by two of 42 Sqns Officer Cadets, Charles Vincent and Ainsley Clinton

59 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The last three months have been a time of 'out with the old' and 'in with the new' for 59 Squadron. Firstly the departure of **WO2 SSM Bob Paterson** to take up the role of Senior Instructor with the Regimental Training Team followed closely by the departure of the Squadron Commander, **Maj Chris Heaton** who has taken over as Second in Command of the Regiment. All members of the Squadron wish them well in their new roles and thank them for all they have done. The new Squadron Commander **Maj John Miller** swept in on a strong breeze but no one has yet picked up his potential nickname. The new SSM is **WO2 SSM Paul Williams** who joins us from 55 Squadron as it is now assumed he is capable of handling a BIG squadron.

'At last a big Squadron,' boasts the new SSM

Welcome to both and we hope their time with the Squadron is a happy and productive one. We also welcome into the Squadron as OC Access Troop, **Lt Paul Knight**, who rejoins us after a tour in Recruit Training. Finally we must mention the recent promotion of **Capt Tony McFarlane** who is quoted as saying, 'I can't believe it.' Congratulations **Tony**.

Lying down on the job again Tony!

Congratulation must also go to **Sgt Tommy Hankin** who is marrying long time girlfriend **Jan**, and to **Cpl Cliff Doyle** and **LCpl Shantel McCourt** who also marry very soon.

Sgt Tommy Hankin and LCpl Shantel McCourt discussing the pros and cons of marriage

34 (NORTHERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col I. D. Westerman**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. Anderson**

An extremely busy period had by all! With the Foot and Mouth Crisis in full swing the Regiment has seen a number of its training and communications exercises cancelled due to restricted movement. However, in support of the crisis, TA personnel, including **Sgts McCluskey, Readshaw** and **Silk**, have been ably supporting the regular soldiers within the Newcastle area. The unit now looks ahead with bated breath as to the level of support required in the future and more importantly on whether the summer camp is to proceed in its current form. Watch this space! The RHQ team is in full swing with key players, including the Adjutant and RSM now in place, 'ploughing' through ever increasing in trays.

TA DAY 31 MARCH 2001 – FULL EVALUATION

by WO1 (RSM) Anderson

After arriving in the Regiment at the end of November, the Commanding Officer tasked the RSM with the 'small' matter of recruiting. As everyone knows, recruiting is the lifeblood of the TA and much was to be spilled before TA Day scheduled to be held on 31 March 2001. The RSM looked at his assets (too few to mention!) and liabilities. To his advantage though was a wealth of experience especially from the PSAOs and some of the 'old and bold' always willing to put in their 'two penny-worth.' There was also a budget that seemed to expand and contract faster than that of an Olympic athlete after a hard 100m sprint. The biggest asset of all, however, was the Royal Signals TA Band based out of 50 Sqn in Darlington. Liabilities lay in the competition of the area, namely the Infantry, Medics, RLC, RMP, REME and the AGC, all vying to 'fish from the same pond.' Added to this, was a certain amount of apathy left over from several previously 'failed' TA Days. And (as much as it pains me to say it) Royal Signals communications equipment does not quite fire the imagination of a young thrusting 18 year old quite like an 81 mm mortar, a giant digger or even a Scania Recovery Vehicle. A fool proof (why was the RSM chosen – editor note!) plan needed to be devised and if anyone can devise such a plan then the cunning, machiavellian and perhaps a little original RSM can.

The Plan - quite simply, the plan had to accentuate the positives and decentuate the negatives. The RQMS indented for 'anti-apathy' bags, a meeting for delegates from the various surrounding units converged and the plan came into fruition. Teams were to descend on the Town Centres, groups were to hand out freebies and TA memorabilia and assets such as the band would roam and generate interest throughout. The idea of going to the local pubs and dropping 'shillings' into punters mugs was stifled on origination in that it was unlikely that anyone would emerge from the first pub and would probably spend all the 'shillings' in the 'who wants to be a millionaire' machine. The RMP, in their normal apprehensive stance, were worried that they would not be able to muster enough to man every town centre. 'No problem' said the RSM 'you can visit each locale with a blue flashing light and a dog.' **SSgt** Ollie **Hardy** RMP then exclaimed that they did not have a dog section. 'Aha, again not a problem, someone in your unit must own a dog, no-one is going to ask for an ID Card, just don't turn up with a Dachshund'. The Tyne Tees Regiment (Infantry) kindly offered to bring some snipers but how would we know they were there? At any rate everyone agreed they would bring something to the proceedings.

Mayor of Middlesbrough points out TA for Open Day
WO1 (RSM) Anderson, Mayor of Middlesbrough Cllr Kat Bevington and Lt Col Westerman at the local launch for TA Day

Another meeting was called to undo the previous meeting that included North of England RFCA and to order more 'Jammy Dodgers'. By now the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Mark Anderson** had taken up smoking, golf (trying to gain a handicap qualification) and (when the pressure became too great) biting his nails – this was unfortunate as they were his toe nails. Cometh the hour Cometh the man – the list of requirements was confirmed: Gazebo 'check', recruiting stand 'check', t-shirts 'check', remove burnt out car from the front of RHQ 'check' (Brambles Farm Middlesbrough a select site if ever there was one!).

How did TA Day go? Judging from the statistics, not all that bad. Of course there were a few hiccups but be assured that no plan survives contact with the enemy. We are still not sure if the Tyne Tee snipers showed up. Nor are we sure if his parents ever found the little boy **Sig Meacher** 'cammed up'. Judging from the empty box; T-shirts were, however, very popular and have been seen down town as a new designer fashion item. The figures were up to 200% but most importantly the RSM has a huge supply of Yorkshire 'Terrier' TA masks available if any has a good use for them. On a more serious note, we did receive a lot of press exposure. **LCpl Becky Williamson** managed to only speak for 20 minutes without drawing breath on local radio. The CO, **Lt Col Westerman**, had a whole hour on BBC Cleveland Radio but managed to mention TA Day only once but in the heat of the moment managed to confess to a few 'faux pas' from his past (transcripts of this interview are available on the internet). The RSM also managed to reach TV status by appearing on TV for longer than **WO2 (SSM) Pete Griffiths**, but then it was only Middlesbrough Football TV and not National News.

49 (WR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj D. E. Sixsmith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Holdstock**

The Squadron would like to welcome the new 2IC Squadron **Capt Angie** 'the Adjt's new spy' **Galli** and **SSgt Greg** 'buzz lightyear' **Sharp** and his wife **Jo** and family. Congratulations go to **Lt Keith** 'I've got my own office now' **Williams** on passing his JOTES exam and also to **Sig Martin** 'Wot no respirator' **Tranter** on completion of Phase Two Recruit training. The Lord Lieutenant Certificates went to **Sgts** 'Clint' **Eastwood, Tommy Simpson** and **Gary Openshaw** with many congratulations on their continued loyal and dedicated service.

Lord Lieutenant's Certificate presentation to Sgts Eastwood, Simpson and Openshaw

WO2 Monaghan, Pte Warner and Cpl Ross with Lt Col Westerman at the presentation of their Lord Lieutenant Certificates by Lord Gisbrough

Sigs Hewitt and Tranter wonder thoughtfully as to, 'What this pointy thing is?'

A warm welcome is made from all members of 49 Sig Sqn to Cpl Craig, fresh from a sabbatical and to Pte Smith making the long haul from Middlesbrough. Congratulations are extended to SSgt Dawn 'Now I can start running again' Malloy and Sgt Frank 'He looks just like me' Mason on the arrival of their baby boy Ryan. Further congratulations also go on the presentation of medals by the Hon Col, Sir Ron Norman OBE to 49 personnel during a Squadron training weekend held at Hull - SSgt Wilford (Kosovo medal), SSgt Falkinder, Sgts Adcock, Barass, Openshaw, Simpson and Cpl Bedford (TA Service and Efficiency Medal).

Medal Presentation by Hon Col Sir Norman with CO and OC 49 Sqn in attendance

TA OPEN DAY – LEEDS

The TA Open Day was a great success with **Cpl Andy Meadley** and **LCpl Noel Wreathall** showing potential recruits the way up a vertical wall (answers on a postcard to!), **Sig Sahera** 'move to the beat' **Ramzan** testing courage on the wall bars and **Sig Andy** 'Digimon' **Barrett** providing a picture keepsake of the experience. After much discussion and relocation, the comms stand was finally set up to the satisfaction of everyone, that is of course **except Sgt Ian** 'will someone just make up their mind NOW' **Stuart**.

15 (NORTH EAST) BRIGADE SPORTS DAY -19 MAY 2001

The Brigade Sports Day arrived and teams were hastily formed from those anxious to participate. It was decided that the Squadron would put in three teams. The squash was going to be vigorously contested, volleyball and 5-a-Side Football, male and female, competitions with the tug of war, always an excellent spectator sport, would be the grand finale. The squash competition went quite well with **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Carr** winning all of his games. Unfortunately **Lt Keith** 'I thought I had him there' **Williams** and **SSgt Nobby** 'Is a wooden bat ok?' **Clark** were not so successful. The semi-finals were the ends of the road for the worthy trio. In the three other events the Squadron was eliminated in the first round, despite some heroic saves from **SSgt Mark** 'The Cat' **Carrick** and some unusual saves from **LCpl Melissa** 'Why am I wearing gloves?' **Bertuzzi** in the respective 5-a-side competitions. The only hope for redemption was going to be the tug of war. The opposition were more than a little concerned when they saw the anchorman **Sig Gavin** '5ft tin and 4 stone wet through' **Cranswick's** attempt to pick up the rope. All things considered 0-2 was not a bad result!

CHESHIRE HOMES SUMMER FETE - SUNDAY 20 MAY 2001

On Sunday 20 May five intrepid members of the Squadron deployed to Cleckheaton, where that is, to take part in the Cheshire Homes Fete. The weather was superb and the Squadron stand attached a great deal of interest, from old war heroes down to the loveable little darlings who tried to steal every bit of kit that they had. There appeared to be some genuine interest from certain people and they were dispatched with all the relevant 'come and join us' information. The team members were **Cpl** 'Woody' **Wood, Sig Crannie** 'Will I get a mention?' **Cranswick, Sig Karen** 'Feed me now' **Ford, Sig Sahera** 'Will it be in Vogue magazine?' Ramzan and Sig Andy 'Oh no the kids are back' Barrett. A good day was had by all and it is hoped to be a good recruiting tool for the future.

745 SIG TROOP – HULL DETACHMENT

Sqn Comd **Capt R. Middleton-Powell**
SPSI **SSgt Wilford**

The regiment deployed on Ex Spring Eagle in March, sending 745 Sig Tp SAS/MC to Colchester in order to hold the FTBN to York and to provide the interface between Ptarmigan and Euromux to the wannabes down there. The remainder of the Troop, not deterred by foot and mouth spent a rather claustrophobic weekend in Imphal Barracks, York. With the confinement of the barracks the potential for boredom was broken by **WO1 (RSM) Anderson's** Defence of a Comms Site lecture (honest!) and the release to the Cross Keys bar, courtesy of 2 Sig Regt, for the regulation two beers. **Sig Lau** brought an ample supply of home-made Sushi, ensuring that 745 Tp dined in style on the exercise (not that there were any complaints of the army catering provided). The TA Open Day was superbly organised in Hull by **OCdt** 'Wedgie' **Wedgewood-Jones**. It was a rip roaring, riotous occasion including a nightline with jungle diva tracks; air rifle shooting (with sights only marginally better than a fair ground); the raffle of two, no expense spared mountain bikes (we jest – financed compliments of NERFCA); and last but certainly by no means least a communication display. Congratulations go out to **Sig** 'Gizmo' **Evans** and **Sig** 'Sushi' **Lau** who have managed to successfully survive their two week Recruits Course at Blandford.

The Hull Detachment in all their glory on TA Open Day

Sgt 'Clint'Eastwood and LCpl Melissa 'landing pad' Bertuzzi display before and after headgear for the beret shaping competition

A briefing and familiarisation weekend was organised for the young and not so young Potential Officers of the Regiment by **Capt Ruth Middelton-Powell.** After initial introduction briefings, the POs gave a number of wide ranging and interesting presentations to a captive audience on such subjects such as the life of an air stewardess, keep fit regimes and computer networks. All taking from the personal experiences, both work and play, of the individuals themselves. **Cpl Andy** 'I am going to write up the command tasks honest' **Meadley** and **Sgt Ian** 'When I' **Stuart** tested the brains and brawn of the uninitiated with a selection of command tasks. This proved to be a most rewarding exercise as each of the POs learnt a lot about themselves, each other and the staff had an ideal opportunity to see them in testing conditions. It must have worked as they adapted their new found leadership skills to win first place in the maggot race at 90 Squadron's games night later that evening. That weekend, **Cpl Meadley** was also to face the toughest challenge of the weekend and probably his military career - removing an ink filled security tag from **Capt M-P's** jeans. It should be noted at this time that she was not wearing them at the time. The Troop held their annual Bounty Bash at Mr Cheus Chinese Restaurant in Hull. **Sgt Rob** 'This will make your eyes water' **Godfrey** was to give lessons in the fine use of chopsticks and **LCpl Melissa Bertuzzi** celebrated her 21st birthday in style by gate-crashing the evening.

Sgt Godfrey taking the PSI role to the extreme 'Hang on I hadn't finished using those!'

50 (N) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj G. Jennings**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Middleton**

Off to pastures new for the summer months are **Sigs Alan Rayner** and **Freddie O'Brien** with the next six months in the Balkans on FTRS. Our sincerest thoughts go with them and hope they come back safely. Congratulations go a number of members from the squadron who have had the honour of the Lord Lieutnants Certificates bestowed upon them. **Sgts Ross Blair** and **Mickey Jemmett** from 705 SigTp and **LCpl Jenny Jones** form 742 Sig Tp the latest recipients of this prestigious award. **Lt Jez Bailey**, Trunk Node Tp Comd, is also worthy of a mention after successfully completing his JOTES exam ran by 15 (NE) Bde at Strensall Trg Centre.

Sgts Blair and Jemmett receive their Lord Lieutenant's Certificates

The Squadron recently hosted the Dep Comd 11 Sig Bde, **Col Roger Davenport**, He spent the day with the Regular staff, dining with them and lending a sympathetic ear to their woes and concerns. He stayed on to spend some time with the TA members of the squadron on their drill night, which included shooting on the 25 metre indoor range, where **Sig Pat Hutton** from Debdon Gardens was challenged to a competition by the Dep Comd. Still clinging to the faint chance of a career in the TA, the overall result is not for print, needless to say the Dep Comd was seen supplying liquid refreshments at the bar later on! A tour around the garages introduced **Col Davenport** to a good cross section of the squadron, most notably our switch crew, who, when asked by the Dep Comd, 'Don't you think it's sexist that you are all girls in the switch?' it was thought that he said 'Don't you think its SEXY that you are all girls working in the switch?' The crew was to prefer the latter of the comments. The penultimate part of the visit saw a courtesy call on the Band, who as always entertained to the highest standards and the evening concluded with all ranks partaking of a sociable beverage in the JRC. As reported in the last edition, the Squadron has lost one of its stalwarts, now **WO2 RQMS(V) Pat Bell**, who was dined out last month. An excellent turn out of past and present members of the Squadron attended to bid her a final farewell. A certain officer, who shall remain nameless, could not attend due to work commitments, even sent his wife to check that **WO2 Bell** had finally left! Apparently the RQMS (V) had promised the said officer 'something' for helping her pass the CFT last year and he was just checking that the coast was clear for him to start attending again. The end of training year has seen the unusual scramble to complete ITDs and qualify for the COs Certificate of Efficiency. Due to the Foot and Mouth crisis permission was given to carry out a CFT around the square at the Darlington TAC. Tasked with a trusty measuring wheel, the job of measuring out an accurate course was given to PTI, **Sgt Rob McCluskey**. He was noted wheeling around the square twenty one times accurately measuring the course, much to the mirth of the OC and 2IC.

A warm and hearty 50 Squadron welcome goes to the new arrival of **Cpl (PSI) Craig Straughan**, our new Regular ED, who joins us from 280 (UK) Signal Squadron in Germany. The Squadron would also like to welcome **Cpl** 'Tommo' and **LCpl Anne-Marie Beattie** who have joined us from 186 (Tyne Electrical Engineers) Workshop Company as our new fitter and chef respectively. A temporary farewell go to **Sigs Freddie O'Brien** and **Alan Raynor** who have decided to spend their summer in the Balkans (a good tour and return back safely). **SSgt John Howe** who is enjoying his tour that much that he has extended to 12 months (at least his wife is happy!) A pat on the back must go to the three stalwart SNCOs who have returned from Blandford following the successful completion of their Staff Course: **Sgts Mick Jemmett, Ross Blair** and **Cath Sproat**. Luckily for the lads **Sgt Cath Sproat** was there to carry them and keep them on the straight and narrow - well done!

EXERCISE SUMMER EAGLE

A hand picked group of the Squadron's finest Officers and SNCOs embarked to the deepest darkest Donnington for a Brigade CPX. Headed by **Capt Dave Edwards**, the intrepid team got in the mood for annual camp with a series of testing scenarios and cross training. This was the Squadron's first meeting with the new Brigade Commander and **Sgt Pete Robinson** will not forget that in a hurry (Top Tip - when red tabs appear throw one up!)

EXERCISE LIVELY LARK

Adventure Training in Keswick has always been one of the most popular weekends of the training year with the Squadron and this weekend was no exception. Although limited by Foot and Mouth, a limited programme was devised based ultimately around the Keswick Climbing Wall. The morning session was dominated by the Officers showing off their canoeing skills on Derwent Water by attempting to do an Eskimo roll in two foot of water in a Canadian. This was much to the mirth of the onlooking Squadron members. **Sgt Cath Sproat** vowed never to go in a canoe again after being ceremoniously dumped in the lake by **Sgts Pete Robinson** and **Ross Blair.** Quote of the morning came from one of the civilian instructors who was heard to shout, 'Officers, you are going the wrong way!' ' No change there then,' was the cry from the shore. The afternoon training took place at the Keswick Climbing Wall. All the troops had a very productive afternoon developing their climbing skills, culminating in a climb off that was won by **Sig** 'Johnboy' **Walton.**

'I left you in this position!' 2Lt Paul Denning hanging around as usual

A leisurely boating adventure
'We are not amused'
as Sgts Ross Blair, Cath Sproat and Pete Robinson tackle the rapids of Derwent Water, Keswick

'The Three Amigos' Sigs Sean Byrne, Ant Hollingworth and Jim Stevenson in Keswick

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTE OPEN DAY

The Squadron were invited to attend the annual RNLI Open Day at Tynemouth, providing power for the outside entertainment, a recruiting stand and the opportunity was taken to show off our communication skills linking Newcastle to Tynemouth and across the river to South Shields. The CO took the opportunity to visit the Squadron and was last seen crossing the river with **2Lt Paul Denning** on the Tyne Ferry, luckily this time the Officers were going the right way.

OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS INFORMAL DINNER NIGHT

The CO, on review of the various TA Centres under his command, recently decided to allow various pieces of silver and photographs to be returned to 50 Squadron for display on a daily basis. These items once formed part of the Regimental silver of 50 (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals TA. The Gateshead, Darlington and Middlesbrough Company Detachments contested one of the fine pieces, called the Dent Cup, annually in a boxing competition. In, 1938 the competition was held in the Darlington based Drill Hall being a particularly hard fought contest, the winner on that evening being the Middlesbrough Company with 40 points beating Darlington Company who were runners up with 21 points. In honour of this, the Squadron were fortunate to have a guest of honour at a recently held Dinner Night in the guise of **(2574619 Cpl) Lew Prosser**, a featherweight boxer and avid TA soldier in his day. During his prestigious and dedicated service, **Cpl Prosser** was Mentioned in Dispatches twice for his service during the final year of the Second World War and presented with the 1939/45 Star, Africa Star & 8th Army Clasp, Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939/45 and the Efficiency Medal (T). A framed copy of his Mention in Dispatches can now be seen on display in the Drill Hall. All had a good evening and great opportunity to 'pull up a sandbag' was had whilst listening to stories from the Great War.

AND FINALLY – 'GUESS WHO'S NOT GOING TO HEAVEN'

No it is not the new title from the Hearsay Popstar crusade. It is my sad duty to inform readers of the Wire about an incident at the Bradford Armoury involving one of the squadrons 'young' subalterns and the regimental Padre, **Capt Chris Burke**. Allegedly witnessed by a number of the members of the Sergeant's Mess, **2Lt Paul** 'Punchy' **Denning** was seen to swing open the doors to the JRC in such a manner as to strike the good man of the cloth, the Padre, firmly across the forehead. Later seen leaving the TAC with a beauty of a cut 'n bruise to the forehead, the Padre in future will think twice when accepting an invitation to instruct the squadron on Moral Understanding. **2Lt Paul** 'Punchy' **Denning** is currently sparring with Prince Nazeem Hammed, in preparation for his latest World title fight and has laid down the challenge to all comers at the next joint mess dinner to – 'Come and 'av a go if you think you're hard enough!'

90 (NR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj R. Lenton**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ward**

The New Year stared with the traditional 90 Squadron programme of a range weekend to blow away the cobwebs from the Christmas break. Newly range qualified **Cpl Dave Ross** ran the weekend and thanks to the obligatory rain and snow, managed to introduce everyone to the new 'prone in a deep puddle' firing position. **SSgt Les Stimson** left with a printout of a group size, the best of the weekend, and has since shown it to everyone in the Squadron at every opportunity. There's now a reward for anyone who can remove it from his desk unnoticed! Unfortunately **SSgt Stimson** has been unable to continue his prowess on the .22 range and proved himself unable to hit the proverbial 'barn door' at 25 metres. Undeterred, the Squadron Team of **Capt Simon Smith, SSgt Stimson, Sgt Pete Stevenson, Cpl Ross, LCpl Stu Wilson** and **LCpl Gareth Martinez** took part in the National TA Smallbore Rifle Competition finishing ninth overall. If only **SSgt Stimson** had been wearing his shooting glasses…

Next on the programme was the Squadron social and quiz. **SSgt Alex Durnall** proved a mine of useless information yet again, even knowing

every track in **Capt Smith's** dubious music round. It is suspected that it was the prize of beer that drove **SSgt Durnall** and his team to victory. This year's trade training cycle finished just before the Foot and Mouth forced many changes to the overall training plan. Congratulations go to **Cpl Carr, Sigs Baxter, Boyle, Dawson, Hannah, Hoad, Lord, Machin, Makey, Moore** and **Swan** who all have successfully passed their trade tests. This means that for the first time in switch 036 history there has been more than one qualified operator. This now means that det comd **LCpl Kareena Knibbs** can look forward to shifts of less than 24 hours a day! Ex Spring Eagle gave the newly qualified operators a chance to test their new found skills, even if the switch had been sabotaged by 50 Sqn beforehand and inherited their faults! OC Sqn - **Maj Richard Lenton** has finally got his long awaited dining in, at an all ranks dinner at the end of March. This was a splendid do organised by PSAO **Capt Ray Duffy** and SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Ian Ward**. **Capt Jenny Bowes** was generous enough to help the evening with drinks as the Squadron celebrated her promotion. Farewells go to **Sgt Dave Smith** leaving after many years but still guaranteed to attend for a party or two, **SSgt Gary Jowers** transferred out of the Regiment on a 'secret mission' and **Capt Simon Smith** who leaves the Trunk Node to take over the Regimental Recruit Training Team. Finally, congratulations go to **Capt Jenny Bowes** and **Cpls Graham Belt** and **Steven Kitching** on their promotions.

EXERCISE SPRING SLIDE EBOR – *by (then) Lt Bowes*

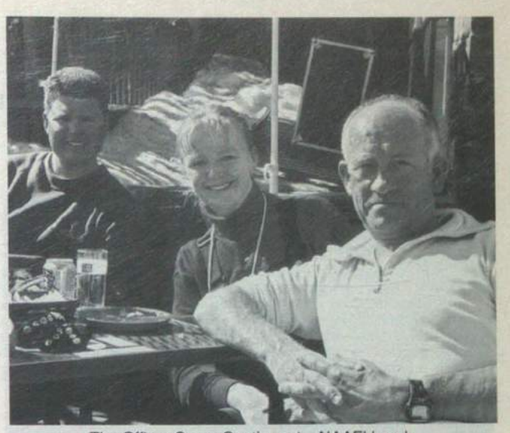
In early March 34 Sig Regt conducted its annual exercise to instruct soldiers in the alpine module of the BSP (Basic Ski Proficiency) course and carry out arctic survival training in Europe. **Maj Les Wood** led the exercise and our instructors, **Capt Mark Brookes** and **Cpl Si Clayton**, joined us from MoD Whitehall and 225 Sig Sqn respectively. One of the Regiment's newest members, **Sig Karen Ford**, also performed sterling instructional duties with the complete novices. **Karen** has travelled the world working in Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as most of Europe, and is a civilian ski instructor. As I write she is in Sonthofen 'converting' her civvy qualifications into Army recognised ones. and hopefully she will be paying the system back next season. **SSgt Rob Deakin** (REME) proved a more than capable organiser, and can hardly be held responsible for flight delays!

All members of the party completed and passed the course bar one, **Cpl Jamie Topping** (or should that be Toppling?), who decided he wanted a ride in the blood wagon! Sympathy was noticeably lacking at the daily debrief, with most agreeing that it was an extreme form of attention seeking, and thankfully Corporal T is almost walking normally again!

We also had a few stunt performers amongst the group, led by **Capt Ruth Middleton-Powell** demonstrating her double-somersaulting abilities. Later, in very poor visibility, **Cpl Andy Meadley** skied into a drift by a snow cannon. His skis stopped abruptly but he didn't, and it was unanimously agreed that he should get the prize for the best Superman impression! **Sig Noel Wreathall** showed us that the quickest way down a black run was on his backside - top to bottom. **LCpl Becky Williamson** and **Sig** 'Jacko' **Jackson** found out the hard way that the majority of snowboarders have no control whatsoever when they career down the mountainside.

Other notable occurrences included **Sig Richie Torley**'s Blue Oyster experience, which involved an unknown tree in an unknown hotel lobby! **WO2 (SSM) Ian Ward** cut a distinctive figure on the slopes in his cowboy hat, particularly when trying to rodeo-ride a button lift. And finally, yours truly **Lt Jenny Bowes** demonstrated her uncanny ability to wipe out in the most crowded places on the piste. Skiing conditions varied from perfect with blazing sunshine to a white out with horizontal snow showers, and rain, but that's all part of the learning experience, and places on next year's exercise will be highly sought-after.

Sig Karen Ford looks philosphical as the wayward student is strapped into the rescue stretcher

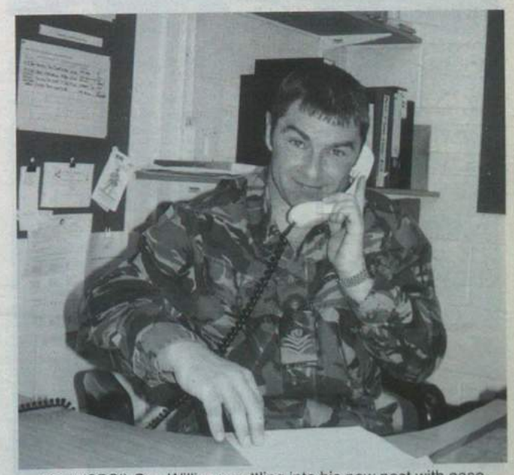


The Officer Corps Contingent – NAAFI break, and Capt Mark Brookes, Capt Ruth Middleton-Powell and Maj Les Wood look knackered already

We welcome with open arms, receive with the warmest of greetings and wipe a brow to say thank God for the newly arrived Squadron Regular personnel in the guise of SSgt (FofS) Walsh, SSgt (SPSI) Gaz Williams and Cpl Johnson. Every success in their new appointments and it is hoped they enjoy their stay with the Regiment in the North East (who knows, they may even support 'Boro by the end of their tour!) A short distance farewell goes to Capt Simon Smith who has now directed all his enthusiasm and wisdom to the Recruit Training Team (don't forget us here in Hartlepool when dishing out the new blood).

Training has largely been dampened by the outbreak of Foot and Mouth across the regions confining the Squadron to Barracks. This has called for some innovative planning which the Squadron has managed with their normal professionalism. After the success of TA Open Day and Sgt Barry Hunter 'shopping for soldiers at ASDA' newspaper article in the local newspaper the Regiment will have to accredit him with the most exposed soldier in all its history! The day was finished with a well-deserved and extremely organised dinner night with the assistance of Capt Ray Duffy and WO2 (SSM) Iain Ward. The evening was a resounding success and enjoyed by all, even Cpl Steven Kitching braving the perils of fishing line and talcum powder. This will now be a regular feature of the Squadron's Annual training programme.

June was to see the first weekend out of barracks for some three months. The Squadron was accommodated at Halton Camp near Lancaster for an adventure-training weekend. Activities organised by the newly promoted Capt Jenny Bowes included mountain biking, hill walking, climbing and potted sports. The latter provided the rivalry between 704 and 741 Troops. Over the same weekend elements of the Squadron were conducting a recce of sunny Cawdor Barracks, South Wales, home of 14 Signal Regiment. This was in anticipation of this year's Summer Camp which will focus largely on ITDs, adventure training and Regimental level comms training. The Squadron also hopes to provide a study day on the military history of Pembroke with visits to Pembroke Castle and the Gun Museum.



SSgt (SPSI) Gaz Williams settling into his new post with ease

35 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

XXXV

CO **Lt Col S. J. Potter TD**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. T. Cauldwell**

QUALITY TRAINING RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

At this time of year I would normally be busy conjuring up notes for our annual camp deployment but this will not take place until near the end of June, which has once again left me scraping around for some heart-warming and uplifting stories. Alas the FMD situation continues to bite into the training programme and I am always a little sceptical of those stories associated with quality training in barracks. Yes we have just come through a series of intensive inspections that have included Health & Safety, and two very important Equipment Care Inspections on our vehicles and comms equipment. All of which resulted in good reports much to the relief of our safety advisors and equipment managers but, unfortunately, they were nothing to write home about! Meanwhile we did have a successful limited deployment to Donnington over the weekend 28/29 April to participate in a Bde CPX.

The 2IC, **Maj Chris Edwards,** took advantage of the quiet period over the weekend and sensibly called a Mess Meeting and held a recruiting seminar. The recruiting seminar in particular provided a useful forum for sharing & exchanging a number of good ideas amongst squadrons and recruiting teams present.

My mind was clearly on other things over this weekend and I managed to turn up on the exercise in the wrong kit only to be met by the Deputy Comd who I think was convinced by my explanation because he invited me to breakfast! But feeling distinctly out of place amongst the Bde staff only added to my misery. Fortuitously the CO came to my rescue! Then the run up to the election put a cap on our PR activities just when our recruiting initiatives were going into full swing. In despair I scrutinised the training programme for something interesting that had not been cancelled or deferred and noted Ex Silver Bullet, which was a military skills and bounty weekend planned for the weekend 1/3 June, was still programmed.

Further research led me to discover that this weekend was being redesigned and transformed into an initiative weekend crammed full of unusual challenges (sorry command tasks). These were veiled in secrecy but were being put expertly together by the SPSI of 58 Sqn, **SSgt Barney Balmforth** who was co-ordinating the exercise. At last the cloud of despair was beginning to lift, there was indeed a story out there and happily it is provided by the outright winners of the challenge 58 Sig Sqn (inside job some may argue).

What follows is their account (and some may say their final challenge) of how they snatched victory from the jaws of defeat by one or two (maybe more) imaginative but somewhat devious/dubious methods.

EXERCISE SILVER BULLET

This was the first Silver Bullet exercise of the new training year and a Regimental Exercise with a difference. It was 58 Sqn's turn to organise the weekend and with recent training constraints conventional military activities would be limited. So ingenuity and secrecy were called for and **SSgt Barney Balmforth** and **SSgt Baz Raine** began to formulate a plan. The only prior information that they would divulge on the exercise was that it was an inter Squadron competition, involving some leadership/initiative training and that uniforms would not be required – yippee!

So Friday night arrived, soldiers were assembled at their TAC's and under the Starter's orders. The Squadron OCs were given the exercise instructions and briefings commenced. Each Squadron's Mission was to complete 40 weird and wonderful challenges by 1800hrs on Saturday. These ranged from appearing on National TV, to meeting their local Mayor, to stacking shelves at a supermarket to dancing in fancy dress to the song YMCA in a night-club – a great boost for anyone's street cred or should that be crud! So each Squadron planned their tasks, what could be accomplished when, which team would go where and who had the bottle to do what.

The famous five recruited - but are they genuine

For 58 Sqn the obvious choice for the dancing queens had to be **Sgt Adger Lewis** and **LCpl Olly Oliver** who talked their way into Valentinos Nightclub dressed as a fireman and construction worker to podium dance the YMCA in front of all their non-TA mates. Other Squadrons also seemed to have enjoyed this task especially **Sgt Lunny Lunn** from 48 Sqn judging from the photos of him with a pole and a group of new dancing friends – are they the Squadron's five potential recruits? Poles of a different nature were required for the next task sliding down a Fireman's Pole and without exception all the girls wanted to do this. **Sgt Eileen Monagan** and the team from 48 Sqn seem to have had the best time at their local Fire Station with all those hunky firemen - I do hope you let them go home eventually.

The final event for Friday night was for someone to spend six hours in a Police Cell, this proved to be more difficult than first thought as all the local police stations were already full at 2000 hours (not with members of the Regiment I hasten to add). Obviously breaking the law and having soldiers arrested could not be condoned, although some people looked at home behind bars especially 95 Sqn's SSM, **WO2 Pete Mouland**. So 58 used their secret weapon, the OC, AKA Solicitor **Jane England** who used her insider contacts to gain access, **Sig** 'Moorsy' **Moors** and **Sig Chris Myers** would especially like to thank her for that.

Sig Peter Cater - All Locked up with nowhere to go

An early start on Saturday morning was needed by all of the teams for journeys to Leeds and Bradford to meet Barney's Dad, for adventures in the Wirral to find U boats and go swimming. Whilst others travelled to more exotic places for example West Midlands Safari Park to feed elephants and snakes. Congratulations to 89 Sqn and their SSM, **WO2 Mick Clarke** who valiantly hopped on his moped and journeyed on the ferry to France to have his photo taken and to **Capt Ian Cassell** also of 89 Sqn for his excellent interview on BBC West Midlands Radio. In comparison **Cpl Jean Parr** from 58 used 'her little grey cells' and determined that French soil counted as being part of France and therefore the French cemetery just around the corner would take less effort to get to (smart girl – but so was 89 Sqn).

Task 26 Meeting the Mayor – each Squadron had a different approach to this task. Some called in at the Mayor's chambers, others phoned the Mayor at home and then some (HQ Sqn's **Cpl** 'Cheeky' **Hyde**) just walk straight up to the Mayor whilst they were taking a parade in Coventry to say hello and get their photo taken with them. 58 Sqn would like to thank the Mayor of Newcastle Under Lyme for receiving a call at 0900hrs on Saturday morning inviting her to come to the Squadron and have her photo taken with the OC and two of her soldiers. Postman Pat (**Cpl Simon Guy**) and Orinoko Womble (**Sgt Wayne Amos**). At that moment I wonder what she really thought of the Squadron. Over the weekend all forms of transport were used and photographed from fast sports cars (**SSgt J. J. Johnson** I'm sorry but they will not swap your Mondeo for a Ferrari no matter how much you beg) to steam trains. From canal boats to U boats and from WW2 Spitfires to hot air balloons, which leads nicely on to…

The Womble Challenge

All hot air balloons were grounded until July so getting a ride in a hot air balloon called for improvisation and poetic licence HQ Sqn made a balloon in their workshops. The 48 Sqn computer generated a balloon ride and **OCdt Sally** 'Cruella D'Evil' **Carroll** just pushed some little kids off a hot air balloon merry go round to accomplish her aim. On a more serious note all teams had to raise as much money for charity as possible. The charities that were chosen were for HQ and 48 Birmingham's Childrens Hospital; for 58 Chatterham's children's ward at North Staffs Hospital; for 89 it was Guide Dogs for the Blind and for 95 Sqn the Encology Unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. In most cases local radio was used as a method to raise awareness of the TA, to make the most impact for raising money for the charities and of course to complete task number 8 of the challenge.

Everyone made it to 58 Sqn for 1800hrs on Saturday and the counting began. From the Squadron progress boards HQ, 58 and 95 Sqns appeared to have accomplished all of the tasks but would they all be allowed the waiting began for the announcement on Sunday. On Sunday a presentation was given by each of the Squadrons on their adventures over the last few days and it illustrated what fun everyone had been having. But there could only be one winner and how appropriate (some may say surprising) that it should be the host Sqn, 58. The DS explained that although other Squadrons had completed all the events some had been disallowed. 58 had clinched the win with the TV appearance from the members box at the Old Trafford 'Cricket' Ground of **Sgt Adger Lewis** and **Sgt** 'Scotty' **Scott** during the England v Pakistan Match. Awards were then presented to the individual from each Squadron that had made the most outstanding contribution to the weekend. From HQ it was **Cpl** 'Cheeky' **Hyde** for the Mayor incident from 48 it was **Sgt** 'Lunny' **Lunn** for his pole exploits. Then from 58 it was **Sig Tracey Stone** for her dancing prowess, from 89 it was **Capt Ian Cassell** for the outstanding fund raising his Squadron accomplished. Finally from 95 it was the transformation of **Cpl Tony Blakemore** from a mild mannered slightly balding TA Corporal to a Marilyn Monroe Sex Goddess – amazing!

The Blonde Bombshell

Overall the weekend was challenging, rewarding and excellent fun with the added bonus of raising just under £3000 for local charities with pledges for more donations to follow. The CO **Lt Col Stephen Potter** was delighted at how much morale had improved over the weekend and how each team accomplished its challenges with such vigour and enthusiasm and in many cases a liberal spread of creativity!

RECRUITING NEWS

Continuing the theme of quality training and initiatives the Silver Bullet weekend also coincided with the last phase of recruit training for two concurrent courses as well as a recruit induction weekend. It is no secret that recruiting new blood has taken centre stage over the last few months. It was therefore good to see that at last we were beginning to reap the benefits of an intensive recruiting campaign that embraced the TA Open Day as well as many other Regimental recruiting activities. This has resulted in many vacant establishment slots now being filled. Up until this weekend, we had been observing recruit pass off parades where the recruiting team had outnumbered the recruits on parade but fortunately, our retention efforts at least were providing a counterbalance to this.

The Course Photo

This particular pass off parade was also unique in its location at 58 Sig Sqns TAC based in Newcastle-Under-Lyme but was understandable as the Regimental Challenge weekend was taking place in the same vicinity. The fact that it had moved from its traditional location in Canley did not however deter many proud families and friends who travelled from all over the West Midlands to view the parade, which took place on Saturday 2 June. In the absence of the CO the Training Major, **Maj Mick Boxall** carried out the duties of Inspecting Officer.

The cap badge presentation

He presented all thirteen recruits (lucky for everyone) with their cap badges and also presented best recruit awards to **Sig Phillipa Holt** of 89 Sqn and **Sig Sara Whetnall** of 58 Sig Sqn who needless to say were both jubilant. Following a course photocall, all recruits and their instructors joined families and friends in the comfort of 58 Sqn's Junior Ranks Club. Here they shared stories of their Phase 1 training over a cup of tea or something stronger depending who was celebrating what and no doubt all are now eagerly looking forward to their Phase 2 at Blandford Roundabout.

Two very proud Best Recruits

Proud Mum and Daughter

Cpl Paul Kane emerging from his watery encounter

Crisis what crisis exclaimed **Capt Tom Jeffries** of 89 Sqn as he led his reluctant Troop of volunteers to his parents farm last Tuesday evening just when they thought they were going to do a spot of detachment maintenance! Fortunately, the farm is standing on arable land, which lent itself perfectly to some useful tactical training for members of his Troop and potential detachment commanders in preparation for their forthcoming course. During the evening a number of command tasks were carried out as well as a range of section battle drills and orders groups that provided excellent training value.

The section battle drills proved memorable in particular as part of the course ran through a dense boggy wood that was full of figure eleven targets that provided a close contact scenario. These were often difficult to see, as **Sig Sarah Bell** would acknowledge. She choose to make close contact with one or two trees and a couple of bushes. **Cpl Paul Kane** meanwhile will not forget in a hurry his too close contact with a ditch full of water that came up to his knees while trying to make contact with another target! But it was good of him to warn me about it so I could keep my feet dry while trying to capture on film everyone else that fell into this watery trap. Luckily for them it was so dark my camera failed to capture these magic moments!

Capt Tom Jeffries, who has recently joined the Regiment after serving with the Regular Army, was clearly pleased with his endeavours and has offered the Regiment the use of his land for future exercises as it offers the ideal training facility for both military and comms training.

Elsewhere we were once again ringing those changes throughout the Regiment both in rank and personalities. Firstly we extend our special congratulations to **WO1 (SVWO) Billy Henderson** on his selection for a TA commission after attending a rigorous selection board. He later exclaimed how proud he was and only wished he could have achieved the same goal while serving as a regular soldier. Further congratulations are also extended to **Maj Mark Whittingham** and **SSgt Steve Crooks** on their recent promotions proving once again that everything comes to those who wait patiently. On the personality side we have welcomed back to the Regiment **Maj Robert Stone** who joins RHQ as Ops Offr and **Cpl Dale Denton** for his last year of service. While here **Cpl Denton** will share his considerable ED expertise with HQ and 89 Sqn and we sincerely hope he enjoys his final tour of duty. It is also with some sadness that we have bade farewell to **Maj Steve Pell** who leaves the Regiment on transfer to the RA All Arms Watchkeepers Pool. **Steve** joined the Regiment in 1985 and during his sixteen years service with the Regiment served with 95 Sqn, RHQ and latterly 89 Sqn as Sqn Comd. We all wish him well in his new appointment. Finally a belated but very special congratulations are extended to our Regimental EO Finance, **Martin Pointon** and his wife **Lorraine** on the birth of their twins – hopefully **Martin** you may now find yourself to busy to scrutinise those attendance sheets too closely!

EXERCISE SILVER DRAGON

Ex Silver Dragon was an alpine skiing exercise that took place in Zermatt, Switzerland during the period 28 April – 5 May. For the second successive year Zermatt was chosen in view of its reputation for 'all year round skiing'. What follows is an account of the exercise provided by the organiser **SSgt Rod Shelton-Smith.**

As last year once again we visited Zermatt for the annual skiing exercise. Only this time we decided to switch the 27-hour road journey to a less exhausting 10-hour air/rail journey. We finally arrived at Zermatt early afternoon on 28 April and after settling in and ski issue a relaxing evening was enjoyed by all 19 participants. The following day we were joined by our instructors, **Maj Ingrid Holland, Maj Andy Talbot** and **SSgt Harry Harrison** and then made our way to the slopes already divided into groups according to skiing ability. It was a hard day for both instructors and students but at the end of it all, although exhausted, everyone enjoyed every minute. The weather sadly was not good and the rest of the week remained the same, which resulted in limited ski tows being in operation, and the Breuil-Cervinia ski area in Italy was not accessible. Happily, this did not prevent everyone progressing at a tremendous rate. The students who had never been on skis before in the shapes of **Sig Craig Poulton, Sgt** 'Kev' **Hand** and **WO2** 'Richie' **Roberts** did wonder what they had let themselves in for. I can report though that they coped very well with the conditions, improved on a daily basis and enjoyed the best weather of the week on Friday to complete their tests. A couple of stronger skiers, **SSgt Andy Wilkins** and **LCpl Andy Parry,** meanwhile decided to try snow boarding and after some time and many spectacular falls actually became quite proficient.

LCpl Andy Parry and SSgt Andy Wilkins on the piste

Luckily there were no accidents that required medical attention but lots of aching muscles required a bit of therapy. Fortunately, **Cpl Avril Forsythe** was once again on hand to provide a bit of physio on those muscles that had been long redundant. For most of us the Après Ski proved to be just as good as any massage (well at least the pain was dulled after one or two drinks). While Avril was providing us with our physical needs **Cpl Karen Dilley** once again provided us with our nutritional needs and served up a variety of excellent meals designed to keep energy levels at their highest. This successful week ended with all beginners being awarded the Basic Ski Proficiency Certificate (BSP) and some achieved even higher levels of competence. More importantly perhaps was that everyone enjoyed themselves in spite of the adverse weather conditions that had to be endured for most of the week. Now all I have to do is recover the £100 shortfall from the Brigade grant – I wonder if the CO is in a good, generous and convivial mood!

36 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO Lt Col W. D. L. Brown TD
RSM WO1 Dougie Eaglesham

EXERCISE GREAT ESCAPE – HAVE MOD 90, WILL TRAVEL!

by Cpl 'Tex' Bennett, 45 Sig Sqn

The weekend of 17/18 March was to have been the date for the final field exercise weekend of the Regimental JNCO/SNCO Cadre on STANTA in Norfolk. Unfortunately, the F & M epidemic meant that the two PSIs running the Cadre, **Sgt** 'Tosh' **Hodgskins** and **SSgt Gerry McGachy**, had to junk their original carefully crafted plans and come up with an alternate scenario in order to test the students' initiative, planning and confidence. In conditions that closely resembled the secrecy surrounding the planning for the D-Day Landings (or so **SSgt Ron Russell** said, and he should know as he was there in '44), they came up with Exercise Great Escape.

Sig Marina Szabo enjoying her moment of power whilst issuing a parking ticket in central London

Despite offers of bribery, extreme deviousness and base cunning the plans remained secret until both Cadre Courses assembled at 0330hrs in the bar of Colchester TAC. The course was placed in teams of two and one of three and given a list of items to collect/tasks to perform. Examples of the planned activities were the procurement of a new penny from the Bank of England, collecting a Union Jack, a menu from the Hard Rock Café, working in a fast food restaurant, tea at the Ritz and finding out how many steps there were to the top of the Whispering Gallery in St Paul's. In addition, bonus points were given for things like 'flying a plane' and appearing on national television. Tasks had scoring weights of between 10 and 50 points, and as the pictures would suggest, each team had their own unique way of interpreting the instructions. All the teams were told to 'think laterally' about their tasks and instructed to be back at Colchester by 1800 hrs.

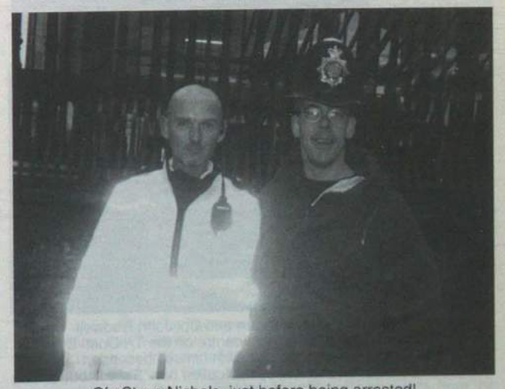
Cpl Rob Price (he's the scruffy one on the left) giving it maximum volume in public the backing group appears to consist of the PSAO's from 44 and HQ Sqns

There's always a catch however, and each team member was only allowed their MOD 90, a mobile phone, four 10p pieces and a Ten Pound note. The tenner was sealed in an envelope which was then laminated – use of the tenner earned a score of minus 200 points! Each team member was then 'processed' by **Sgt** 'Tosh' **Hodgskins** and **SSgt Anita Smith** for illicit items secreted upon, and inside, their person before departure.

The teams were delivered to their various drop points around London courtesy of **LCpl Martin Woollard** and **LCpl John Hayes** and once there they started to head into Central London. This took varying amounts of time; after a three mile walk trying to hitch-hike towards Chingford from Junction 26, **Cpl Tex Bennett** and **Sig Karen Everitt** were picked up by a gentleman in his Convertible Saab (with leather seats and air-conditioning) who was heading into work. The gent was **Mr Eddie Rowlands**, a tailor who was heading to his shop in Westminster. When it was explained what the pair had to do he rose to the challenge and ferried his passengers between their first few tasks – enabling them to chalk up 160 points in about 3/4hr. **Eddie** even lent the pair a Union Jack that flew outside his shop!

Other teams hitched in or 'blagged' their way in on public transport. Honorable mention must go to **Cpl Cook's** team who 'negotiated' a one-day tube travel pass out of London Transport – well done lads, that saved a lot of shoe leather.

Sig (now LCpl) Robinson on the left, Cpl Cook on the right, and somebody dead important from the House of Commons in the middle



Cfn Steve Nichols, just before being arrested!

The day progressed well (at least 3 teams met up on Oxford Street) with some notable coups. Several teams attempted to get onto national television and radio, with varying degrees of success, and the BBC, Thames Television and Channel 4 did their best to accommodate. Nearly everyone helped flip burgers behind McDonalds in return for lunch. Everyone managed to receive disposable cameras from several generous donors and these were used to record various tasks – **Cpl Rob Price** won high marks for being photographed singing with a busker (fulfilling the 'sing in public' task) and launching a paper dart (fulfilling the 'fly a plane' task). Nearly everyone was photographed in front of the Landseer Lions in Trafalgar Square, with various bits of blagged food in hand, neatly discharging the 'feed a lion' task. Mention must be made of **Cpl Daz Wilson's** clever juxtaposition of a sign reading 'I come from Chelsea' with an elderly gentlemen to fulfill the requirement of a photo of a Chelsea Pensioner.

It soon became obvious that the MOD 90 combined with a polite request worked wonders with the public and, as confidence grew, the teams managed to achieve the near impossible. This was confirmed when every team had their films developed for free from various photo-developing shops, and a polite request to a Anglia Railways guard at Liverpool Street enabled three teams to travel back to Colchester for nothing. Everyone made it back to Colchester in the allotted time with no dramas, and at the debriefing it was obvious that teams had managed to complete most of the allotted tasks. Everyone agreed it was a brilliant exercise and great fun too. Both Cadre courses would like to thank 'Tosh' and **Gerry** for pulling together a fantastic exercise in a very short space of time, and a big thanks must also go out to all the members of the public who bent over backwards to help everyone out.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON - ILFORD

Sqn Comd **Maj Pete Minshall TD**
SSM **WO2 Terry Butler**

The Squadron has gone from strength to strength since our last report. **WO2 (SSM) Tony Wells** has managed to avoid retirement and has departed for a tour with the LONDIST TA Recruiting Team (how, we wonder, will an ageing airborne signaller convince the youngsters that joining the TA is a good move). His successor, **WO2 (SSM) Terry Butler** (another ageing ex-para) is now employed full-time regaling impressionable young recruits with his war stories, though most believe him to be talking about WW2 rather than modern times. **SSgt Bill King**, our erstwhile NRPS SQMS since 1984, has finally been put out to pasture although he would not go quietly and insisted on several riotous send-offs, and with the last knees up still to come, we are promised more entertainment. Since his enlistment in May of 1962 (on the island of Barbados – why, Bill, why?!), **SSgt King** has served in Aden, Singapore, Canada, Germany and Belize, which probably explains his reasons for joining this exotic Regiment as a NRPS SQMS in 1984. After seventeen years committed and loyal service to the TA in Essex, nobody begrudges **Bill** his retirement and the further opportunity to practice his Golf and Badminton skills – good luck mate. With **Bill's** successor not yet in post, the gap is being filled very well by **SSgt Les Eldridge**, yet another ageing airborne signaller, who has now filled two skips with redundant paperwork and keepsakes retained and archived over **Bill's** long and illustrious career in the Squadron.

The Squadron recruiting effort continues apace, with a large influx of recruits, many resulting from local initiatives with Further Education Colleges and active recruiting in local town centres. The **PSAO** has continued to play his part in keeping the average age of the Squadron at around 40 by successful dredging old peoples homes and the like, and the Governments 'care in the community' policy has certainly been a boon for him. He has recently secured an Ex-Reg and TA Sgt at the age of 53 who is raring to go - in fact he has made the OC (and himself) feel young again, as **Sgt Maurice Perry** is older than both. The Squadron recruiting team has been strengthened by the addition of **Sig** 'Reggie' **Cullumbine** and **Craftswomen Sarah Wilson**, whose ability at recruiting willing and able young males is without comparison. In addition a number of individuals have convinced friends or neighbours that they are not involved in illicit activities at weekends, and have enticed them into the fold. The Squadron and LAD are now healthier than for some time with vacancies down to single figures and more in the pipeline.

2Lt Ram Manickavasagan and Cpl John Rodwell
busy recruiting in Ilford town centre on the TA Open Day
Ram is looking pleased with himself because,
for the first time ever, somebody has called him 'Sir' without adding
'.....you're making a scene'

There have been numerous training exercises at Regimental and Squadron level, trade training and that hardy perrenial, preparation for the seemingly endless round of inspections, PRE, RSIT, Tels, etc, etc. To date, we have managed to bluff our way through; a cup of tea and a friendly face go a long way with the teams. The TA open day on 31 March 2001 coincided with the Squadron hosting the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Redbridge, and two local members of parliament, the Deputy Lieutenant for Tower Hamlets and a number of employers for a briefing ably conducted by **Maj** 'Ford Motor Cars' **Peter Minshall** and **Capt** 'I am a Scot, so exempt from paying' **Gordon Shelley**, the highlight of the briefing being an animated discussion between the OC and a Guest whom he assumed to be a Visiting VIP, but who turned out to be a passer by, who came in out of sheer curiosity. Still, it's all good for hearts and minds!

Socially, the Squadron has had its normal round of parties, farewells and congratulations on various events, the most recent being a Night at the Dogs at Romford Stadium. The OC - lucky man - hosted the Squadron at his own expense to say goodbye to **SSgt Bill King** in style. Unfortunately he wasn't the bookies friend on the evening and was unable to recoup his outlay. The Squadron would like to congratulate **WO1 (RSM)** (yet another Para) **Dougie Eaglesham** on the very welcome news of his selection for a Commission, and we all look forward to his impending departure to 30 CTT in the North West of England (sorry we should rephrase that to he is looking forward to.....) Well done, and well deserved. The Adjutant, **Capt Russell Edwards** has just pulled his Majority out of the bag, and he is now looking for a restful posting in an operational theatre to recover from this tour – once again, our hearty congratulations go to the officer with the only quiff officially designated as a V DIFF.

Pte Tracey Harrington RAMC, for some time the sole effective medic working with the RMO, finally got the reward for long and faithfull service to the Regiments medical effectiveness (by not treating anyone) and was restored to her Regular Army rank of Lance Corporal. In addition, her years of undetected crime caught up with her, and she got three years back pay and full bounty for the first time. The drinks are on you **Tracey**!

Personalities within the Squadron continue to change; farewells go to **Cpl Fisher** and **Cfn John Roddis** of the LAD, who have both decided that their families and jobs come before us - sad people!! A sad farewell also goes to **WO2 (SQMS) Keith Williams** (another ex-airborne signaller), latterly AGC, who decided that age and work meant that he could no longer get up on weekends for an eight-o-clock start. **Keith's** departure leaves **Sgt Linda Coo**per AGC as the oldest, oops!!, longest serving member of the Squadron. Permanent Staff departures included WO2 (FofS) **Phil Holland** all the way to AFNORTH, and soon to depart are **SSgt** (nearly WO2) **(YofS) Tony Martin** from Regt Ops, **Sgt Kev East** from the Tech Wksps and last, but not least, **Maj Phil Daisy** the erstwhile QM who is to retire after 37 years active service. If you are acqainted with **Phil**, you will know what I mean. More of this in a future installment. We welcome **WO2 (RQMS) Gaz Tuff** back to the Regt, and **Sgt** 'Griff' **Griffiths** to the Sqn as PSI and Regt MT Sgt. **Sig Clare Hill**, a Tech Supply Spec by trade, decided that she likes it so much, that she accepted a job as the Senior Civilian Storekeeper with the QM (she has a professional appointment with the RMO **Maj John Jenkins** at his civilian Psychiatric Practise next week!). Arrivals into the TA are **Sgt Graham Carroll** RAMC, **LCpl Kathy Gauthier** RLC, **Sig Brad Bradstreet** TM Tp, **Sig Suzy Scrace** MT Tp, **Sig Anena Lee**, TM Tp, **Pte Neil Price** RAMC, **Pte Niel Davis** AGC, **Cfn Bon Igwe** REME, **Cfn Chris LeSage** REME, **Cfn Leon McLeod** REME, **Sig Mark Honeywood** MT Tp, **Sig Andy Brace** TM Tp, **Pte Chris Hopkins** RLC, **Sig Lee Plant** 817 Tp, **Sig Phil Evans** MT Tp – a big welcome to the best TA Sqn in the Army.

We now look forward to the Regimental Camp, where the Squadron motto of work hard - play hard will come to the fore.

54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) – CAMBRIDGE, BEDFORD & NORWICH

Sqn Comd **Maj Dennis Prince**
SSM **WO2 Martin Wright**

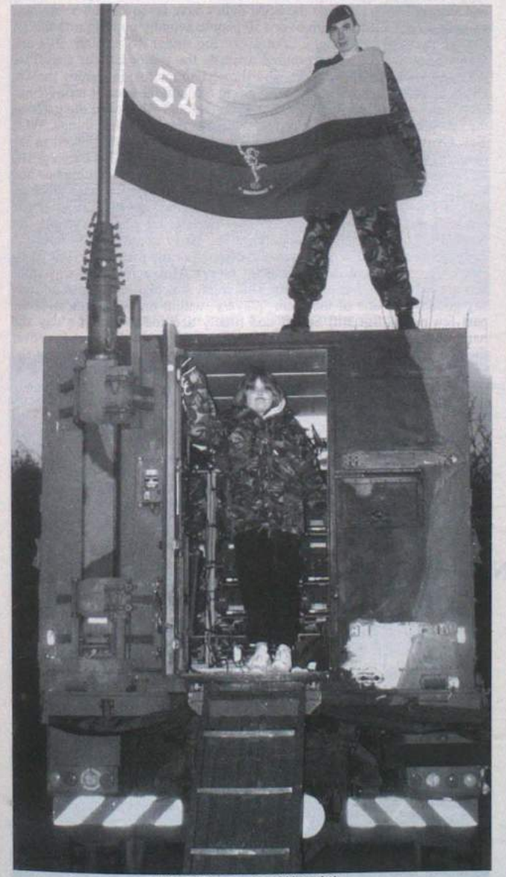
SQUADRON UPDATE - *by Lt Emma Hilyard*

It has been another busy few months for 54 Sig Sqn with communication exercises and socials being 'bountiful', topped with, yet again a bumper number of personnel (92% of the Squadron) attaining and receiving their Bounties!! This is testimony both to the commitment of our soldiers and the management team, with the role played by **SSgt Gaz Sullivan** being particularly noteworthy. The Squadron continues to lead the way in the establishment of communications networks on exercises such as Mars Marathon (where we constituted 40% of the Regimental strength) and we continue to strive in the improvement of our Ptarmigan interfacing skills and knowledge (Ex Spring Eagle). We also continue to demonstrate our effectiveness in housewifery by attaining satisfactory PRE reports.

The Museum gift shop has a wide selection of gifts and a mail order service, for further details ring 01258 482248

Sig Chris Impey, who joins the regular Army in July,
with two of the cadets from Cromwell Company
at the start of the TA Open Day
The Ops Officer tries to hog the limelight, as usual

We recently played host to ten year old **Francesca Werwiak** from Spinny School, Cherry Hinton, who had won the Look at Life competition held on the National TA Open Day (31 March). As part of her prize **Francesca** was given a personal tour of the soldiers and equipment of 757 Signals Troop and 2 Cromwell Company Army Cadet Force, where she was introduced to drill, map reading and field craft. At the end of the evening **Francesca** was presented on parade with a certificate and a 'Be the Best' Army T-shirt.



Miss Francesca Werwiak
'commandeering' one of the Troop's wagons,
while Ocdt Rik Morley flies the Squadron flag

Recent well deserved promotions in the Squadron include those of **SSgt Martin Wright** to WO2 (SSM) and **Cpls Nigel Sollit** (757 Tp) and **Allan Beach** (757 Tp) to the rank of Sergeant. Other recent achievements of note are **LCpl Carl Blackwell** (755 Tp) gaining excellent grades on his Corporals Course, **Sig John Barker** (757 Tp) who came overall fourth on his recruits course and was awareded the coveted top 'Field Soldier' prize and **Sgt Jo Outlaw**, who successful completed her Staffies course; well done to all concerned. The efforts of 757 Troop were recognised by winning the 'Best Troop Award', which was collected on behalf of the troop by **Lt Roz Keegan** (757 Tp OC).

The cut and thrust of Squadron activities has over-flowed into recruitment, and a combination of the TA National Open Day (which saw over 300 people through the door across the centres) and active recruiting at sites such as Duxford Air show has resulted in a total of 32 new soldiers being recruited across the Squadron. These recruits have already settled in and are proving to be valuable team members, with many already being booked onto their recruit courses.

(L-R): Sgt D'urso and SSgt Baker – hear no evil, see no evil!

Social events, too, have been bountiful, the highlights being the marriages of **Pte Pauline Wilson** to **Sgt Alan Beach** (757 Tp) and **LCpl Grant Wilson** to **LCpl Alison Ratcliffe** (756 Tp); many congratulations to both couples. In addition, a very civilised evening was enjoyed between the Officers and Seniors in tandem with their partners and special friends at a 'Ladies Dinner Night, and a not so civilised but fun evening celebrating **Cpl Mogg's Mossop** 21st Birthday. The 755 Troop dinner rounded off a hectic few months.

Sgt Parkinson (PSI Cambridge)
looking good at the Officers & SNCO's Ladies dinner night

The coming months promise to be equally as busy, as the Squadron prepares to mobilise for Annual Camp, and with exercise Bounty Breaker just round the corner. With all these happenings a sad farewell must be extended to **Fiona McCarthy** who has done a fine job standing in for **Dianne Taylor (AO)** whilst on maternity leave, and a warm welcome back to **Dianne**.

THE ULTIMATE IN COMMUNICATIONS - *by Lt Emma Hilyard*

Hearty congratulations go out to **Pte Pauline Wilson** and **Sgt Alan Beach** of 757 Troop who tied the knot on 24 February 2001, after five years of courting! **Pte Wilson** and **Sgt Beach** met on their TA Recruits Course, where despite no intention to get involved in a long distance TA relationship, **Pte Wilson** was 'swept off her feet by the charm of **Sgt Beach'**. The special day started at the registry office where, surprisingly enough, they were wed. From there they moved to All Saints Church, Longstanten, where they were piped down the isle by pipers from the

Bury Highland Band (in respect of **Pte Beach's** origins in Scotland) to receive a formal blessing to the delight of friends, family and 757 Troop! The special day was topped off by a reception and ceilidh attended by 150 friends and family at the Officers Mess, Coldhams Lane TAC. The happy couple described their day as, 'Perfect, with wonderful sunshine, all of our family and friends and a gorgeous meal. There was nothing we would have changed!' 54 Squadron wish the special couple all the happiness in the future and would like to say the TA isn't just all 'Work, Work, Work'!

45 (E1 SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

(L-R): Sgt Beach and Pte Beach (Nee Wilson) on their wedding day

Sqn Comd **Maj Mike White TD**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Louise Walker**

Farewell to the Officer Commanding 45 Sqn, **Maj Bill Shirley** who has been posted to Ilford to assume the appointment of Regimental Ops Officer. Also goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Bill Scarff, Cpl Nigel Hooker** and **Sigs Carrick, Crockford** and **Mills** who have had to make the hard decision to leave the TA. Welcome to the new OC who took over on 1 April, **Maj Mike White TD** comes to us from Ilford where he has been employed as the Regt Ops Officer. Welcome also to the 30 odd recruits who are currently going through the recruit training and selection process. It has (once again) been a busy couple of months for the Squadron with personnel moving around and the number of communications commitments never seeming to decrease! The majority of work is now geared to preparing ourselves for the Annual Camp and that promises to be very rewarding for all the soldiers attending. In addition to a visit by **HRH The Princess Royal**, troops will be given the opportunity to participate in a large number of 'personal development' courses, which will benefit both individuals and unit alike. The number of soldiers regularly attending training is slowly but surely increasing which is good to see and the increasing number of soldiers going through recruit training is resulting in some right 'characters' appearing on the shop floor.

NATIONAL TERRITORIAL ARMY DAY - *by Cpl Adam Witcomb*

This year the National TA Open Day was held on Saturday 31 March. The aim of the Open Day was to give the public the opportunity to come inside the wire and see what life is really like in the TA. Part of the grand plan was to release a Bedford load of helium balloons from Colchester Town Centre but, unfortunately, due to the recent foot and mouth outbreak this had to be cancelled. This was a shame as the Officers' Mess had been booked especially for the amount of hot air that it generates. **Sgt Bill Scarff** and **Sig Mel Allen** were sent into the town with the recruiting caravan to distribute the tickets to passers by. This on the promise that they would be entered into a regional competition for a magnum of champagne if they handed their ticket in at the TA Centre some time that day. Other forms of advertising included our illustrious PSAO, **Capt Rod Allen,** who got a spot on local radio and put DJ's Smashie and Nicey to shame! We also had large banners made that were hung up around Colchester advertising the event. One of the banners was put up right outside the main gate of 2 Para (much to the disgust of the PSI, **Sgt** 'Toshy' **Hodgskins**, who had to go round and put it up again every morning). The day started quietly which gave us all plenty of time to make the final small adjustments to our stands before the arrival of the Commanding Officer and RSM. Once 'sucked' through the gate, the civilians were confronted with a number of stands depicting everyday life in the TA such as:

NBC: An introduction to Nuclear Biological and Chemical warfare manned by **Cpl Tex Bennett**. This stand consisted of a display of all the individual protection kit on issue to TA soldiers and a bit of background into the history of unconventional warfare.

Weapons: This was a static display which gave the public the opportunity to get 'hands on' the weapons within the unit. Manned by **Cpl Adam Witcomb** and **LCpl Ian Strain**, weapons such as the 5.56mm rifle, the LSW and the 9mm pistol were on show.

Communications: The Squadron set up a comms site on the main square depicting a typical EAN Location. **Sgt Rose Prince** and **Sgt Janet Lindsey** provided people with an insight into the MUX and **Cpl Nige Hooker, LCpl Martin Woollard** and **Sig Dave Bleck** allowed people to crawl all over their beloved radio relay detachments all in the hope of 'catching' a few new recruits.

As the Squadron Headquarters is located with an RLC detachment in Colchester we were fortunate enough to have a professionally run admin tent. Free Hot Dogs, Burgers and Cups of tea were the order of the day and anyone trying to locate the RSM didn't have far to look! The day was an out and out success with over 150 people actually coming into the TA Centre that day. Once you take away the under 16's, over 60's and mentally insane (who we pointed towards the junior officer stand) we were left with about 50 people who showed an interest in joining the TA. Of these we now have just over 30 going through the recruit training and selection process! As the day came to an end and we closed the gates on the last potential recruit everyone's thoughts were on other things. **WO2 Kev Groves** had organised a Squadron function to say farewell to the outgoing OC Sqn, **Maj Bill Shirley** who has been poached by Regt HQ as the new Regt Ops Officer. We loaded ourselves onto coaches and headed down to our other TA Centre in Warley to meet up with the other half of the Squadron. Just over 100 people turned out that night (we're not sure if it's because the OC was so popular or whether people just wanted to make sure he was going). The party continued on until the early hours and with a live band and disco the time just seemed to fly by (for everyone except the SPSI, **SSgt Gerry McGachy**, who was stuck serving behind the bar all night). That night was also our opportunity to say goodbye to one of the main 'players' within the Squadron over the past few years. **Sgt Bill Scarff** had finally decided to call it a day and hang up his beret. **Bill** has been a staunch supporter of the Squadron over the time that he has been with us, organising functions, helping the Permanent Staff and generally doing all the things we didn't have time to do on drill nights. Goodbye **Bill** and good luck, you will be sorely missed.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

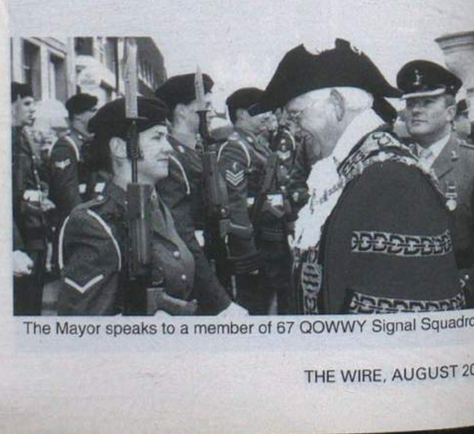
Our hearty congratulations go out to **Sgt** 'Tosh' **Hodgskins**, who has recently been lifted off the reserve promotion list and will move to 35 Signal Regiment (V) in early September as a Staff Sergeant SPSI. Our best wishes go with him and his very supportive wife, **Nicki**.

37 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col P. J. Grogan**
RSM **WO1 M. C. Fisher**

THE FREEDOM OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF DUDLEY 7 APRIL 2001

37 Sig Regt has been awarded the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley's highest honour. On 7 April 2001 the Regiment was given the Freedom of Entry into Dudley. This means that the Regiment is allowed to march through the Borough, with bands playing, swords drawn and bayonets fixed on all ceremonial occasions. The honour was bestowed on the Regiment in recognition of its close links with 871 Signal Troop. The great day was well planned and eagerly anticipated by all. The weather seemed to be holding out but with only a few minutes to go before the Regiment stepped off the weather failed, and the rain started to fall on all those highly polished boots, shoes and well pressed uniforms. This did not dampen spirits and all on parade seemed to grow those few extra inches. The parade lasted about 45 minutes and as well as families and friends the local people of Dudley turned out in mass to see the spectacle. The Lord Mayor reviewed the troops and managed to speak to most of the soldiers on parade. After the review the Regiment marched past the town hall led by the Commanding Officer, 'Eyes left,' to the assembled VIP's of the Lord Mayor of Dudley, SOinC(A) and the Comd 2(NC) Bde, who congratulated the Regiment on a parade well done. The parade was soon over and finished at the town hall were the Regiment was treated to a civic reception and speeches. A further chance to mix and mingle with the Lord Mayor, his dignitaries and other VIP guests and enjoy the excellent food and drink provided by Dudley council office kitchen staff.



The Mayor speaks to a member of 67 QOWWY Signal Squadron

Lt Col Grogan receives the Freedom Casket from the Mayor

The Regiment on route to Dudley Town Square, led by the CO, Lt Col Grogan

The official signing ceremony (L-R): SOinC(A) - Brig Burton OBE, Lt Col Grogan, Cllr F. Hunt, the Mayor - Mr A. Davies

EXERCISE RED DRAGON 12 - 20 NOVEMBER 2000

by Capt Tony Giles 53(W) Signal Sqn (V) - 37 Signal Regt (V)

Lt Col Peter Grogan and **PO Reid Glennie** RN took nine members of 37 and 38 Signal Regiments on an expedition to Shaun EL Sheik, Egypt, to enable those members who were Padi trained, to convert to BSAC Sports divers and an upgrading of Dive leader qualifications. The following members attended the expedition:

Lt Col	Peter	Grogan	CO 37 Sig Regt
PO	ReidGlennie	RN -JSSADC Fort Bovisand	
Capt	Tony	Giles	37 Sig Regt
Lt	Chris	Kinvig	38 Sig Regt
SSgt	Mel Giles	37 Sig Regt	
SSgt	Graeme	Smith	37 Sig Regt
Sgt	Ross	Thwaits	37 Sig Regt
LCpl	Sarah	Swift	38 Sig Regt
Sig	Christina	Pollard	37 Sig Regt
Sig	Mark	Lewis	37 Sig Regt
OCdt	Simon	Young	38 Sig Regt

After much deliberation whether it was on or off due to the political situation out there at the time, we were given the go ahead. We left Gatwick at 1130hrs 12 November 2000 for Egypt, arriving at 1730hrs. A short bus ride to the Ocean Lodge Hotel, completed the travelling aspect of the trip out. On getting our rooms and dumping of the kit we proceeded to taste the Arab water (Stella/Shakara). Having had an early night (Ha), we attended breakfast (0730) and sorted out the dive gear and the administration with the Dive College and went off to do what we came for (not drinking) but diving. Each day consisted of arriving at the boat (0900), loading of equipment, a short boat ride to the dive location, training + two dives complete with lunch on board. We would arrive back at the college at 1800hrs (a quick taste of the Arab water) and finally instruction for two hours which would culminate in a written test on the fifth day. These activities left us two days to do some deep dives (30 metres), plus a night dive for those who wished to do it. The evenings, after instruction, were spent on sampling the local cuisine and sampling the local water in the different bars and restaurants (especially, the as much as you could eat, Mongolian restaurant). Afterwards we would retire to the roof top lounging area for a good well earned perfumed Arab smoke, sweet breads and a sprawl. Overall it was an excellent expedition, enjoyed by all, with individuals qualifying for BSAC Ocean/Sport Diver and Dive leader upgrades. From all those attending our thanks go to the CO 37 Sig Regt, **Lt Col Peter Grogan** and **PO Reid Glennie** RN for arranging this expedition, it was excellent and roll on the next one, ('Liveaboard' I believe in January 2002).

Preparing to dive
Lt Chris Kinvig, in the water, (L-R): Sig Mark Lewis, Sgt Ross Thwaits, Sig Christina Pollard, OCdt Simon Young

LCpl Sarah Swift, boarding after a dive

67TH SINAI SQUADRON

This edition begins with congratulations to **Sgt Ian Sewell** on being awarded his Territorial Efficiency Medal. Also due for congratulations are **Cpl Ashley Girdler** and **LCpl Mike Crisp** who have been promoted. This puts **Cpl Girdler** one step closer to becoming Fire NCO for the entire Regiment. Definitely worthy of a mention is PSI, **SSgt Stef Newton** on being part of the Army team who were victorious in the volleyball at the inter services games in New Zealand.

Preparations for the Freedom of Dudley Parade had begun before Christmas but they stepped up a notch with the Squadrons involved having rehearsals at Gamecock Barracks earlier this year. The Parade itself went well with drums being courtesy of the Corps band; although **Sgt Danny Harford** nearly came a cropper whilst marching over a drain cover wearing hobnailed boots. An excellent buffet lunch was laid on in the Mayor's parlour, which was enjoyed by all. Everyone on parade was well turned out for a thoroughly enjoyable day despite the weather, I managed to avoid stabbing myself in the foot with my sword and my 'eyes left' particularly pleased me.

Confirmation came through in February that our numbers will be depleted from 8 October until May next year with some of our Squadron members being selected for mobilisation to Bosnia as part of 97 BRITFOR Sig Sqn (V). Training for that began during the middle of May at Proteus Barracks (I hadn't heard of it either but it is north of Nottingham), with **Maj Cooper** proving to everyone that Squadron 2ICs can still swing over a bottomless chasm with the best of them when they need to. **Sgt Mansell** unfortunately became a casualty of the 'Medicine in Vietnam' video and had to leave the room. His complexion went from pale green to bright red as soon as the sun touched him.

A May Ball was organised and held by 871 Troop in our Stourbridge TAC, which by all accounts went well. Judging by the photographs that I have seen, everyone behaved well and no one got drunk and fell over... no, really. On Saturday 19 May, **Maj** 'Dickie' **Hall** was dined out of the Officers' Mess, he left the Squadron late last year to return to RHQ as OC RRTT. **Maj Hall** left as OC of the Squadron that he joined as a Signaller; he was commissioned from its ranks as SSM and was, as ever, the last to leave the bar.

EXERCISE BANFF DRAGON 24 MARCH - 4 APRIL 2001

Ex Banff Dragon was a Skiing Exercise held in the Banff Region in Canada. The aim of the exercise was to train the soldiers in the Basic Ski Proficiency both Alpine and Nordic. A total of 17 volunteers of varying abilities were selected to attend. Three qualified instructors; **Capt Joe Cox, SSgt Tim Abbot** and **SSgt Pete Packham** were nominated for the duration of the exercise. The exercise was based at Trails End Camp, which is part of the British Army Training Unit Suffield. The accommodation although basic was warm, clean and well equipped with training facilities.

The Alpine Ski training was carried out at The Fortress Mountain, Kanaski, Sunshine Village and St Louise Ski resorts. Each resort had excellent skiing facilities and was well organised. The longest waiting time in lift queues was only ten minutes, even on bank holiday! The Nordic Ski Training was held at the Canmore Nordic Ski Centre. The treks are well sign posted and cover a distance of 5 to 25km, the centre also has shower facilities. During the training **Cpl** 'Red' **Max Madden** managed to crash into his wife, he decided it would be cool to hold hands whilst skiing. Untamed he then pranged into **SSgt Heather** 'I don't like Nordic skiing' **Kenny** and injured her as well. Later in the exercise he decided he needed to ski down a black run despite the recommendations from his instructor. That afternoon a bruised, shocked and tamed 'Red' **Max** returned to the minibus, explaining that it was something he had to do. **Sgt George McGregor** followed the style and took out the whole class at one stage (except the instructor). Despite these incidents 15 out of 17 thieved the Basic Ski Proficiency. Even the instructors had mishaps. **Capt Joe Cox** entertained a number of snow boarders with some unplanned 'ski ballet'. **SSgt Tim Abbott** suffered some hard blows trying to keep up with **SSgt Pete Packham. OCdt Brian Northfield** and **Sig Lauren Thombs** found out that cross-country skis can go extremely fast downhill and are harder to control than alpine skis.

After each day's skiing the bodies were recovered in the various Jacuzzis and swimming pools. Evening trips to the towns of Canmore and Banff allowed the exercise participant to enjoy the local social life and country music. On arrival at the ski resorts we were surprised to hear the locals complaining about the lack of snow. After last year's ski exercise in Scotland there appeared to be great quantities of it. Throughout the exercise we were graced with fresh falls of snow over night followed by sun during the day. However, the minibus managed to struggle through the snow during the training, but a heavy fall delayed us meeting the aircraft for the journey home. Luckily it also delayed the pilot. Overall the exercise was a great success. If you can get to Canada cheaply, the cost of skiing and vehicle rental is very reasonable compared to Europe.

The whole crew on the slopes

38 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
CO **Lt Col Nigel Harrison MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Colin Milne**
46 (CITY OF NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)
Sqn Comd **Maj Bob Ward**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Vicky Hardy**

EXERCISE MERCURY RAM

Over recent years 38 (City of Sheffield) Sig Regt (V) has had a lot of contact with local Cadet Force units in its catchment area. The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Nigel Harrison MBE**, decided that it was time the Regiment organised a signalling course for these local units. The Regiment has in its catchment area Cadet Units representing all three elements of HM Armed Forces. It was for this reason that the Commanding Officer decided that a Tri-Service Cadet Signalling Cadre would be developed. The course was compiled from the Cadet Signalling Handbook and was designed to have Cadets pass out from the course with the Basic Radio User Award. The chosen location for the Cadre was 46th (City of Derby) Sig Sqn (V) TAC. The Cadre had a capacity for forty cadets and was designed to include ten instructors from the participating units. Applications flooded in from three units, Derbyshire ACF, Nottingham ACF and 362 Elm Tree Squadron ATC. The Cadre actually catered for four officers and adult instructors with thirty-nine cadets attending the course.

Due to the Squadron Officer Commanding, **Maj Bob Ward**, fulfilling Brigade Staff duties as SO2 G6 CIS, **Maj David Tomlinson**, Officer Commanding 87th (City of Nottingham) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) stepped comfortably in to command the Cadre. The Cadre co-ordinator was **2Lt James Hubbard**. The instructors chosen for the Cadre were members of both the Derby and Nottingham Squadrons. The course Sergeant Major was **WO2 Martin Steedman** who was assisted by **Sgt Richard Alton, Sgt Jameson** and **Cpl** 'Ibby' **Neville**. Of course no one could forget the mysterious attributes of the PSI (T), **Sgt Drew Hall**, who also made an appearance. Medical cover was provided by **SSgt Ward**, a self-proclaimed 'Witch Doctor', or so we believe. The course was run with immense professionalism and was well administered by the SQMS, **SSgt Alan Landsborough** and his team of chefs, **Sgt John Simpson** and **LCpl Ian Hayes**. During the course, the cadets were visited by **Capt Mike Morton** and the Royal Signals Mobile Presentation Team from Blandford. This was a perfect opportunity for the Corps to present to a captive audience.

In all, the Cadre was a great success with all students gaining the Basic Radio Users Award. The top student was **SMI Peter David** of Derbyshire ACF. This did not come as a surprise as at the end of the parade he announced that he was an ex-regular Signals Platoon instructor. For this reason the top student was amended to **LCpl Ben Bembridge** of Derbyshire ACF with an excellent 97% on his final exam. The Regiment and the Squadron enjoyed the weekend thoroughly. Both the cadets and the Cadre instructors enjoyed the experience. The hard work paid off and I am sure that the Regiment will have no doubt when it comes to running Ex Mercury Ram 2.

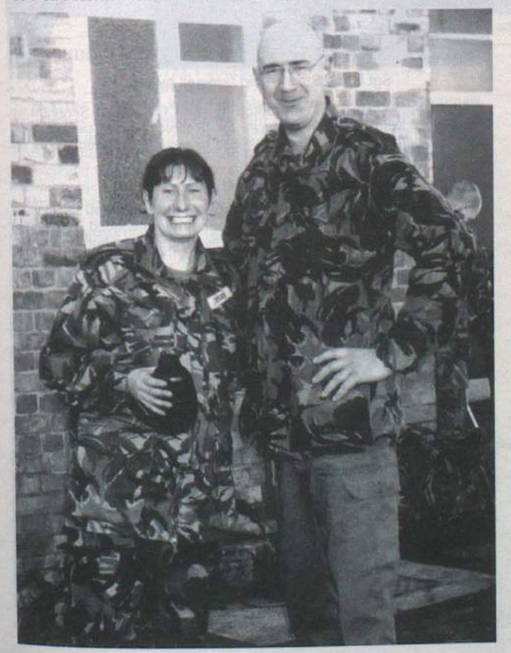
87 (CITY OF NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)
Sqn Comd **Maj David Tomlinson TD**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Vicky Hardy**

RECRUIT INTAKE 2018

Proving that 87 Squadron really is a 'family' unit are **Sgt Craig Toft**, and **Cpl Helen Toft**. **Cpl Toft** manages to combine her role within the TA as a pay clerk, with being a mother to three small daughters, and also a busy college life training to be an accountant! She said after the birth of her latest daughter **Laura** – 'It is a busy life, but a very rewarding one. I find that with **Craig's** help I can still have a very fulfilling part to play within the Squadron. She is pictured here with her daughter **Laura**. The Squadron's first recruit for 2018!

25TH ANNIVERSARY FOR CORPORAL DODA

Cpl Clive Doda joined 87 Signal Squadron 25 years ago this month. He is pictured with **Sgt Emma Crogan** recovering after completing his CFT on a recent weekend. Well done!



CHANGING OC'S AT NOTTINGHAM

Maj David (Melchett) Tomlinson moved to RHQ as Operations Officer in June. A farewell barbecue and special awards evening was held in his honour which was well attended by the squadron, their families and friends. A specially commissioned 'farewell' video formed the entertainment for the evening and was one of the parting gifts for the OC. **Maj John Ahern** has now joined the Squadron as OC. We all welcome him and wish him well in command of the best Squadron!

EXERCISE BLUE DAWN

On the evening of Thursday 17 May, following enough theories to blow the fuses of rumour control, a detachment of seven members of 38 Sig Regt met in the CO's office for a brief on Ex Blue Dawn. Their task was to provide communications from the British Embassy, Washington DC, back to the UK using AMSCERP. Over fish and chips (now luke-warm after the Colonel's brief) an idiot's guide to AMSCERP was found to be pitched at a suitable level - even for **Lt Tom** 'We've all had it in us' **Howes**.

Friday morning saw the detachment whisked off to Heathrow for the early morning flight direct to Washington DC, complete with the DPM combat briefcase – Virgin Atlantic's second most suspicious piece of hand-luggage. **LCpl Sally** 'What a nice cockpit' **Fisher** and **Sig Steve** 'Anything With Legs' **Weston** were given a trip up to the flight deck whilst **Sgt Julie** 'All the teletubbies rolled into one' **Moulson** refused to look out of the window and read the safety booklet for the whole flight. On landing in Washington the detachment was met by the advance party; **SSgt Penny Burns, Sgt Warren** 'Where's my rank slide?' **Quinn** and **LCpl Mick** 'ID'd for booze - again' **Hepworth** who duly asked **Lt Tom** 'I just can't read American maps' **Howes** to navigate them to the hotel. Which gave everyone a good opportunity to get their bearings. On arrival at the British Embassy we were made most welcome, exchanging copies of British papers and FHM for information about local takeaways and where they'd hidden those diplomatic bags… Problems with using the military telephone network were encountered, as was expected after an earlier reconnaissance visit but no hardware problems were experienced when using the American civilian telephone network. Unfortunately the latter part of the trial was also hampered by an addressing problem with the AMS at RAF Boddington, a fault that is now being addressed. Whilst all of the technical aspects of the exercise were being addressed, the free troops worked on the Colonel's task of raising each other's morale with predictable gusto. A tour of the American civil war battlefield of Manassas was taken by all of the troops and thoroughly enjoyed. The importance of ground as a factor in the combat estimate was exceptionally well demonstrated and the shear concentration of force in such a small area proved a real eye-opener. The local beers, noticeably Foggy Bottom did a lot to help close them again.

Away from the battlefield, the sights of Washington were all photographed next to the combat briefcase, along with a rather bemused US Marine. **Cpl Alex** 'I'm all shopped out' **Darbyshire** led the way through the shopping malls, with **Sgt Lee** 'But what can I buy the wife and kids?' **Swift** in hot pursuit. With the exception of **LCpl Rob** 'It really is a scooter' **Bromwich** raising some eyebrows with Virgin Atlantic's most suspicious piece of hand luggage and **Lt Tom Howes** insisting that the 'Virgin' stewardess knew an old school friend, the flight home passed uneventfully. Landing in time for some of the detachment to be back in work in Sheffield by lunchtime (even if they were still seeing stars and stripes from jet-lag) the smiles couldn't be wiped off for days!

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39 (SKINNERS) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO Lt Col P. R. Towers
RSM WO1 (RSM) F. E. Roberts

REGIMENTAL TRAINING WEEKEND 6
THE SKINNERS VISIT

Every Year The Master of Skinners, his Clerk and Wardens from The Worshipful Company of Skinners, attend the last Regimental weekend of the training year. The primary aim of The Skinners Visit is to present the Skinners Award to the best Female and Male soldier within the Regiment for the previous training year as well as to visit the Regiment as a whole. The Regiment had much pleasure in welcoming **Mr Phillip Attenborough** as The Master of Skinners to Colerne on Sunday 29 April 2001. The Skinners Awards were presented as follows:

Best Female Soldier 2000/2001 - **LCpl Clare Goodwin**
5 (QOOH) Sig Sqn (V)
Best Male Solder 2000/2001 - **Cpl Mark Joiner**
47 (MxYeo) Sig Sqn (V)

The visit also included the opportunity for the Master along with his fellow Skinners to speak to the officers and soldiers of the Regiment, especially the recruits who emerged from the tactical phase of their 'Charlie' weekend to speak to our guests. The afternoon ended with a delicious buffet lunch courtesy of the Officers' Mess 21 Sig Regt (AS) ably assisted by **LCpl Buckley**.

The Master of Skinners Mr Phillip Attenborough accompanied by Maj John Russell meets some of the recruits

Congratulations must go to LCpl Clare 'What else can I win' Goodwin for winning the Skinners Award this year. Clare has been an outstanding member of the Squadron but despite her many attributes, catching and holding on to things are not, and we will not be selecting her for the Squadron Cricket team this year. She needs to work on her hand eye co-ordination. Well done.

LCpl Clare Goodwin receiving her Skinners award from The Master of Skinners

5 (QOOH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
BANBURY & OXFORD
Sqn Comd **Maj R. Stone TD**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Phillips**

FAREWELLS, HELLOS AND PROMOTIONS

It is with some regret that we have to say farewell to **Sgt Chris Stuart** our PSI Tech for the last two years. **Chris** has been promoted and has joined the British contingent in Sierra Leone. He has been a pivotal person within the Squadron on both technical and military aspects of TA work. **Chris** has been at the forefront as our Cultural attaché encouraging us to go north of the border whenever possible. He apparently was very successful persuading someone, we had two consecutive annual camps up that way. Following a cultural visit to one of the finest producers of Scottish exports, he demonstrated his fine ability to remain alert at all times especially during his own briefings.

Capt Dai Jones our NCRS Guru has been poached, **Dai** is off to 31 Signal Regiment and will be sorely missed by the Squadron. As well as being the NCRS Guru, he is renowned for having 'the knowledge' having roamed the streets of London on many occasions. He will be well suited as their 'London' Ops Officer. **Dai**, where is the Marble Arch again? A warm welcome to **Capt Ruth Empson** who has rejoined the Squadron after a brief interlude, good to have you back. Welcome also to **Capt Michelle McClung**, Ex AGC who takes on OIC Recruiting.

Sgt Chris Stewart bid farewell by the OC

Sgt 'Robbie' **Hall** was promoted by the CO to Staff Sergeant on Tuesday 15 May 2001, but fortunate for 'Robbie' he was called out by NTL just before the bar opened! Pleased to report that he duly rang the bell the following week.

TERRITORIAL ARMY DAY

The Squadron set up a recruitment stand in the Town Hall in Banbury as part of National TA Day. Squadron activities included, **Sgt David Jarvis-Cleaver's** burger stand set up in the centre of Banbury in front of a well-known international supplier of burgers. It was a close run thing but despite stiff competition the international suppliers retained their pitch.

Sgt Jarvis-Cleaver selling burgers to Rt Hon Tony Baldry

During the day, **2Lt Simon Durtnal** demonstrated a certain degree of keenness to recruit anyone who showed the slightest bit of interest. However, it obviously worked, the day turned out to be a great recruiting success. As a direct result, we now have eight new recruits going through training, having already passed their Alpha weekend.

RECRUITING

Congratulations to **Sigs Damian Deverson, Nicola Harker, Jonathon Godwin, James Osborn** and **Peter Bennett** for successfully passing their recruit training and **Sig James Osborn** winning the Regimental Best Recruit.

5 Squadron's new recruits smile for their first *WIRE* Photo

47TH (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj C. M. Lankester**
SSM **WO2 M. Gilfrin**

Since the last notes were published there is very little to report. Training has been hindered by the foot and mouth epidemic, which has meant little opportunity to train other than in TA Centres. It has been a very frustrating time for all. The Squadron itself remains reasonably well recruited and thankfully there are still some high calibre, enthusiastic and well-motivated people coming into the fold. Of greatest worry is the outflow of experienced soldiers whose civilian jobs are now so hectic that it precludes time for TA. This is a very worrying trend. However, we remain optimistic that we can recruit sufficient high quality people to get the Squadron back to full strength or just over, a position it was last in three years ago. The new changes in the Squadron recruiting team have brought with them some excellent ideas, which we will be implementing at the earliest opportunity

The Squadron has recently completed Ex Normandy Yeoman, a battlefield tour to the Normandy battlefields. It was a great success and certainly helped to integrate the newer members of the squadron into the fold. The Squadron is now preparing for Ex Marconi Yeoman, an HF comms exercise utilising the NCRS HF voice capability. This is a follow on exercise to Ex Eastern Venture in February of this year, much enjoyed by those taking part because they really had to work at the comms problems that faced them.

Elsewhere, **Sgt Ben Newby** is to be congratulated on his achievement of finishing top student on his Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course at Blandford. Plans are now being made to deploy some detachments to Germany as part of Ex Arrcade Fusion in October. In line with this we are also training operators for service with 97 Signal Squadron in the Balkans later this year.

EXERCISE NORMANDY YEOMAN

Following the success of the Squadron's previous trips to Ypres and the Somme, it was decided that the 2001 trip should focus on the Second World War. Our intent was to visit major sites from the Normandy campaign, and to follow in the footsteps of 4 Squadron Middlesex Yeomanry. Extensive pre exercise planning was conducted and briefing notes prepared by our guide, Normandy expert and PSAO **Capt David Gibson**.

Eighteen members of the Squadron assembled at Uxbridge on a Thursday night, and once two stragglers had been rounded up set off for 'somewhere in Southern England' where our landing craft awaited. An uneventful night crossing was made (broken only by high level debate with other members of the ship's company on Northern Ireland politics). In the early hours of Friday morning we were reconstituted on the bridgehead, with horses well watered (some troopers more so) and keen to gain a foothold further inland. Unfortunately our stragglers struck again and decided to come ashore on foot rather than in the transport. The first day's itinerary was gentle and included the establishment of camp before visiting our first two sites. At Longues we visited one of the coastal gun batteries that faced the invasion force and recreated scenes from 'The Longest Day' at the observation bunker on the cliffs. The Squadron then moved to Arromanches, the town on Gold Beach where one of the Mulberry harbours was established. Here we visited the museum dedicated to the landings, walked the beach and were refreshed in a café assisted by the incredible language skills of **Sgt Bob** 'Babelfish' **Young**. For the evening's entertainment the Squadron dispersed and found that Normandy appeared to be closed until the holiday season began. This could explain why the troops RV'd towards the end of the night in 'The Yellow Submarine'. A bar devoted to the Beatles and charmingly wallpapered in tartan carpet (which pleased **Pte Darren** 'The Hustler' **MacFarlane** almost as much as the pool table on which he proceeded to win the shirts from many Squadron members). We also encountered our own difficulty in establishing a bridgehead here as entry involved being examined through a peephole before giving the password, which after much guessing transpired to be 'Vive la France et le Four Fab'. Further delight was had by the Squadron's male choir (star vocalist **Sig Jon** 'Freddie Mercury' **Clarke**) when the karaoke machine was set in action, although questions were asked about the post-watershed Channel 5 nature of the backing videos.

The following morning a relatively early start was made and the Squadron headed for Bayeaux. The trip was enlivened by **Sig Sean** 'M. Creosote' **Diton's** discovery that he was not good at travelling in the back of a minibus after a night in 'The Yellow Submarine' and **Sgt Ben** 'Golden Boy' **Newby's** map reading skills. In fact so expert did our chief navigator show himself to be throughout the weekend he was immediately recommended for a field commission! At Bayeux we visited the excellent Musée de la Bataille de Normandie where **Babelfish** was able to regale various veterans with his military experiences and **Lt Matt** 'Melchett' **Watts** definitely did not fall asleep in the film show, despite rumours to the contrary. We then moved on to the Bayeux cemetery, the largest from the Second World War. Here, in the absence of any Middlesex Yeomanry fallen we laid a wreath on the grave of a member of

the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars, now our sister Squadron 5 (QOOH) Signal Squadron and observed a minute's silence. A poignant reminder of the 'all arms' nature of the landings and battle was the number of Merchant Navy graves to be seen in the cemetery in addition to those of the RN, Army and RAF. Our next objective after victualling at a local supermarket was Hill 112, the scene of a month-long battle between various British divisions (including 5 DCLI, after whom the site has become known as Cornwall Hill) and II SS Panzer Corps. Here a second wreath was laid at the 43rd (Wessex) Division and silence observed. The site was also interesting for the assembled Officers as a TEWT had been held in the UK during Officer Training (although **Lt Melchett**'s suggestion that the best strategy was to 'form square and hoist the Regimental colour' was not taken as the best option). We then moved to Villers-Bocage, site of an action involving the British 7th Armoured Division including 4 Squadron Middlesex Yeomanry. Here, in true Yeomanry style, a column of armour had stopped for a nice cup of tea when an SS Panzer commander, **Michael Wittmann**, burst from cover and in a charge into the town destroyed 49 British vehicles (including the entire RHQ element of 4 County of London Yeomanry). All this before escaping on foot after his own vehicle was disabled. This site was of particular interest to **LCpl Keith** 'Vapour Hazard' **Braun**, who had studied **Wittmann's** career in the past. At this point it was decided to return to camp and divide the Squadron so the cultured could visit the Bayeux Tapestry and the remainder take some R&R. Reports from the bus to Bayeux, handed down from **Capt Lisa** 'AWOL' **Taylor,** suggested that the speeds reached in order to get to the museum before closing time were every bit as frightening as facing **Michael Wittmann**. The excursion was judged a great success. The evening continued in 'The Yellow Submarine' where the Squadron were greeted as old friends and the Male Choir performed again. On a foraging mission some members of the Squadron including **LCpl Kev** 'Tintin' **McRae** discovered the rare beast that is a restaurant with absolutely no food available. We were also treated to the sight of **Lt Dave** 'Swamp Thing' **Cornick** and **Lt Melchett** in extremely lively matching Hawaiian shirts, which attracted criticism from many including **LCpl Cath** 'Fashion Police' **Corcoran**. He could not believe that two supposedly grown-up leaders of men could be seen in public in such items. On the way home it was also rumoured that our PSI Tech, **Sgt Baz** 'Boatswain' **Kightley** was pursued by Norwegian and Japanese fishermen during his moonlight dip.

The following morning dawned far too early for some (yes, the stragglers again). However, the camp was struck in a timely manner and we departed for our final two destinations. This element of the trip centred on the airborne assault, partly to please the PSI 'Oops' **SSgt Jay** 'Stumpy' **Saunders**. The first location was the Merville Battery, scene of savage fighting after a drop by 9 Para went awry. The museum here was housed in the main bunker used dioramas, photographs and paintings to bring home the scale of the action. The action was ultimately successful for 9 Para even though it transpired that the guns they had been sent to silence were not in fact as formidable as the planners had feared. We then moved to Pegasus Bridge where a fine new museum has been built covering the airborne action.

Members of 47 Sig Sqn at the original 'Pegasus Bridge'

Here the PSI 'Oops' was teased mercilessly by members of the Squadron pointing out that the objective was taken not by the Paras but the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. Lunch was enjoyed in the Café Gondrée and our attachment, **Maj Toby** 'PLK' **Lankester** was appointed as official photographer for the inevitable group shots on the bridge. Attempts to recreate the painting 'Go to it' by **Peter Archer** were frustrated by the volume of traffic coming over the bridge. We then performed our exfiltration to Le Havre, following the coast road that allowed us to examine more of the beaches from the transport. 'Golden Boy' again showed his navigational abilities: at one point **Sig Stuart** 'Homer' **Morris** was heard to say, 'If we pass that McDonald's again can we please just go in'. The return to the port was accomplished eventually. An attempt to stock up the Squadron's bars was thwarted by (i) the fact that all supermarkets in France appear to be closed on Sundays, (ii) the heavily laden state of the transport and (iii) the enormous queue at the British-owned shops on the quayside. Luckily the Squadron team (featuring **Sgt Lois** 'Ian' **Lane**, the resident music expert) won a return crossing for later in the year in the onboard quiz so perhaps we will be able to return for further explorations and replens. A fast crossing was made and good time achieved in the return to Uxbridge, so an earlier than expected dismissal parade was held and the Squadron dispersed with plans already afoot (encouraged by our OC,**Maj Carla Lankester**) for next year's trip. Suggested destinations on a postcard, please!

There are many people to thank for their efforts to make this trip the success it was (**Lois** and 'Golden Boy' made fine breakfast chefs, for example: please don't transfer to the Really Large Corps). However, mention must be made of **Sgt Young** for his translation, which helped things run smoothly, the PSIs for their input during the preparations for the trip and most of all of **Capt Gibson**, without whom the exercise would not have been the great learning experience it turned out to be.

Wreath laying at the 43 Wessex Div memorial at 'Hill 112'

57th (CITY & COUNTY OF BRISTOL) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

Sqn Comd **Maj Bill Ruthven**
SSM **WO2 Jane Tuck**

The Squadron has had a reasonably quiet time over the last few months due to the Foot & Mouth, however it did give us the opportunity to carry out some much needed maintenance and equipment care, this was closely followed by both a good PRE and RSIT Inspection. We also said farewell to our OC, **Maj Mike Webb,** and welcomed on promotion **Maj Bill Ruthven** into the chair. A number of the Squadron are now actively involved in the build up training with 37 Signal Regiment (V), in preparation for 97 (SFOR) Signal Squadron. The remainder have Annual Camp on their minds, as the prospect for a number of going to Germany on Ex Arcade Fusion, sounds appealing.

EXERCISE HORFIELD WAVELENGTH 1-3 JUNE 2001

Like almost all other elements of both the Regular and Territorial Army, members of 57th (City & County of Bristol) Signal Squadron had endured a frustrating lack of training opportunities in recent months. The Foot & Mouth crisis had already forced the cancellation of the annual Regimental Comms Ex, Bronze Lynx in March, then the cancellation of the ever-popular Ten Tors orienteering competition in May, for which the squadron has supplied communications support for several years, provided another severe blow.

Now, with the worst of the crisis apparently behind us, there are two Regimental communication exercises to look forward to, in mid-June and mid-July. The squadron level training provided by Exercise Horfield Wavelength, therefore, provided Squadron personnel with an excellent opportunity to get together and practise the skills required for the two forthcoming exercises. It also provided us with a chance to fire our annual personal weapons test, as the relaxing of the Foot & Mouth restrictions meant that the facilities of Rogiet Moor ranges in Caerwent, were released to us just two weeks previously, following an earlier cancellation.

Under **Maj Bill Ruthven** our Officer Commanding, we deployed to a field location on Colerne Airfield on Friday 1 June to undertake our weapon handling tests. On Saturday morning, we all departed to Rogiet Moor Ranges where we spent most of the day undertaking grouping and zeroing practises followed by the APWT. **Sgt Richard Sharp** provided a background activity of radio training for the waiting detail. Fortunately, the weather remained warm and sunny all day, providing us with perfect, and very enjoyable, conditions for firing. I became the source for a moment of humour during one practise, when we had to 'dress into the fire trench' at the 300 metre point. Being only a little over five feet tall, I quickly discovered that this trench was a particularly deep one - my chin was just about level with the top of the trench! To save me the discomfort of having to complete the practise on tiptoe, the range staff team came to my rescue by providing me with a full water canister to stand on! Having all completed the APWT with some very good scores amongst the final results, we then returned to the exercise location for some antenna propagation training under our PSI, **SSgt Tony Ward**. Following this, we all enjoyed an excellent barbeque, provided by our PSAO, **Capt John Cullen** and SQMS, **SSgt Alan Oakley**, who manfully battled on through the billowing clouds of smoke to dish up a first class supper! The following morning, the Squadron were divided into sections to undertake some practical training on antennas, again under the instruction of **SSgt Ward** and **Sgt Sharp**. This also provided an introduction to STICCS (the Strike Command Integrated Command & Control System), which provides operators with an important confidence check by confirming the accuracy and range of the antennas being used. One team were able to make contact with Scotland, which was a real confidence boost! Around mid-day, we returned to Horfield TAC for lunch, after which we completed our final weapon cleaning and equipment checks before departing for home.

All in all, an excellent weekend, in perfect conditions for a field exercise, which provided the new members of the squadron with an introduction to radio skills, whilst giving the more established members an opportunity to 'blow away the cobwebs', in preparation for the forthcoming regimental exercises. Special thanks are due to **SSgt Ward** and **Sgt Sharp** for organising the programme and delivering the radio instruction. Also to our colleagues from HQ (North Somerset Yeomanry) Squadron **WO2 Phil Martin (RRTT), WO2 (SSM) Phil Smith, SSgt (SQMS) Nick Marsh** and **Sgt Kevin Winfield,** who made up the range staff, and also the excellent cook, **Pte Jason Anderson.**

The PSAO and SQMS exercising the BBQ, despite the lack of X Factor!

71 (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT BEXLEYHEATH

CO **Lt Col S. C. R. Malik**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. D. Tait**

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
FAREWELL AND HELLO

The Regiment says farewell to **Lt Col** 'Bus Driver' **Turner** who is off to the dizzy heights of MOD Main Building. All ranks of the Regiment wish you, Marion and the family all the very best for the future.

'Ode to the outgoing CO'
The CO soon proved a quick learner
Leaving nothing to cool, no backburner
Off to Whitehall he's roamin'
But we have made him a Yeoman
So sort them out, Colonel Turner.

As one Commanding Officer departs, a new one must be found. The Regiment is delighted to welcome **Lt Col Simon Malik** back to the fold after his short spell with 2(NC) Sig Bde. We wish you and your family every success in the 'Yeomary' Signal Regiment.

NEWS FROM REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
NATIONAL MENTORING CONSORTIUM AWARDS

Over the past year the TM, **Maj Eric Heritage** has once again been taking part as a mentor at Greenwich University in the National Mentoring Consortium's national mentoring programme for African, Caribbean and Asian undergraduates. His work in this field involves him acting as a mentor to ethnic minority university students, amongst other things, to help them not only prepare themselves for the professional world beyond university but also with their personal development. This year **Maj Heritage** mentored two ethnic minority students at Greenwich University. At a recent awards ceremony to mark the end of this year's programme and to recognise the contributions of all the participating mentors, from a wide range of leading organisations and companies, **Maj Heritage** received his certificate from **Dame Jocelyn Barrow**. At the ceremony **Dame Jocelyn** remarked that she felt that it was particularly important for the Armed Forces to participate in such schemes.

Photo 71/01
Dame Jocelyn Barrow presenting Maj Eric Heritage with his National Mentoring Consortium certificate for participating as a mentor to African, Caribbean and Asian undergraduates in their national mentoring programme

COMMANDING OFFICERS DINING OUT

The theme for this occasion was a 'Burns Supper' perhaps a bit strange for a Southern Regiment, but as the RSM is a top bloke from up north it was agreed. The venue was the Mess at 16 Regt RA in Woolwich, again a little strange for a Signals Regiment! The Commanding Officer arrived on time but unfortunately dinner was delayed due to the late arrival of **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Slaney**, apparently he had difficulty in choosing the correct tie for the event? After dinner we were entertained by a selection of Burns Poetry and songs, these were all read by members of the Mess, apart from the RSM's guest speaker **WO2 (RQMS)** 'Laird' **Kenny Scott** on loan from 3 (UK) Div (thanks very much **Kenny**). **Sgt Judith Charter** made an excellent attempt at a Scottish accent for the 'Selkirk Grace' and **SSgt Ian Lapidge** must be congratulated on his very southern attempt at the 'The Soldiers Return'. **WO1 (RSM) Dougie Tait** had brewed and nurtured the 'Athole Brose' and indeed placed a health warning on the labels, but true to 'Yeomanry' tradition no one took a blind bit of notice and it was reported that indeed there were quite a few 'Sare heads' the next day. From all in the Mess we would like to thank **Lt Col Turner** for all his support and wish you, **Marion** and the boys all the very best in you new appointment and hope to see you all again soon.

BT SWIMATHON 2001

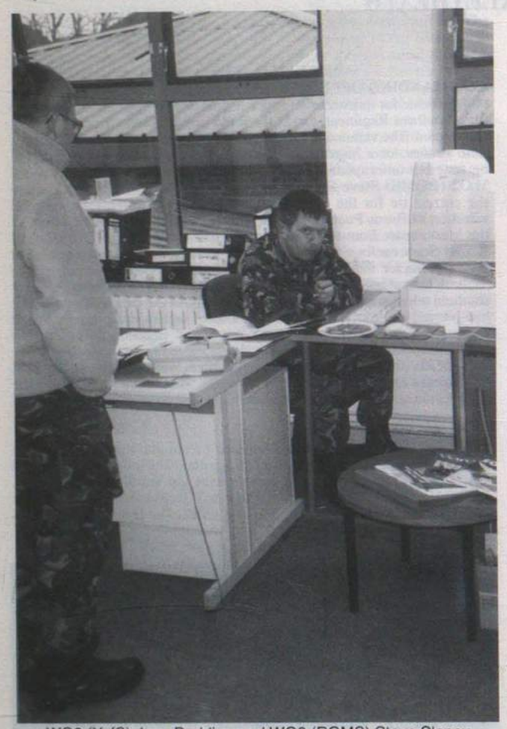
For the first time the Regiment entered a team into the BT Swimathon to help raise money for various cancer charities. The unit team comprised **Cpl Nick Trethewey** (the CO's driver), **SSgt Ian Tomlinson** (PSI LAD), **Lt Bill Handley** (OC 207 Royal Signals ACF Detachment) and **Maj Eric** and **Mrs Cathy Heritage** (Trg Maj and wife). The team had to swim a total of 5000 metres at the Crook Log swimming pool in Bexleyheath. For their charitable efforts, the team raised over £250.

BT Swimathon Team
Back (L-R): Cpl Nick Trethewey and Lt Bill Handley
Front (L-R): Mrs Cathy and Maj Eric Heritage

Cpl Nick Trethewey demonstrating excellent breaststroke style!

'THE WORKING LUNCH'
REGIMENTAL YEOMAN OF SIGNALS

There is no fact in the rumour that the **WO2 (YofS) Jase Budding** and **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Slaney** have been appointed as the official COMPO testers for the Regiment. However, there is some evidence that they have been nibbling at it.



WO2 (YofS) Jase Budding and WO2 (RQMS) Steve Slaney testing the Compo Lunch

HEADQUARTERS
(KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY)
SQUADRON – BEXLEYHEATH

Sqn Comd **Maj Pam Suddens**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Andy Church**

The first and so far only field exercise of the year was Exercise True Millennium. This was another collaborative venture between the Squadron and the cadets of 107 Det Royal Signals ACF. The Squadron deployed to a very cold and frosty Thetford training area minus our vehicles and hid in the woods. The cadets spent the daylight hours attempting to find the Squadron harbour area with little success. The rumour is that they only located the Squadron when darkness fell and they were able to follow the snores coming from a certain Corporal's basher (the name is being withheld to protect the guilty).

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease has closed our usual training areas nevertheless Headquarters Squadron has kept busy. Firstly a team entered the Bexleyheath Mayor's Charity Bowling Competition and helped to raise £2,000 for a local charity. The Squadron team consisted of **LCpls Martin** 'Hot Shot' **Gross, Christina** 'Better luck next time' **Bienek, Tony** 'Mad Dog' **Williams, Pte Nick Hanlon** and **Sig Rob** 'Sharpshooter' **Brazier.**

HQ Sqn continues to maintain our high public profile during the TA National Open Day. On the Saturday, a team deployed to Bexleyheath Town Centre where, as part of our meet the public brief, **Pte Nick** 'The Medic' **Hanlon** gave a guided tour of the Ambulance. **Sig Paul Swaffield** made a valiant attempt at convincing the local youth that his arctic gear was the latest fashion in Bexleyheath shopping centre. We were honoured by a visit from the Mayor of Bexleyheath who took a keen interest in our stands and really entered into the spirit of the event, when invited to 'get on yer bike' he did.

The Master of the Drapers Company visited the Squadron for a Medals Presentation. **Cpl Cavenagh** received the Queen's Volunteer Reserve medal whilst **Cpl Amanda Susini** and **Lcpl Mark Butler** each received their Territorial Efficiency Medals.

The Squadron would like to offer a very warm welcome to our newest members, **Sig Robert Brazier** – the Squadron bowling king, who has just completed his recruits' course. **Sgt Judith Charter** has transferred from the LAD HQ Sqn on her well-deserved promotion and **Maj Dave Swan TD** who returns to the Squadron in order to assume the appointment of Regimental NVQ officer. **Cpl Cavanagh** and **Lcpl Butler** have already generated work for **Maj Swan** as they have each just gained a Class 1 qualification and are taking part in the NVQ pilot scheme.

FROM RSM TO VOLUNTEER

Our newest new recruit is **Cfn Ben Handley** who wishes to become a grease monkey and join the L.A.D. **Ben** has transferred in from the Cadet Force where he held the rank of WO1 (RSM). Sorry about your reduction in rank **Ben** but we do not have a vacancy for RSM at the moment.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

One final mention to **Cpl Cavanagh** on his well-deserved promotion to Sergeant, the RSM says 'Ring The Bell'.

68 (INNS OF COURT AND CITY YEOMANRY)
SIGNAL SQUADRON
WHIPS CROSS AND LINCOLN'S INN

Sqn Comd **Maj E. J. H. Marshall TD**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Lol Evans**

DEVIL'S OWN REGATTA

On 5 May the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Yacht Squadron hosted the 'Devil's Own Invitation Regatta' at Seaview Yacht Club on the Isle of Wight. Thirteen teams took part in the event, co-ordinated by Race Officer Vice Commodore, **Maj Richard Gentry**, including the Essex Yeomanry and the Sharpshooters.

'Tight racing at Seaview'

Maj Simon Palmer still manages a smile at Seaview

The weather was rough and gusty first thing in the morning as everyone eyed up the opposition and tried to pick the 'Ringers', whilst **Capts Ian Wadley** and **Tom Taylor** proved their black powder skills on the guns! For the second year running the Royal Yeomanry went home with the Carden Decanter. Congratulations to **Lt Col Miles Wade, Capt Matthew Douglas** (Skipper) and the RSM, **WO1 McGann**. The 'Rusty Shackle' award for last place went to the 1st Bn Gren Gds, **Capt Youngman-Sullivan** and **Capt Hender** and **2Lt Collishaw**, with the RHQ Gren Gds improving to Fifth place. The trophies were presented by the Commodore ICCY YS, **The Earl of Limerick** (Hon Col) at the splendid Supper, to whom many thanks are owed to **Maj Dick Gentry** and his charming wife **Angela**.

OFFICER'S MESS

The Officer's Mess continues to provide a focal point for the extended Regimental family. Sad farewells go to our Recruiting Officer, **Lt Zara Hobley**, and best wishes to the outgoing 2IC, **Capt Tim Glover**. A sad farewell also goes to Squadron stalwart, **WO2 (SQMS) David Norris** who has retired after some 30 years service. The recent Blues Supper was well attended by mess members with all Officers resplendent in their new 'Swan Neck' spurs. **Lt Conor Brindley** and **Lt Nick Donnithorne** found an ingenious method of pressure point natural healing, through the deft application of their 'Swan Necks'. A warm welcome to the new Mess Manager, **Mr Reg Jones** and the Caretaker, **Mrs Rose Jones; Mr Jones** has also joined the Squadron as **Sgt Jones**, in a reincarnation of his role as late Sergeant RAMC with the Parachute Regiment.

2IC Capt Phill Adams, Lt Nick Donnithorne and Miss Rachel Wallis at Blues Supper

EXERCISE HORSESHOE EAGLE

With the continuing problem of Foot and Mouth, the weekend of 11-13 May saw the Squadron deploying to other TAC's as part of the Regimental CPX. The exercise was based upon a Foot and Mouth scenario and the May Day Protest situation with our Squadron Command Post based in Brighton. Ops Officer, **Capt Martin Dinan,** was joined in the SCP by **Sgt Cliff Springer** and his Detachment. FFR 2, run by **LCpl Adrian Wisdom**, deployed from Brighton to Chelmsford, the memorable event of their weekend being the momentary forgetfulness with regard to the radio masts!

The OC, Maj Eddie Marshall, being briefed on Exercise Horseshoe Eagle by the 2IC, Capt Philip Adams

FFR1, run by **LCpl Priddle**, was co-located to Bexleyheath from there they were deployed to Brentwood. **LCpl Crispin** was a focal orator when members of this detachment persuaded a member of the general public that **Sig Jesus D'Gurzman** was a Gurkha soldier! Support Troop, under the watchful eye of **SSgt Terry Gardner**, win prizes for time management as they found enough time to sit in the sun, the proof being their red suntans! Saturday saw all the Officers and the Yeoman pulled off the exercise to attend a presentation on the Network Management Centre (NMC). The group proved their map reading skills in Chelmsford and tested the patience of **Sgt Steve Canderton** who had been nominated to drive. The Sergeants were also pulled off the exercise to attend a Sergeants' Mess Meeting, leaving the SCP well manned, or so we hear, as no senior staff were present! An unusual field weekend, but as close as realistic as possible considering the situation. The amazing weather contributed towards beaming faces by the end.

RECRUIT TRAINING

The recruit's have completed their third weekend. The C weekend was held at Hythe ranges with the introduction to live firing and included a CFT, which was held around the perimeter of the range complex due to the continuing problems with foot and mouth. The D weekend, which is the field Exercise weekend will be held over the weekend 15-17 June and will complete preparation for the recruit's courses at Blandford in the autumn, good luck to you all.

70 (ESSEX YEOAMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
CHELMSFORD AND HARLOW

Sqn Comd **Maj Craig Tallents**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Humphreys**

The Squadron has been through a busy period over the last few months with, Vehicle Servicing, Trade Training, PRE, TA National Open day and an Officers & SNCOs' dinner night.

VEHICLE SERVICING AND PRE.

With a lot of work from both the permanent staff and the TA the Squadron achieved a very commendable result from the PRE. Well done to all those involved.

TRADE TRAINING

The Trade training cycle is with us again and the majority of the Squadron are involved either Teaching or as students. The Trade courses were over four weekends during January and February 2001 and we are hoping for good results.

TA NATIONAL OPEN DAY

Having produced two displays in the Town centres of Chelmsford and Harlow for the TA National Open Day on 31 March 2001 we had 25 serious enquiries to join the Squadron. This was a superb effort by **Capt Michael Wood** and **SSgt Jim Swain**. The displays were swamped with people very interested in what we do and how we train.

LCpl Richard Marsh with an interested member of the public in the towncentre of Chelmsford on the TA Open Day

OFFICERS AND SNCO'S DINNER NIGHT

The Officers and SNCO's and their ladies gather in the Mess at Chelmsford to say farewell to **Maj David Swann, Sgt Terry Hackett** and **Sgt MarkWood**. A lot old stories were told of incidents in the past over bottles of port (Not all true). A thoroughly enjoyable night was had by all.

Maj David Swann (L) and WO2 (SSM) Paul Humphreys (R) at the Officers and SNCOs' dinner night at Chelmsford

BERNE MARCHES 5-7 MAY 2001

The 42 Swiss International March took place in Berne over the weekend 5-6 May 2001, with both Military and civilian participants from all over the world. The event required military teams to march 25 miles per day over undulating terrain wearing uniform and carrying 8kg in weight. The Team spent many evenings and weekends training for the event around Chelmsford's countryside while the SPSI, **SSgt Jason Barsley,** avoided driving home to Colchester preferring to march instead.

Having mastered the 12 hour drive to Berne with no problems, courtesy of **LCpl Ross Nugents** diligent route planning it was down to he marching and overcoming the inevitable blisters. Our start time was 0600hrs for both days and with a 30-minute drive to the capital this meant it was an early reveille - 0345hrs to be precise! That's not to say we didn't have time to sample the hospitality and culture of the local town. After a hearty Swiss breakfast museli, bread and cheese it was time to get it on. We decided to dismiss our team PTIs (**LCpl** 'Wimble' **Marsh**) warm up routine opting instead for a warm up of our vocal cords by **SSgt** 'Song Miester' **Barsley.** Needless to say armed with his pocket book of infantry marching songs, we soon overcame the first 25 miles of up and down hills and it was somewhat of a relief to see the finish line on Day One having achieved a creditable time of seven hours.

Day Two was more of a gritty performance as most of the Team was suffering from some form of foot injury, which often led **SSgt** 'Kirk' **Humphries** to crave for a rescue vehicle. **WO2** 'Pip' **Pieper** took great delight in informing him there was no such facility and to TAB ON! Despite the fatigue, which was beginning to set in, the Team spirits were at an all time high and the march to the finish line was a non-stop vocal affair taking just over six hours. Local dignitaries, senior Military Officers, bands and civpop were all there to meet us at the finish line with the British Defence Attaché taking the salute as our team marched past. In view of this **Cpl** 'Jo parlez-vous' **Smith** decided to invite the Defence Attaché to join us for a team photo in French, not realising he was a British serving Officer! A special mention must go to our team PR girl **LCpl** 'Jo' **Pilcher** who provided the team with a constant source of stimulating humour. The team would like to thank the Swiss Army for their hospitality and organisation of what was a truly memorable event and look forward to the next one in Australia! PSI Wasn't it?

LCpl Nugent putting his feet up in Switzerland

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

20 ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (200)

OC **Maj I. G. Standen**
RSM **WO1(RSM) S. Lawes**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn dined out **Maj Iain Standen** in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess. The night started with a photo to mark the end of an era followed by a formal dinner.

'Boss, because I'm leaving,
please let me keep one of these pictures.'
(L-R): Maj J. Standen and Capt S. Gough in the front is Mrs Lawes

After dinner the party kicked off with a disco and some unexpected kareoke by **YofS Al Roberts**. The Squadron would like to thank **Maj Iain Standen** for all the hard work he has put in on his time as our OC, both he and **Anna** will be missed in the Squadron. We would like to welcome **Maj Blackwell** in to the Squadron. Fond farewells also go out to **Capt Simon Gough** who is moving out to Sierra Leone for a year, we would like to wish him all the best. We would also like to welcome **Capt John Lions** in to the Squadron.

'FOOT AND MOUTH' SPORTS TOUR 2001

The 25 strong squad left Sennelager on Sunday 25 March, for a combined football and rugby tour. We were to be based at Imphal Barracks in York, right in the heart of the foot and mouth crisis in the UK, hence the tour's nickname. We arrived early on Monday morning tired, but eager to take in the sights of York. A long hard training session on the first night took its toll on the squad, with only a couple of the lads looking as if they would last the week.

Cpl Reardon – 'I'm getting too old for all this training.'

Despite this, we departed for Preston to play 5 GS Regt at football on the Tuesday. After a fearsome game, played on a pitch suitable for scuba diving, we narrowly lost 5-1. However, impressive performances from **Cpl** 'Shotty' **Shottbolt** and **Sgt Jim Bean** showed we could improve on the disappointment. No rest for the wicked, and the team management decided on another training session that evening in Preston, much to the lads dismay!

On Wednesday morning we travelled back to York, and began to prepare for our next game, rugby versus 2 Sig Regt. This proved to be, as expected, the hardest game on the tour, with the Impalas fielding an extremely strong side. After holding our own for the first ten minutes of the game, the training the night before seemed to have left some of the guys slightly lethargic, and the strength of the regimental side came through. At the final whistle we came second, losing 59-15. The squad felt that this score did not do us justice and were determined to do better on the Saturday against Pocklington R.U.F.C. An intense training regime was implemented by the management for the Friday and all the squad performed well during training that evening, some even continued into the early hours, showing the commitment of some of the team. This seemed to impress the rest of the lads, and we were all in high spirits on the afternoon of the game. Spirit, determination, fitness and skill all shone through during the game, with all the lads impressing the numerous home fans standing on the sideline. A commanding lead at half time was carried on until the final whistle and we ran out convincing winners 43-19. **Sig Pete Armour** and **Cpl** 'Mo' **Morrison** showed the type of tackling that you see in an international whilst **Capt Simon Gough** could have been mistaken for an England centre with the ball skills used. The third half was also won by the touring side, many hours later, and still suffering from our after match celebrations, we departed for home, happy with our victory. Thanks must go out to 2 Signal Regiment for hosting us all week. To **WOl (RSM) Lawes** and **SSgt Tom Gibbins** for the administration, and to the rest of the squad members for an enjoyable and memorable tour.

The Dwarves had played well against the Giants
Front to Rear: Sgt Bean, Sgt Grifen, Sig Mulligan, LCpl Barnett, LCpl Lee

THE SQUAD

Capt Gough, WOl (RSM) Lawes, WO2 (FofS) Dawson, SSgt Low, SSgt Gibbins, Sgt Bean, Sgt Giffin, Sgt Lee, Cpl Reardon, Cpl Shotbolt, Cpl Dunbar, Cpl Morrison, Cpl Smith, Cpl Trott, LCpl Collins, LCpl Barritt, LCpl Moss, LCpl Walker, LCpl Levi, LCpl Gregory, LCpl Lewis, Sig Armour, Sig Anderton, Sig Mulligan, Sig Kean.

BATTLEFIELD TOUR - EX MAILED FORTRESS

by 2Lt Nilene Hennessey

On Exercise Mailed Fortress – Battlefield Tour
Back (L-R): SSgt Gibbins, Lt Acton, Maj Woodhouse, Sgt Pagett, Sgt Corcoran, 2Lt Hennessey, FofS Dawson, Sgt King, Maj Standen, Sgt Northeast, RQMS Beech, YofS Roberts, SSgt Ingles, Sgt Haslam
Front (L-R): Sgt Griffen, Capt Gough, Lt Hughes, Sgt Bean, Sgt Croughton

On the morning of 23 May 25 Officers and SNCOs gathered at the MT of 200 Sig Sqn for the start of the seven-hour coach ride to Verdun in France. **Maj Iain Standen**, OC 200 Sig Sqn, had planned an exceptional three days for our battlefield tour of Verdun, the study of a battle in 1916 between the French and the Germans, a battle that resulted in an horrendous 700,000 casualties.

When we first arrived at the sleepy little French town we made our way down the 'Vole Sacre', the French supply line. This is marked at 1km intervals with a French helmet on a milestone, and at the height of the battle it was calculated that a vehicle was passing a point every 14 seconds. Visiting the Citadelle next, we found that this particular sight was ideal for placing the battle in perspective - an audio-visual tour of kilometres of freezing, dark, smelly passages, the sickbays, bunks and ablution blocks was not pleasant. Taken round in buggies of seven people, starting in the dank gloom of the entrance passage, **Sgt Northeast** and **RAMS Beech** promptly got out their smuggled cylumes and waved them around happily, peering suspiciously into every corner. By 4pm we had finished there and we made our way to what was to be our haunt - a pub on the waterfront of the River Meuse. Obviously, the warm sun, well priced drinks, scenic riverside and good atmosphere were the lures of the haunt and had nothing whatsoever to do with the busty blond waitress who worked there. Having seen the Voie Sacre and Citadelle, **Sgt King** (RLC) was suitably impressed with the French logistic support - that is, until our supper time at Hotel St. Paul came! Not at all charmed with French cuisine, he wouldn't touch the egg-and-vegetable starter. **Sgt Croughton** (Master chef) was delighted as this placed his cooking in an extraordinarily good light!

Sgt Croughton – How come this equipment is newer than ours?

The receptionist gave us a couple of copies of the door code so that we'd be able to come back when we pleased. **Lt James Acton** handed these out to the people who were liable to need them most. It so happened that **Sgt Haslam** was the first to receive the code. At some ungodly hour he decided to trek back to the hotel from the pub. Of course, he had promptly lost the code, so after punching some random numbers in with no effect at all, he proceeded to yell at the windows above him. I believe he even tried clambering up to some of them, failing miserably thanks to his - uh -tiredness. He had just about given up and was curling up for the night on the doorstep when a couple walked past - they owned the bedsit next door and invited him in for coffee and offered to call the police to let him into the hotel. He hurriedly declined this offer and opted instead for their sofa until 0500hrs when the hotel opened again. The couple kept his sunglasses as a souvenir.

With **Sgt Haslam** in zombie mode on Thursday we started on our tour of the various forts and battlefields. By mid-afternoon we were all forted out and given the option of a leisurely walk to the bayonet grave. This included walking past a sunny pub courtyard - so many of us were committed to the purpose of the tour that we withstood the temptation until the way back, when it was unanimously agreed that it would be rude to ignore the French hospitality. We made our way back to our riverside cafe at about 4'o'clock and discussed the bizarre French habit of kissing each other four times in greeting (**SSgt Gibbins** has now bought property in France). After our Tour Dinner we were treated to one and a half hours of back-to-back jokes by **Sgt Bean** in the Irish Pub. After safely getting **Sgt Haslem** home, we spent our last night in the hotel. We departed at 0830hrs the next morning for Fort Fermont, a fort in the Maginot Line. Part of this visit consisted of a 1km long dark train journey underground, which **Capt Simon Gough** insisted was be the 'Goughy-love-train', should any of the 'lovely ladies' want to know. The boredom of the journey back to Paderborn was alleviated by the random comments of **Lt James Acton**, such as when he blandly stated 'freshly waxed ferrets' simply because the thought crossed his mind. We arrived in Paderborn at 1830hrs after a really great tour of Verdun, complete with good weather and good company. We would like to thank **Maj Iain Standen** for a well presented and interesting battlefield tour.

The Officers and Seniors posing for a catalogue shot

THE OPENING OF THE SQUADRON BAR - *by Sig Bevan*

The Squadron bar was officially opened recently with a 'Stars in your eyes' theme night, fancy dress and karaoke. There was an excellent turn out from the Squadron with some outrageous costumes especially from the village people (Sig Brown as the gay policeman).

Apparently this is now allowed!
(L-R): Lt Acton as 'Sporty Spice', LCpl Donaghy, Cpl Wilson, Sig Brain, Sig Smith and Sig Gordon

The winner of the competition was **Cpl Tris Dunbar** who had close competition off **2Lt Hennessey** both as Geri Halliwell (the old and the new).

Cpl Dunbar and 2Lt Hennessey – Geri new and old

A small mention must go to **Capt Simon Gough** and **Capt Phil Muir** for their many attempts at singing! Thanks also go out to the bar committee for organising such a fun and enjoyable evening.

Capt Muir and Capt Gough – 'I'm horny, horny.....'

ALPHA TROOP - *by Sig 'Flash' Gordon*

Tp Comd **Lt S. Hughes**
Tp SSgt **SSgt R. D. Burrows**

After the last few months, April has given the boys in Alpha Tp the chance to catch up on work and organise a few functions, repair the vehicles and carry out some
in house training. The 'panzer' commanders course took place allowing future Rommels to be dragged kicking and screaming through the lessons by **Cpl John Reardon** and **Cpl Tris Dunbar**. A fond farewell goes out to **Sig Kate Jermany** who has left the Corps and transferred as a dental nurse. We wish her all the best and hope that she finds her job as interesting and rewarding as she did here. We would also like to wish **Sig Rachel Reeve** all the best as she approaches motherhood.

CADRE COURSE - *by Sig Armour 'Cadre Course'*

The very words send potential JNCOs running into hiding. This was no different at 200 Sig Sqn when volunteers were required for the Div Cadre Course at Haltern Ranges near Osnabruck. However, strangely enough eight willing people were found and shipped off to give the best account possible of both themselves and the unit. Arriving on the Sunday night we were anxious to get any leads on what was expected. Sadly none were forthcoming. We were experiencing the 'mushroom effect' again. Monday came and the pace was easy. We were told this would be the case all week as long as we 'played the game'. The lessons begin in earnest and it was hard to take everything in that was being read out in a rather monotone fashion, but somehow we stayed awake long enough to sit a test before doing kit and going to bed. The next few days followed the same pattern. Lessons on everything from first aid to the law, with tests at the end of each phase to allow a grading procedure to develop. After the BPFA results it was clear that there were four people in the running for the best student, two of whom, **Sig Armour** and **Sig Bogart**, were from 200 Sig Sqn. Saturday was a relaxed day with an orienteering exercise, followed by a barbecue and a few beers. Sunday morning was a different kettle of fish as we began with the old favourite... yes, you guessed it, a stretcher race. The rest of the day was exercise prep for the confirmatory exercise over Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Unfortunately **Sig Smith** and **Sig Bogart** were unable to take part in the exercise due to injury. However, **Sig Bogart** was able to play enemy on the final platoon assault on Wednesday morning. The exercise went well and all members of 200 Sig Sqn did well, giving a good account of themselves. A special congratulation to **Sig Armour** who was overall top student on the course. Thanks also go to 204 Sig Sqn for running the ten-day course as well as the instructors from 207 Sig Sqn, not forgetting our very own fountain of military knowledge, **SSgt Low**.

INTER TROOP HOCKEY AND TUG OF WAR COMPETITION
by Sig Virtue

The Squadron held a hockey and tug of war tournament recently. It was a fun and successful day especially for Alpha Tp who beat all the other teams in the hockey and who were pipped at the post by Maint Troop in the tug of war competition. The hockey team was made up of **Lt Hughes, Sgt Giffen, Cpl Morrisson, LCpl Knox** (star goalkeeper), **LCpl Donaghy, Sig Virtue** and out team captain **Sig Jermany**. The competition was a close one and often the games went in to penalty flicks. We would like to thank **Lt Hughes** and **Cpl Cowley** for organising both competitions.

Alpha Troop's Tug of War Team

LCpl Levi receiving the Tug of War Cup from Maj Standen

Sig Jermany receiving the Hockey Cup from Maj Standen

BFG RUGBY SEVENS COMPETITION - *by Sig Armour*

When the words 'rugby sevens' are normally spoken most people find an excuse not to play however in our Squadron this is different as ten volunteers offered themselves to the slaughter. We avoided the main teams 1RRW and 21 Engr Regt and only had to face 28 Engr Regt, the Irish Guards and the Scots Guards. We had one win and two losses and we made it in to the plate competition. We beat the ARRC and found ourselves competing against the QRH in the semi finals. This was a grudge match as the QRH had beaten us in a full match recently. **LCpl Collins** and **Sig Armour** ran in a load of tries and we clinched victory. The final was against 28 Engr Regt who just beat us. It was a great effort by everyone and we bought back some silverware for the cabinet and impressed many people as we had so many strong people from a Squadron.

BRAVO TROOP - *by Sig Light*

Tp Comd **Lt J. Acton**
Tp SSgt **SSgt T. Gibbins**

Bravo Tp would like to welcome **Sgt Jay Shuttleworth** back in to the Troop as the new Troop Sergeant and say goodbye to **Sgt Eddie Corcoran**. We would also like to welcome the new faces in the Troop, **LCpl Merrick, Sig Ben Day** and **Sig Matt Mc Ginn**. Fond farewells go out to **Cpl Al Doyle, LCpl Chris Anderton** and **Sig H. Harris** who will all be missed. The Troop are now completely settled in to their new home and have been taking part in the Squadron gardening competition. The prize is a long weekend. **LCpl Tony Lewis** and **Sig Hayley Armour** have taken charge of the task and transformed a piece of grass in to a work of art. In May the Squadron went adventure training in the Harz Mountains giving the majority of Alpha and Brava Troop the opportunity to get away. We were given the option of a week canoeing, climbing or hill walking. We would like to thank **Sgt Corcoran** for organising such a successful trip and all his instructors for making it such an enjoyable week. What goes on whilst adventure training stays in the Hartz Mountains?

MORRISON CUP - *by Lt James Acton*

On Tuesday 29 May squadrons of the Royal Corps of Signals made their way to Herford for the 2001 Morrison Cup. A huge athletics event hosted and organised by 1 (UK) ASDR. It was 200 Sig Sqn's chance to shine in the limelight. The standard throughout all events was outstanding, with some incredible throws and quick times. Everyone who entered was guaranteed a point, which were added together to give an overall squadron winner. Unfortunately for us at 200 Sig Sqn we didn't manage to make it to the top three squadrons, but we had our own successes with **WO2 Dawson** standing in First position on the podium for Long Jump and Triple Jump and **Capt Gough** making Second place in the Javelin. A lot of us got close but were pipped at the post. I'm sure I can speak for everyone when I say a fantastic day was had by all and thank you to Div for doing such a good job in organising it. Running alongside the Morrison Cup was a Tug-of-War event. A round robin competition so everyone had a lot of pulls. 120 % hard work was put in by all the competitors, with a maximum weight of 640kg we had to lose some of our bigger lads even before they started. A quick shuffle around and we were ready to take on the world. After the first pull the team realised how tough it was going to be. After a few hours the strain was showing but everyone fought to the bitter end. Congratulations to 7 Sig Sqn for winning, and well done to everyone who took part.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt K. Jones**
Tp Sgt **Sgt A. Haslem**

The MT would like to say farewell to **Cpl** 'Barney' **Barnett** and **LCpl Lez Gearing. Barney** has now been promoted to Corporal and has been posted to Krefeld. **Lez** has also been promoted and posted back to the UK. We would like to welcome **Sig Dave Smith** who has joined us from 7 Sig Regt. We now have a really small MT and out of work we can only achieve so much. We have entered into the gardening competition and we will see how we get on.

4th ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (204)

Sqn Comd **Maj G. R. Norton**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Robinson**

BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON JNCO CADRE COURSE
by 2Lt Henderson

As part of its busy year the Squadron hosted a JNCO Cadre Course at Haltern between 20 and 30 May. 22 students from 4, 7 and 20 Brigade all attended the course, which consisted of an intensive programme of revision training for potential JNCOs. With ITD revision and copious amounts of testing, the students also attempted, with varying degrees of success, command tasks, an orienteering competition and a battle run. The culmination of the Cadre was the final exercise; here the students were assessed on their ability to command the remainder of their section, through recce patrols, harbor location moves and a final dawn attack. For those who do not know at that time of year it starts to get light at 0330hrs. The smooth running of the course was very much down to the great experience and expertise of the likes of **RSM Ged Robinson**, the course Chief Instructor and 3 Sections DS, **SSgt Rob** 'Master Chief' **Lowe**, 1 Section's DS who proved to have an inexhaustible appetite for range stew. **SSgt** 'Ollie' **Oliver**, 2 Section's DS our tactics expert, **Sgt** 'Admin' **MacGregor**, who did an outstanding job running all the administration for the course and finally **Cpl Luke** assistant 2 Section DS and one of the skill at arms instructors. A big thanks to all, and to those who are not mentioned but whose help was very much appreciated. While the course had a number of highlights a few particular efforts deserve a mention. **Sig** 'Lego' **Ward** (4Bde) managed to take six hours to 'complete' a night navigation exercise. A first class effort, considering that he and his team failed to find a single checkpoint, and spent most of the night trying to find

his way back onto the training area! **Sig** 'Butch' **Slingsby** who found that after a number of attempts at firing on the ranges without his glasses, he *is* more accurate without them. **Sig** 'Royston' **Castles** (7 Bde) proved to be very eloquent when describing the effects of not attending to ones personal hygiene, whilst **Sig Ferrn** spent more time trying to get his props to comply rather than actually presenting anything; where do you find spare torch bulbs then **Sig Ferrn**? At the end of the course the top student award was presented to **Sig Armour** of 20 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200) and the award for best effort went to **Sig Potts** of 4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204); well done! Overall the course proved to be a tremendous success, and the Squadron sends its thanks to both 7 and 20 Brigades for their support.

PAPA TROOP - *by LCpl Dowson*

Tp Comd **2Lt Henderson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Davis**

After Ex Rhino Charge the Troop concentrated its efforts towards 1st line prep and PRE prep, considering such a busy time recently 1st lines and PRE's went very well. On 10 April we had a Troop Commanders Disposal day organised by **Cpl Nigel Stiff** (cheers). We went go-carting which was won by **LCpl** 'Woggle' **Moran**, followed by an afternoons water skiing, where the only person to make it successfully around the circuit was **Sig Dan** 'Donald' **Tooke** (that is on two skis). The Troop main effort then shifted towards Mercury 03/01 the final episode in the Mercury Rat trilogy - we hope. We also hosted the Brigade's Cadre Course that was held at Haltern Lavesum training area for the 3 independent Signal Squadrons based in Germany 7, 20, and 4 Brigade. Well done to the following Troop members **Sigs** 'Leggo' **Ward, Dan** 'Donald' **Tooke** and 'Shep' **Sheppard.** On Tuesday 29 May the Squadron entered a team in the Morrison Cup Competition thanks to **SSgt** 'SLOTH' **Davis** who organised training and sorting the team. I would now like to take this opportunity to welcome the following to the Troop the new boss **2Lt Henderson**, straight from her Troop Commanders course. Welcomes go out to the following **Sigs Richardson** and **Degnan** good luck lads, we hope you enjoy your time within the unit. Finely a farewell to **Cpl Scot Rose** and his family who left us for sunny H West in Wales on promotion. What is it like to have a part-time job? Good luck mate. In conclusion a busy time yet again we are looking forward to the promised quiet time that is somewhere around the corner.

Rear Row (L-R): LCpl Stapleton, Sig Armstrong, Sig Sheppard, Sig Mulligan, Sig Burdon, Sig Hatton, Sig Kirkby, Sig Ward, Sig Ferrn, Sig Smith
Centre Row (L-R): Sig Castles, Sig Potts, LCpl Shambrook, Sig Hepworth, Sig Tooke, Sig Bogart, Sig Soppitt, Sig Slingsby, Sig Found, Sig Rowe, Sig Armour
Front Row (L-R): Sig Cowan, LCpl Dowson, Cpl Heap, SSgt Oliver, 2Lt Henderson, WO1 (RSM) Robinson, SSgt Low, Sgt MacGregor, Cpl Luke, Pte Trotter

OSCAR TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Mike Parke**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Olly' **Oliver**

It has been another busy month for the brave soldiers of 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204), with all the preparation for First Lines and for the forthcoming Ex Mercury Rat 3. This being the final instalment of the trilogy, it would be hard to believe that we were able to find time to do some hard-core training for the BFG Morrison Cup. Never before has the squadron seen such a fine body of athletes. The team was not even fully picked until the morning of the event, with people being 'jiffed' as they were about to get on the transport. **Cpl** 'Polly' **Pollitt** won the gold in the 400m hurdles, **LCpl Shaun Brierley** picked up a bronze in the hammer throw and **Sig** 'Does my bum look big in this?' **Corlett** also scooped a prize in the ladies shot putt, well done to all three of them. Also how could we not let the Corps know about our fuel specialist **Sig** 'Camp Dave' **Doble**, who owes a crate for 'accidentally' filling the duty Astra up with diesel (guess who'll be wearing the helmet in the bar!), nice one **Dave**.

Last week the senior Siggys were sent out on a potential JNCO's Cadre course. A course feared throughout the Corps for its beastings and its many kit inspections. Much panicking and kit preparation happened on the weekend leading up to their departure. One and a half weeks later, on their return, our very own **Sig** 'Pottsy' **Potts** managed to win the 'best effort' award, well done **'Pottsy'**! Not bad considering he was only put on at such short notice, something to do with someone wanting to parade at the guardroom with their 1157 for a week meant that there was an opening for the course.

It seems that the Troop has had a fair few new arrivals, so its hello to **Sig** 'Gonzo' **Oldford**, **Sig** 'Gwit' **Anderson**, **LCpl Nicky Brown**, **Cpl** 'Slim' **Scott** and **LCpl Stu Dickeson**, get the beers in lads and lassies! We'd also like to say goodbye to **Cpl Lee Goodwin** who has left us to go into the dark unknown of Civvy Street, good luck and best wishes! Finally we would all like to wish **Cpl** 'Dan' **Taylor** all the best on his T1. Don't get too attached to Blandford, we'll always have a broken 353 for you to fix. As for the rest of us, we will just buckle down and keep on grafting on the finest armour in the Corps.

Papa Troop working on their tans as part of the Ex Saif Sareea training package

16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216)

Sqn Comd **Maj Neil Fraser**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. Drew**

Life in the Brigade and Squadron over the past few months has continued to be busy. The exercise programme has begun to kick back in post FMD and prior to the resumption of Brigade level exercises the Squadron has managed to get some valuable communications training through a number of low level Squadron exercises.

All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection has continued despite the restrictions put in place due to FMD and the Squadron has seen excellent results with eleven Squadron personnel and five from outside units off the last course. Congratulations go to **Sig Kemp** of 11 Sig Regt for coming top student – this is no mean feat. Well done also goes to those recently passed on their Basic Parachute Course. Not only has the Squadron been working on its communication skills but also a heavy priority has been placed on developing air assault skills with the following courses being run; rigging course, DZO NCO Markers course, Landing Point Comds course, Chalk Comd course and a number of motorbike courses.

Postings in and out remain fluid with a number of key personnel due to depart and arrive. Farewells go to **WO2 (YofS) Craig Jones**, who leaves on promotion to take over as Regimental YofS at 3 Div, and **WO2 (FofS) Kev Sturman**, who also departs on promotion to undertake Loan Service in Saudi Arabia. Both are thanked for their efforts during particularly busy tours. Farewell also goes to **Maj (QM) Steve Clarke QM QGM+Bar** who departs for 2 Sig Regt, but more to follow on him! Good luck also goes to **Sigs Foster, Garvey, Porter** and **Jones**, who all depart on postings to various units. Postings in are too numerous to mention but a warm welcome goes to all.

DEPARTURE OF BRIGADIER WALL OBE (6 APRIL 2001)

Comd 16 Air Asslt Bde's, **Brig Peter Wall OBE**, final few weeks in command was a particularly hectic period involving numerous visits, covering the length of the country, to the majority of Brigade units and in the margins signing-off important staff work prior to his hand over. His visit to the Squadron took place on 4 April and saw him opening the Squadron Heritage Room, named The Drummond Room (after **Maj Gen A. J. Deane-Drummond CB DSO MC** of WW2 fame and in particular Arnhem), and the new Squadron bar, 'The Tab Inn'. Here he was presented with his leaving gift and enjoyed a curry lunch and a couple of beers with the rest of the Squadron before dashing off for his next visit.

On 6 April 2001 the Commander's leaving ceremony from the Mess and barracks, ahead of his official handover to **Brig White-Spunner** on 12 April 2001, took place. Following a champagne breakfast in the Officers' Mess the Commander was pulled out of Goojerat Barracks in a WMIK by officers in the Brigade. Soldiers lined the route and watched on as the reigns of the WMIK were passed from the officers of Brigade HQ, to 16 CS Med Regt and then finally to the officers of 216 Sig Sqn, who pulled him out of the gate. On reaching the camp gate, the Commander walked past representatives of all the other Brigade units before climbing into a Gazelle helicopter. Despite having been in more helicopter rides than he can probably remember during his period of command it has seldom involved being escorted by two Apache Longbow AH-64D Attack Helicopters following a fly past by two Lynx and a further three more Apache's (well done the AAC and REME for getting so many air frames airborne at any one time).

'Fraser, pull harder or I'll shoot you!'

It was a fitting leaving ceremony for the man who oversaw the birth and initial development of the Army's latest and arguably most potent fighting Brigade. Best wishes to **Brig Wall OBE**, who assumes the post of CJFO at PJHQ. A warm welcome also goes to **Brig White-Spunner** the new Comd of 16 Air Asslt Bde.

The Commander departs Colchester in a Gazelle flanked by an AH-64D Apache

EXERCISE VALMALENCO WARRIOR 2001
ITALIAN PATROL COMPETITION (24 – 28 MAY 2001)
by Cpl Shaw

It was with a certain sense of trepidation that ten soldiers departed Colchester for Valmalenco, a small and picturesque Italian town just inside the Italian border with Switzerland. The details for the actual competition itself were extremely sketchy, as the joining instructions were minimal to say the least. All each team knew was that the competition would be held on Saturday 26 May 2001, and had been entered by 85 teams from across NATO, with each team consisting of three men. **Sgt McAdam**, who had been placed in charge of the trip, had carefully put together a week-long training package to cover everything and anything we could anticipate being thrown at the two Squadron teams prior to their departure. The week included assault course work, battle skills, command tasks, FIBUA, first aid, field firing, navigation, obstacle crossing and recognition. Following this well-balanced training package, the two teams were selected. Team One comprised of **Cpl Shaw, LCpl Blackmore** and **Sig Allan**, with Team Two consisting of **Cpl Benson, LCpl Jones** and **Sig Ryall**. A support team also deployed consisting of **Sgt McAdam, LCpl Fawcett**, and **Sigs Corbett** and **Watts** (it's a hard life).

The first leg of the trip went well, and the Squadron party found itself at the stopover location of Reims by early afternoon on the Thursday. After checking into the hotel, it wasn't long before the teams were sitting in the sun, tasting our first continental lagers, watching the beautiful French mademoiselles go by! The next leg of the trip took a little longer than expected (well, about eight hours longer - top route planning **Rob**). This resulted in the teams arriving late and missing the competition briefing (in fact this turned out to be something of a blessing as it had been conducted almost entirely in Italian!). As a result information had to be gleaned from the other British teams, before a much needed meal and rest could be enjoyed with a view to an early start the following morning. Being the last teams to register, the Squadron were also the last teams to set off. Team One crossed the start line at 0925hrs, with Team Two only five minutes behind. As with fellow non-Italian speaking teams both Squadron teams knew very little about the event. As it turned out, the competition itself was certainly not the jolly that had half been expected (and hoped for!). Blistering heat combined with a 30km 'insertion march' up and down the Alps was not an ideal start after only a croissant and a hot drink for breakfast. It wasn't long before all involved were taking on liquid to battle the effects of heat exhaustion. Navigation was a particular problem for all teams as the maps were photocopied and not to scale. After losing well over an hour searching the mountainside for a check point, Team One fortunately bumped into a fellow British team (who will remain anonymous to protect the guilty!), at which point a GPS was sneakily deployed.

Team 1 Cpl Shaw, LCpl Blackmore and Sig Watts fail to realise that Team 2 have, in fact, overtaken them!

There were about ten stands in all. None of them took longer than five minutes and generally they could only be described as military activities in the very loosest terms. Some of them were fairly bizarre, some were laughable, the only thing consistent with them were none were exactly what we had anticipated and trained for. Both teams crossed the finishing post only minutes apart at around 2000hrs. It had been a long, hard and hot eleven hours! However, both teams finished with all three members intact. Next the teams hobbled off to the hotel to shower, eat and change into our No. 2 Dress for the evening party (and what a party it was). Again, it didn't turn out to be exactly what had been expected. It seemed to be a civil reception for the Italian officers and local dignitaries, involving much backslapping, hand shaking and double face kissing! Still, the accordion player was good (if you like that sort of thing!). Most teams were too tired anyway, and opted for a much-needed early night.

Sunday morning saw a remembrance parade and prize giving. Unfortunately, neither Squadron team picked up any silverware, but both had done well considering it was the Squadron's first attempt at this event. Congratulations go to **Cpl Mark Benson** and his team, Team Two, who came twelfth, beating Team One, led by **Cpl Shaw** into seventieth position. Both respectable positions considering that a total of 85 teams entered the competition. Overall, out of the UK teams the Squadron came second and third respectively, being beaten by the RAF Regiment who won the event for the sixth year running. In summary, it was an enjoyable and successful trip for all involved. Although neither team won, valuable points had been picked up for next year (with a view to making it, where possible, a regular fixture for the Squadron). Next year will be a different story and the Squadron fully expects that some of the flashy silverware will be finding a new home in Colchester. Watch this space!

PROVISION OF CIVPOP FOR 1st BN RWF NI TRAINING (8 – 12 May 2001) – *by SSgt Hatton*

A composite Troop from the Squadron, the bulk of which was provided by C Tp, deployed to Stamford Training Area in East Anglia, over the period 8 – 12 May, to act as CIVPOP for The 1st Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers during their Pre-Op rural phase training as part of NITAT. The week started with Squadron personnel signing for cars and other equipment needed to act as good upstanding citizens (and potential trouble makers) in Northern Ireland. This included dummy shotguns, banners, flags and balaclavas.

The first serials started in the early hours of 9 May. Initially the CIVPOP was tasked with drive through VCPs and give the poor Fusiliers as hard time as possible – this presented little problem. Then things started to get a bit more serious as weapon and bomb parts were taken through the check points to test the Green Troops in the search techniques they had practised prior to the exercise during their in-house training. Other tasks included 'dicking' (observation of Green Troops) and actual shoots involving a four man ASU. The ASU was led by **Cpl Shaw** who had the misfortune of being caught after one of the incidents - needless to say he didn't get caught again!

C Troop (plus others) take on 1 RWF.....single handed

Despite playing back to back serials everyone managed to get quality suntans, due to the weather, and plenty of physical training done. Of particular note is OC C Tp, **Lt Toby Courage**, whose legs appear to be getting shorter from all the running he's been doing, or is just his backside getting bigger! The week ended in the traditional public disorder event (it wouldn't be CIVPOP without one). **Sig Dunseith** managed to come into his own on this occasion, managing to whip the crowd up into such a frenzy that things started to get very real. Not only where the wooden bricks thrown at the Fusiliers but also the metal bins they came in. The Army line just held but the 'soldiers' had to work hard to maintain its integrity. A number of CIVPOP did manage to penetrate the line but were eventually caught by the now very sweaty Fusiliers after some DS intervention.

EXERCISE SHLOSS ADLER (30 APR – 11 MAY 2001)

With the Foot and Mouth Disease epidemic continuing to frustrate the Brigade exercise programme, the Squadron has sought to conduct its own exercises designed to develop and maintain our key skills. To that end each troop conducted its own HF skills exercise under to title Ex Schloss Adler. With a base station at Colchester, various detachments were pushed out to locations all over the country in order to practice HF skywave skills. The exercise was mainly conducted using the Squadron's manpack equipment; namely PRC 320, PRC 319 and PRC 138 together with both Kipling and KL43C for data use. The exercise worked to a roster designed in such a way that, throughout the course of three days, each of the outstations would achieve results for a full 24hr period. Serials were sent using all radios with a variety of different antennas from horizontal dipoles to improvised antennae. The exercise proved a good opportunity for the Squadron to maintain and further develop its HF expertise. Such expertise is crucial for providing communications support to a Brigade which, by its very nature, tends to be spread out over a large geographical areas. The experience also proved invaluable to the newer members of the Squadron who have had little chance to work challenging HF skywave links.

EXERCISE LITTLE WING (30 APR – 3 MAY 2001)

Ex Little Wing took place in and around Colchester. It was organised and run by B Tp, but included instructors from 35 Sig Sqn, who brought with them a Switch and a Central. The overall objective of the exercise was to consolidate and improve the Ptarmigan expertise within the Squadron. Radio detachments with SCRA(T) access deployed throughout Essex and established back to the Central which was located in Colchester. Meanwhile all other Ptarmigan equipment was tested. The Squadron tends to get only fairly infrequent access to a switch and thus such opportunities to run up equipment are vital. Crews were able to obtain a good deal of hands on experience of the workings of a Switch, something that relatively few operators had previously had the chance to do. A SAS/MC and a Radio Relay were deployed to Woodbridge and Wattisham respectively and they also engineered comms back to the Colchester based switch. All the Squadron equipment was tested and for the crews the exercise was particularly important for maintaining trade skills and knowledge. Thanks go to 35 Sig Regt (V) for their support and we look forward to them hosting us in the future!

THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION VISIT (2 MAY 2001)

Representatives of the East Anglian Branch of The Parachute Regiment Association Visited the Squadron on 2 May. The Parachute Regiment Association is an organisation designed to bring together ex-servicemen and contains representatives who served in numerous past conflicts. The visit involved a brief on the nature and capabilities of the Brigade and 216 Sig Sqn in particular, a tour around the Squadron's historical room, a curry lunch in the Squadron bar and a chance to see Brigade TAC HQ.

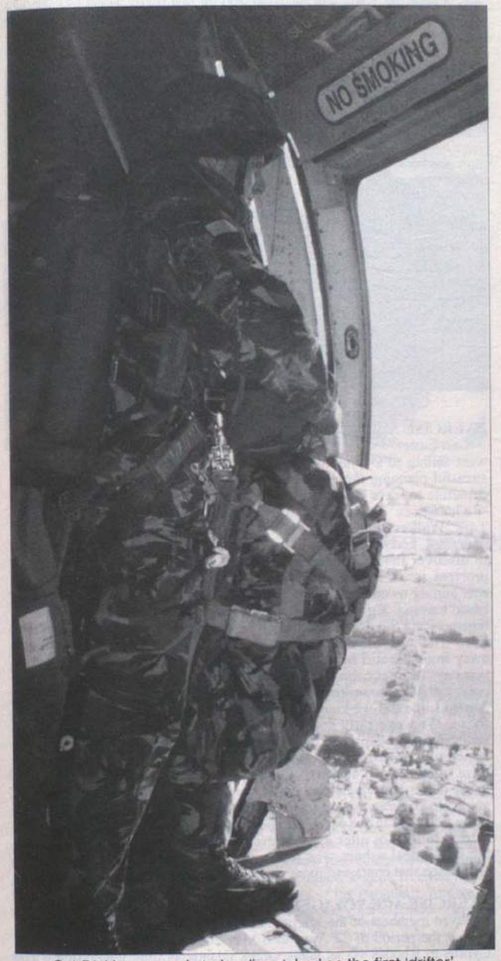
Members of the Parachute Regiment Association accompanied by Lt Toby Courage

The day was a great success and all the association members seemed to enjoy themselves greatly. Amongst those visiting the Squadron was one man who signed up 70 years ago, however, the association also includes Falklands veterans. It was fascinating to hear real life stories about past conflicts and experiences. We look forward to seeing members of the association for the Caythorpe Reunion in September.

FAREWELL TO MAJOR (QM) STEVE CLARKE GM QGM+BAR HIS LAST JUMP WITH 216 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron parachute trained personnel kitted (minus containers) and ready to emplane, Maj (QM) Steve Clarke GM QGM+Bar is kneeling ninth from the left.....dodge this one!

Maj (QM) Steve Clarke GM QGM+Bar leaves the Squadron for the final time in Jul to take up post as OC HQ Sqn at 2 Sig Regt, York. **Steve** has played an integral part in both 216 (Para) Sig Sqn of 5 (AB) Bde and the now 216 Sig Sqn of 16 Air Asslt Bde over a period that has spanned some seventeen years and has seen him as a Tp Sgt, RQMS, RSM and QM. More recently he helped managed the transition from 5 (AB) Bde to 16 Air Asslt Bde as the QM in 210 Sig Sqn, which subsequently became 216 Sig Sqn, with certain key assets moving from Aldershot. As the QM he has been heavily involved in maintaining links with the Old Comrades Association and has instigated the opening and, indeed, the contents of the new Squadron heritage room – The Drummond Room.



Sgt Dickinson ready to be dispatched as the first 'drifter'
'Are you sure that this door leads to the Tech Workshops?'

It was with his long service at 216 in mind that his 'departure gift' from the Squadron was decided. Despite having been parachute trained since 1984 he is not known for his love of parachuting and so it seemed rightly so that the original 'jump dodger' should have one last opportunity to jump with the Squadron. With the weather so clear in the build up period prior to the descent few could imagine that on the day the winds would be on the limits and would possibly result in the jump being cancelled. **Steve,** ever the optimist, had his fingers crossed but would not divulge what he was hoping for! Due to the weather beginning to turn for the worst it was announced that the jump would take place first followed by the two hours low-level in the Brecon Beacons, as opposed to the other way round. Those that have jumped before will realise the implications of this decision (needless to say far fewer sick bags were required).

The Squadron was split between two C-130's and would be dispatched in single sticks of six onto South Cerney DZ. This is certainly more appealing than an Airborne Task Force jump, which would be manifested onto approximately twelve C-130's with forty four man sticks dispatched from each side of the plane – thank god for small mercies! The scope for things to go wrong is massively increased as parachutists are dispatched from each side and the stick size increases. Before the fitting and checking of parachutes individual's containers (bergens packed for parachuting) were loaded onto the plane. The QM vaguely remembers packing a DPM bergen with 45lbs of weight but for some reason was handed a plain green bergen (although it had his name on it) from the back of the baggage truck. The weight had also increased to well over 80lbs… you just can't trust anybody these days… RSM! Once airborne the C-130's navigated straight for the DZ and at P-5 the 'drifters' (lone parachutists dispatched to establish the effect of wind direction on subsequent drops, of which the QM was the drifter for the second plane) were 'checked-off for equipment' and moved to 'action stations', i.e., stood in the door. As the plane approached the DZ the red light went and after a short pause the green light followed and out the drifters went. Forty-five seconds later **Sgt Dickinson** and the QM had landed and were making their way to the Squadron rally point for a beer and some champagne while the rest of the Squadron waited their turn to be dispatched. Unfortunately the winds were beginning to increase and only after a number of dummy runs could the dispatchers manage to get all accept the last sticks out (those left on the planes had to endure the two hours of low-level – nice).

After a number of particularly poor landings (all due to high winds!) those that had jumped centred on the Squadron rally DZ marker for a few beers and some champagne. At which point the QM gave his leaving speech and presented the Squadron with a framed commemorative linen produced by 3 Para Gp El-Gamil (Suez) Association to commemorate their operational parachute descent into El-Gamil. **Maj Steve Clarke** will be a tremendous loss to the Squadron; he embodies the very spirit and professionalism that all ranks should aspire to and it is with sorry hearts we see him depart from the Squadron for the last time.

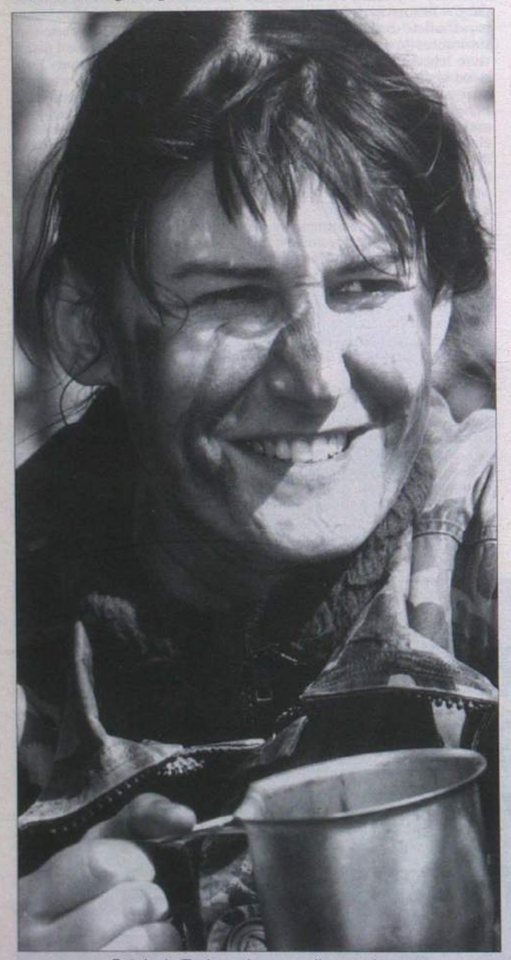
FUTURE EVENTS

The next two months should prove to be as hectic as ever for the Squadron. Ex Green Talon, a Brigade FTX, will take place in June and will involve the parachute insertion of both Lt TAC HQ and Brigade TAC HQ, as well as Medium Stress Platforms and a Heavy Stress Platform. Following this the Squadron is going on an adventure training package to Newquay at the tail end of June. The package will involve numerous activities including hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, orienteering, rock-climbing and, of course, surfing. July will see the Squadron's focus switch to Ex Eagle Strike, the major Brigade FTX of the year, which will practice the full range of air assault skills.

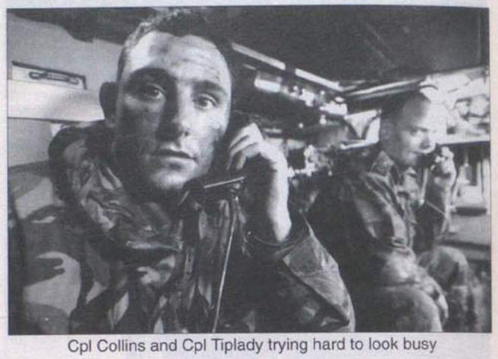
**MOVING OR POSTED?
DON'T FORGET TO LET
US KNOW OF ANY
CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

12 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (228)

Since April 2001 12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228) have been busy conducting various exercises in preparation for the coming trip to BATUS later in the year. As with all training during the recent months, foot and mouth disease tried its best to curtail the Squadron's activities. However, a little imagination and a lot of hard work by the Ops Team enabled the Squadron to overcome the foot and mouth restrictions and several exercises were run including Ex Ace Deal, Ex Ace High and a Squadron deployment to Blandford to practice Ptarmigan SOPs. Not only this but the Squadron was able to send two lucky people on Ex Ace Americana, a two week battle field tour to the USA to study the American civil war run by the Brigade HQ. Ex Ace Flush, progressed into CAST (S) during May and early June that involved a full Squadron deployment on to SPTA. The Squadron produced an excellent performance on CAST, which was the first time in a long time that a CAST had been conducted with the HQ deployed on to the plain. Our SOPs were verified and the newer members of the Squadron were bought up to speed with procedures. Most of the recent training has been geared for BATUS including NBC and transition to field firing led by the RSM and **SSgt** 'Dicky' **Dyer**. After this period we should be more than prepared for the big trip to Canada which, apart from the real thing, is about as exciting as it gets.



Sgt Josie Taylor enjoys a well earned rest



Cpl Collins and Cpl Tiplady trying hard to look busy

EXERCISE ACE VOYAGER I

Last Easter, six members of Bravo Tp and one member of Support Tp went sailing to Cyprus for two and a half weeks. After some incredibly stressful planning the group gathered at 0230hrs on the morning of the departure to leave for Brize Norton. The team consisted of **LCpl Gemma** 'Rover Queen' **Treen**, **Sig Gareth** 'Big' **Jones**, **Sig Gareth** 'No Cuff too Tuff' **Walker**, **Sig Andy** 'Wookie' **Stockdale**, **Sig Andy** 'Mini Me' **Marshall**, and **Pte Martin** 'All In Stew' **O'Brien**. We arrived in Cyprus to discover that our Yacht was not quite ready. This was not a great problem as our skipper was still in the UK. **Cpl Darren** 'Windy' **Gail** was joining us once we had prepared the boat and completed some shore based training. **Sig Walker's** blagging skills were put to the test acquiring transport and **Sig Jones** and **Pte O'Brien** conducted some (In)Competent Crew Training. Once we had assembled all the crew together, we sailed away from Akrotiri Mole to explore the Southern Coast of Cyprus. After two days of utter calm, we were beginning to chomp at the bit. You can only sunbathe for so long! (Or not at all if you are **Sig Stockdale** or **Sig Jones**) Little did we know what the Mediterranean weather had in store for us. We woke early one morning with the plan to put in a long day's sailing back to Paphos. The first leg of the journey went well, until we turned the corner of the western tip of the island. From that point on, we were fighting head on into a Force 7 wind and a Force 6 sea. Our little yacht didn't know what hit it and when ropes started to snap and sails started to come loose, we realised how challenging sailing could be. Our sailing holiday in the Med had suddenly turned arduous. Finally making it back to Paphos after a good few more hours than originally planned, the crew meal ashore was richly deserved. All in all, it was a good expedition that contained more surprises than we expected.

EXERCISE ACE VOYAGER II

Seven members of the Mighty Alpha Tp deployed on Ex Ace Voyager II over the period of 22 April to 6 May 2001. The aim was to sail from Cyprus to Rhodes via as many Greek Islands as time would allow. The Crew consisted of **Sigs** 'DF' **Fallows**, 'Casanova' **McGeorge**, 'Bad Boy' **Hide**, 'L2' **Cross** and 'Jim-Bob' **Brant** with **LCpl** 'Ladies' **Webster** as 2IC and **Lt** 'Bad Boss' **Dickson** as OIC Exped. The journey started off rather dubiously at RAF Akrotiri Mole when we found out that our boat had no floor, engine or sails (on the plus side it did have a leaky header tank full of vintage human waste). The crew did not let this get in their way and in true 'A Team' style managed to make a 56ft speedboat with twin cannons and inflatable cabin girls out of an old dustbin and a lawnmower engine. Back in the real world we repaired the 38ft Oyster Ketch under the expert direction of the Skipper **Sgt Martin** 'What the flip am I doing in Akrotiri' **Kendell** and **Lt** 'Filthy-Phil' **Drapper**. Once all supplies were on board the intrepid adventurers set sail. The first morning went a little like this;

1300hrs – We finally set sail for Rhodes. The sun is out, the harbour is calm and morale is at a premium.

1310hrs – The sun has gone in, the sea is choppy (and straight on the nose), morale is still high - we will not be beaten.

1320hrs – The wind is Force 7 / Gale Force 8, the boat is all over the place, the crew are hanging over the sides orally ditching rations – morale is…what the hell are we doing on this poxy boat?! (Congratulations to 'Jim-bob' **Brant** who was the first to be sick, closely followed by **Chris Webster** and **Andy Hide**.)

2330hrs – Arrive at Paphos half the men we started out as (The other half is down the side of the boat). We all fight in our attempt to get ashore. OIC exped swears he will never set foot in that boat again.

Not put off by this rather rude introduction to sailing we carried on to Rhodes via Paphos and Castelirizou. Once in Paphos we began a two-day R&R package. The Skipper and Navigator stayed on the boat whilst the Alpha Tp boys deployed to Falaraki. Everyone had an exceptional time participating in all the activities normally associated with R&R: Drinking, sleeping, sunbathing and enjoying the company of fellow tourists. The entire group was on best behavior and made the most of the run ashore. Although R&R activities remain highly confidential, special mentions go out to **Sigs Chris** 'I'll see if I can fit you in my schedule' **McGeorge**, **Dan** 'Why was that drink free... eeuuugghhh *DONK*!' **Fallows**, **Andy** 'do you give it large - *SLAP*' **Hide**, **Jim** 'I am watching you' **Brant**, **Paul L2** 'ooops my pin has fallen out - sorry' **Cross** and **LCpl Chris** 'Fonzey' **Webster**. The Journey back via Simi, Tilos, and Coral Beach (Cyprus) was outstanding. We had finally gained our sea legs and managed to get some good sailing in. There are several moments that we shall all never forget; Sailing next to a School of Paraplegic Cows, visiting the Titty-Twister and finally, the sensation we all had when we first let the sails down with nothing but the blue sea, warm winds and clear sky around us!

A Troop getting it large in the Titty Twister

12 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HQ AND SIGNALS SQUADRON FOOTBALL TEAM NEWS

On 1 May 12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228) football team turned out for the 4 Div Minor Units Cup Final at the Borden ground against ATR Winchester. They came as highly fancied favourites for lifting the cup after they had beaten 42 Engr Sqn who were the Army Cup Runners up. They incidentally had beaten us 5-1 in the Army Cup so we knew it wasn't going to be easy.

The game kicked off, and for the first 20 minutes we were pinned backed in our own half. We were only saved by some stout defending by **LCpl** Mac **McGonigle** and **WO1 (RSM) Steve Jackson** in his final game in the middle of the back four. Maybe his final game ever, who knows? After we had weathered the storm we eventually started to play some football. After a period of pressure, and a few long-range efforts, we eventually went ahead with **Cpl Joey Collins** dancing past the keeper to score from close in. Shortly before half time **Sgt Mark Watts** forced the keeper to make a good save with a long range effort which was too fierce to hold and **Cpl Joey Collins** was there again to knock the ball into the net from one yard. The second half once again started like the Alamo and we were defending for our lives, but again we survived after commendable defending by **Sig Phil Williams** and **SSgt Sam Parke**. We started to get back into the game when a penalty was won. **Joey Collins** claimed the honour and promptly sent the keeper the wrong way for his hat-trick. ATR Winchester then started to crack and their frustration was showing. As a result they had a player sent off, after a desperate attempt to head the ball out of the keepers hands. They had two or three attempts on goal that were all saved well by an in form **Cpl** 'Cozy' **Powell**. But the best was still to come! **Sig** 'Kav' **Kavanagh** broke down the right wing and cut the ball back in to the feet of the oncoming **LCpl Wayne Leach** who slammed the ball into the top of the net, ending the game as a competition.

A good time was had by all and we collected the first piece of silverware for the trophy cabinet from the CO of ATR Winchester. A special note should go to the outstanding performance of **Sig Phil Williams** at right back who was deemed the Managers Man of the Match.

238 (LONDON) SIGNAL SQUADRON

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Sqn Comd **Maj Ian Seraph**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Melanie Crowther**

This period is always the quiet before the storm of Ceremonial season for the Squadron. We have been developing our trade skills, learning the Lanward HF kit, so we can support 31 Sig Regt (V) on future deployments, their summer camp is in Cyprus! The Squadron also had six intrepid volunteers on the basic free fall parachute course, held at Netheravon JSPC. They were lucky enough to get two days of good jumping weather during the week long course and managed six jumps each, although none actually managed to get a free fall jump. **Sigs Toby Green** and 'Gibbo' **Gibson** competed hard for the title of worlds slowest parachute packer. **Toby's** lack of speed was probably down to his lack of enthusiasm for throwing himself out of a plane (he still did the six jumps though – courage or stupidity?), **Gibbo's** was just being **Gibbo**! **Capt Andy Wilson** resorted to excuses for why he failed to get a free fall jump in; He couldn't possibly be not good enough! – his parachute was very new, therefore stiff, which made grabbing the dumy handle much harder – that was his story anyway.

MIKE TROOP - *by Cpl Grills*

Tp Comd **Capt (TOT) Bob Nicol**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Andy Cannadine**

When I was asked to write the wire notes for the troop, my first reaction was ' Oh dash me and Tut', I said to myself. Being an FTRS Corporal (Oh, Ok a STAB then) that I wouldn't have anything interesting to write. Well, I have been here for three and a half months and I have a number of things I could say but the obscene publication act hasn't been repealed (no names no pack drill). Seriously, everyone has been very helpful even to a TA Corporal. I hope that by the end of my tour I will have been as helpful to them. My job in Mike Troop (Radio Section) has taken me to interesting places (read army-recruiting posters) and also done jobs that the TA wouldn't have a chance to do. I've enjoyed my time here and hope I've made some friends. Big welcomes to **Cpls** 'Big Baz' **Park** and **Lorraine Dorrien**. Sad goodbyes to **Sgts Cory Pennicot**, and **Chris Jacobs** who is off to sunny Cyprus, (It's rough at the top).

OSCAR TROOP

Tp Comd **Maj (Tfc) Carl Storey**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mandie Eardley**

Oscar Tp manning is now more or less a section and each time the inter-troop sporting competitions rear their ugly head panic sets in and the head hunting starts so basically anyone with legs and a pulse is borrowed and made a handbag for the day. The softball competition at Battersea Park was cancelled due to the English weather and Plan B was put into operation, this consisted of everyone going to the gym and playing basketball.

Oscar Tp was up first against Radio Tp and we were chomping at the bit to get stuck in. Our enthusiasm lasted all of five minutes as we came to the conclusion that we were pretty bad at basketball and defence, defence, defence was our tactics for the rest of the game. I won't mention the score, it was pretty embarrassing but the game was fast and lively and everyone enjoyed themselves running around like headless chickens. Next up was Mike Troop and we got our game together and even managed to score! With the duck broken, the game was a lot closer and some pretty good shooting from **LCpl Cath Young** kept us in the game for a bit. Everyone played out of their socks but Mike Tp were just too strong and we lost the game. Never mind we will be back for some serious rewengeee

On a gorgeous summers day 12 lucky people (including Tfc Offr) hurtled down the M25 to Chessington World Of Adventures, a theme park with a zoo (some members of the squadron are still there), various different zones and the occasional scary ride ,oh and not forgetting the log flume (never sit at the front). Most of the time was spent trying to win a miss piggy doll for **LCpl Ayesha** 'Wee Yin' **Mohammad** but we all failed miserably. Thankfully the queues were not as bad as usual but we all waited to get onto the Samurai ride. After that blood thumping, headache induced ride and being a typical soldier in HM Forces the majority of us all went to the local hostelry! A good day was had by all. However, I will take this little memory with me, **Maj (Tfc) Storey** who has spent his entire Army career doing scary things with the lads at Hereford, sitting in a little boat called Typhoon behind a five year old, as the ride was actually a kiddies ride.

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Andy Wilson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mark Brooksbank**

It's that time of year that everyone has been looking forward to (not) Ceremonial season. So break out the boot polish and Brasso to do those boots and kit and if you are lucky you may have some left over for any other parades or rehearsals which may crop up in the next few weeks. The Troop welcomes **Sig Main**, straight from training. Also congratulations to **Cpl Sean Childs** and wife on the arrival of the newest member of their family; baby **Eleana** (those many sleepless nights will come in handy practice for his Cpls course). We've said our good-byes to **Sig Lee Lester** after a swift attachment to the Glass House, we wish him and **Carol** all the best at 16 Sig Regt. **Sig Mags West** has also left us for sunny 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. The MT will not be the same without the white-knuckle rides that **Mags** always seemed to provide, good luck with the wedding.

The Londist Minor Units football cup finalists this year were 238 Signal Sqadron and No 7 Company Coldstream Guards. There was a good turn out of supporters who came to watch an interesting game. The first half was quite close with only one goal separating the two teams.

The second half was quite different. After conceding another couple of goals 7 Company put us under a great deal of pressure. To make matters worse our keeper came off his line and they took a shot at goal. The ball headed for the bottom right hand corner our 'courageous' captain, **Sgt Mark** 'It wasn't me' **Brooksbank,** dived for the ball, this would have been okay if only he hadn't used his hand to steer the ball clear of the goal. Not only that but he didn't even try to hide the fact and stood up with the ball in his hands, which gave the referee no alternative but to send him off. We never recovered from this and an untold amount of errors were made. **Sig Wayne** 'David James' 'Gibbo' **Gibson** also made an error, which resulted in another goal being conceded. He picked up the ball after an attack, as the rest of the team turned away and were pushing up the field a loud cheer was heard from the oppositions supporters, we looked round to see the ball in the back of our net. Apparently he dropped the ball and their striker took the opportunity to put the ball past the keeper to score, which was the final humiliation of the day. The final whistle was blown at the end of a very entertaining game and both teams to go up and collect their medals. On collection of our Keepers medal he raised it up in the air only to see it fall out of his hands and drop to the floor to the great delight of the crowd and players.

The next month or so will be quite busy for the Ceremonial contingency of the Squadron what with the Queen's Birthday, State visit, State Opening of Parliament, Garden Parties and Beating Retreat. So there is not much time to do anything else apart from the bulling of boots, polishing of medals and pressing of uniform. Not even time to fit in the watching of football and cricket.

243 SIGNAL SQUADRON

ARMY INTER UNIT VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

After scraping both a Ladies' and a Men's team together to take part in the 5 Div Competition on 1/2 March 2001 in Blandford, and with some tough opponents both teams went on to qualify for the Army championships held in Aldershot on 26/27 March 2001. We turned up nice and early so we could get some warm up training done. Looking at the opposition certainly on the male side it was apparent we needed it as there was only one other team that didn't have any Ghurkas in it and as we all know it is there national sport and they do have a passion for it. The male team played really well but unfortunately the Ghurka teams got the better of them and not even **LCpl** 'Legs' **Liddell** could fend those hits off. The ladies' team was first on the following morning playing Blandford and within the first set **SSgt Manktelow** got injured diving around for the ball and had to sit the rest of the day out. The girls played excellent with **Sgt Jackie Grimes** and **Sgt Joe Chapman** working brilliantly on the net. **Cpl Feet Sheeran** seemed to be more comfortable kicking the ball (however, it is legal now). Unfortunately we came away with no medals but everyone enjoyed the games and it looks like we will have them on the run next year after some training. Well done!

SUPERGAMES 2001

by SSgt Lindsey Manktelow and Sgt Paul Webster

Some six months ago **Sgt Paul Webster** was told by the Army Karate Chairman that they were having an overseas trip to New Zealand playing sport against other crown services such as the Navy, Fire service, Prison Service, RAF and the Police. He was asked if he would like to represent the Army in this the first competition of its kind. Of course he said, 'Yes,' and plans were set in motion to pay for the trip. **Paul** told me of the trip so I had a look on the internet and got some information sent over as it sounded a great opportunity. On looking at the brochure that displayed some 60 sports that were to be played I found the Volleyball package and thought right let's get the Army team over. After speaking to the Volleyball Chairman it was agreed it would be an ideal opportunity for a tour. We managed to convince eight volunteers to join us both male and female three of which were Royal Signals those being myself, **SSgt Steph Newton** and **Sgt Vikki Hawtree**. So the trip was going ahead!

The Volleyball team was following the Karate team out a day later and we set off on 28 March 2001 looking forward to a great holiday. It was amazing once we got there it was everything you would expect New Zealand to be like. The Karate Team set to work training immediately and had three training sessions per day much to their distress. The volleyball team however had better plans luckily for them beach Volleyball is excellent training so that's what we did and got a good tan in the process as well as some sightseeing.

The day arrived for the volleyball team to compete we got up nice and early put on our new Army tracksuits and job lot red bags were carried and off we went. The competition was awesome with some excellent standard of Volleyball being played luckily all that training paid off as the British Army walked away with Gold and are now ranked as International Crown Services Champions and the support of the Karate team was superb.

A few days later it was the British Army Karate Team's turn to come up trumps with the volleyball team supporting. It was amazing around 36 Gold medals were won with **Sgt Webster** kicking the only Russian competitors butt (and he was apparently a world champion at something) along with a few others. He achieved two Gold medals and a Silver. In all it was an extremely successful trip proving that the Army really can BE THE BEST!

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE MOBILE FORCE (LAND))

Sqn Comd **Maj David Hudson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Shean Dewar**

Although supposedly a quiet time of year the Squadron has managed to fill its days with all manner of things, ranging from recruiting support, inter-troop competitions and good old training. A job load of lads went over to Ede, Holland to complete an eight-week ISIS System Administrator training course. A few Squadron members took part in a short overnighter called Ex Lame Duck that comprised of a runway, pretend dodgy plane and then getting attacked by 'men in black'. It provided some excitement. Many preparations have started in the planning of the summer deployment out to Turkey in October later this year, starting with the Commanders Recce. This was attended by **WO2 (YofS) Kerr**, **WO2 (FofS) Holyoak** and the 2IC, **Capt Teri Downes**, lots of driving, hard work and eating of bread and olives (by the 2IC and FofS respectively). All three managed to get beasted into the ground by **Col Symonds** of G6 HQ AMF(L) when running around the Golf club grounds – just a tad undulating! Additionally several individuals in the Troops have taken the opportunity to get home for a few weeks on the Satisfied Soldier scheme and do their bit for Corps recruiting, well done gents.

A social highlight of the period was the Inter-Troop 7-a-side Rugby Competition that was won convincingly by SHQ (the team was strongly lead by the mighty new **WO2 (FofS) Coffey**). The majority of us, however, lazed in the beautiful sunshine trying hard to top up our suntans then filled our bellies with a wonderfully cooked Bar-B-Que. The whole event was organised in honour of the leaving SSM. **WO2 (SSM) Marsh** managed a short speech and gratefully received a pressie from the junior ranks – much appreciated gentlemen and women.

It must be a busy time at Glasgow as there have been many movements in and out of the Squadron. A generous welcome goes out to the fresh faced **WO2 (SSM) Dewar**, **SSgt (YofS)** 'Penfold' **Holden** (on promotion) and **WO2 (FofS)** 'Sexy Rugby Legs' **Coffey**. About time we got rid of the old and brought in the new! Welcome goes out to **Sgt Nuttall**, **LCpl Archer**, **LCpl Dransfield**, **LCpl Perry**, **LCpl Hewitt**, **Sig Smith** times two, **Sig Samson**, **Sig Sewell**, **Sig Morgan**, **Sig Spendlove** and **Sig Thompson**. A big welcome back to **LCpl** 'Saw the light Scottie' **Scott** returning from CIVDIV having only just left early last year and arms are open for **Cpl** 'Cabbie H' **Henderson** on FTRS from 51 Sig Sqn (V). A serious thanks and goodbye to **Cpl Stevie** 'Dam good PTI and all round good egg - bagnut' **Baigent**, **LCpl Brodie** and **Sig Tom Gamgee** off to CIVDIV. Others off to pastures new: **LCpl Karl Turner** 628, **Sig James** and **Sig Vaux**. A huge change in the Squadron hierarchy has occurred with three big players leaving us behind. **WO2 (SSM) Ken Marsh** off to 14 Sig Regt, **WO2 (FofS) Holyoak** to RSS, Blandford and **SSgt (YofS) Hughes** to HAC in London. Thanks for all the hard work, hope all goes well in your new jobs.

WHITHER 249? - *by Maj D. B. Hudson*

The speculation remains. 249 will move to Bruggen. 249 will move to Swanton Morley, to Catterick, to Colerne. Talking with ex-Officers

Commanding of the Squadron it is clear that there has always been a plan to move the Squadron. It is also clear that we have remained in Bulford for nearly 25 years, indeed we celebrate our 25th anniversary in November this year. The crystal ball remains clouded and there is no definitive answer. NATO's Immediate Reaction Task Force Land trial comes to a close in December and the NATO Force Structure Review reports early next year. Both of these will shape the future for the Squadron. On the immediate horizon we return to Norway for 3 months in 2002 and there are exercises in Poland and the Ukraine later that year to look forward to.

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON (AMF(L))
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING IN HOLLAND
by Cpl C. A. Galatin

In July 2000 seven members from the Squadron deployed to Ede, Holland to be trained as system administrators by the Royal Netherlands Army at their School of Signals. On arrival we really didn't know what to expect from the Dutch Army, perhaps people with long hair and beards smoking wacky backy would greet us? Thankfully our worries were laid to rest when we saw a soldier with bright blue hair and an earring stagging on at the main gate! Our initial brief before leaving England by **Sgt Frank** 'Where's my tash gone' **Baker** was to work hard throughout the week and to enjoy ourselves at the weekend, so as not to give the Dutch the wrong impression about us Brits! The first day of the course laid the foundations for the rest of time spent in Holland. The classroom was full of seven trainees who were bleary eyed and a little tired from the previous nights activities, as we endeavoured to sample the Dutch way of life, in the none herbal sense of the word.

The weeks passed quickly as we worked hard long hours trying to cram as much knowledge into our heads, knowing that the weekend would bring rest and relaxation! On these weekends we tried to visit as many of the historic areas near to us, these included The Para Museum in Arnhem, a trip to the last day of the Nijmegan Marches and of course the Van Gogh Museum in AMSTERDAM. However, several members of the course were like kiddies in a sweet shop as they strayed to some of the less respectable areas of the city to admire the beautiful glowing red lights. Whilst trying to build Anglo/Dutch relationships **Sig Dave** 'Flaming Zambuca' **Harris** managed to burn his entire lower face one night, this put a dampener on his liaison building as he then spent the next three weeks inside and telling us he had fallen over.

The course got more and more intense as the Dutch raised the tempo. By the end of the four weeks we had all become proficient in configuring servers and workstations in preparation for any AMF(L) deployment. A second course has since been to Holland and the squadron now has 15 trained system administrators, and as can be expected there are plenty of candidates for the third course!

EXERCISE HILL TOP TROT 2001 – *by LCpl A. G. Huggett*

Exercise Hill Top Trot was a seven-day map reading and navigation exercise held in the highlands of Scotland from the 22 – 29 May 2001. After some hectic re-scheduling due to the foot and mouth crisis we set off for sunny Scotland on the morning of the 22nd. The lengthy journey to Kinlochleven was very scenic for **LCpl** 'Nugget ' **Huggett**, especially as he did all the driving while **Sig Dan** 'Route Selection' **Crumbley** and **Sig Kerr** slept off a well deserved hangover after a brief overnight stay in Middlesborough. After arriving late evening on the 23rd we got **Sig Kerr** to talk to the locals and get us some supplies for the following weeks training. **Sig** 'Scottie' **Kerr** had no problem speaking the language and did very well with the supplies. The training went very well, the weather was perfect which contributed much to the ease of map reading (no challenge there then!). On the second day after reaching a spot height I asked **Sig** 'Route Selection' **Crumbley** what way he would like to take us down the mountain. Two hours later, after climbing down a 800m rock face, he agreed that perhaps that it wasn't quite the best and easiest way to get down! Overall, the exercise went very well and thanks go out to **YofS (TD) Hughes** for getting us the training clearance at such short notice and **Sgt Tony Pinder** Royal Marines for looking after everyone at Kinlockleven. I'm afraid there are no gory photos to bless you with, maybe next time!

251 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj John Oakes**

Welcome to the squadron to **Cpl Russ Craig** who is posted from 39 Inf Bde. Unfortunately he has arrived during the wettest spring in years. Farewell to **Cpl Roy** 'I run with the girls' **Hanbidge** who is posted to 4 Armd Bde, and **LCpl Jules Dolan** who is in Blandford retrading. Our congratulations to **Sgt Pam Mitchell** for coming off the Staff Sergeant Board, and to **LCpl Brendan McIlduff** for making the grade on his Class 3 PTI course.

CORPS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
21 SIGNAL REGIMENT COLERNE 31 JANUARY 2001

251 Sig Sqn sent an exceptionally strong team this year, no doubt helped by the arrival of **LCpl Davies.** All team members had undertaken a rigorous twelve-week training programme and had abstained from pies and alcohol throughout the festive period. The Female Team consisted of **Sgt Pam Mitchell, Sgt Fran Poulson, LCpl Jules Dolan** and **LCpl Ruth** 'Crystal Tips' **Harkness**. The male team consisted of **WO2 (SSM) Gary Smith, Cpl Mark Sheath, Cpl Andy** 'I feel sick', **LCpl Mark** 'My feet hurt' **Igo** and **LCpl Steve** 'Just one more cigarette' **Davies**. Both teams acquitted themselves excellently. The Male Team, although competing in the Minor Units category, managed to shame a Major Unit by beating them. Some comment was heard afterwards about the superior standard of other units transport.

EXERCISE WINTER WARRIOR
14-28 FEBRUARY AND 14-28 MARCH - HOCHFILZEN AUSTRIA
by LCpl Davies

The Squadron sent four members on Ex Winter Warrior this year. **Sgt Pam** 'Skigodess' **Mitchell** and **Cpl Roy Hanbidge** attended the first course that was an intermediate standard course. **LCpl Mark** 'Sleep outside' **Igo** and **LCpl Steve** 'Bambi on ice' **Davies** attended the later basic course. All four passed their respective courses with **LCpl Davies** surprising everyone, not least myself, by being put forward for his Alpine Silver award. Normal service was resumed however when I finished the course with the Bronze award.

The quality and depth of the snow at Hochfilzen was, not unexpectedly, poor and the situation worsened at the beginning of the second week. Foutunately the course was flexible enough for us to be moved to Stein Platte, 45mins up the road. The conditions there were far better and we even had some blizzards, the first snow we had seen in the ten days we had been there. The skiing at Stein Platte was excellent with plenty of good red runs and a superb black mogul run, which saw off the majority of people on the course. Surprisingly there were no limbs broken during the fortnight and only one hospital visit for a minor leg injury, which I am denying any involvement in. The course was notable for beating the previous record for people in a train on the slide at the local pool with 32 people, seven better than the previous record. The management of the pool failed to understand the importance of this achievement and an understanding was reached that saw the course having an earlier than planned tea.

The journey back was a lively affair with at least two more showings of Ghost, Dirty Dancing twice and we all lost count of how many times Grease was on. Eventually someone wrested control of the video from the girls at the front of the bus.

PHOTOGRAPHS

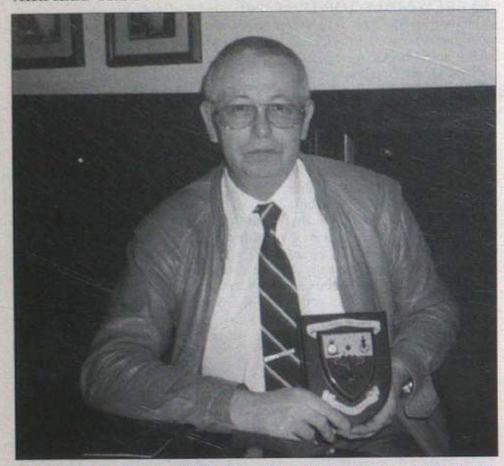
Please do not ask for photographs sent for publication in **The WIRE** to be returned, unless they are really irreplaceable.

Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing photographs which cannot be replaced.

Contributors should also be aware that unless digital photos are saved to disk at a minimum of 300 dpi mono and 400dpi coloured, they will not be used.

259 SIGNAL SQUADRON

AIRFIELD TROOP



Mr Alan Taylor, an old boy from Airfield Troop, who visited during February. **Alan**, who now lives in Burnage Manchester and owns a pub called *The Sun in September*, came to see how things had changed at Akrotiri. Going out on a faults crew he soon found that the fundamentals don't change and he enjoyed his trip around the station that he had not seen since he left in 1974.

HODGESON SHIELD RUGBY – *by Sig G. Prigmore-ski*

On 2 April 2001, members of 259 Sig Sqn picked up a rather round rugby ball and went head to head against each other in what was promised to be the grudge match of the week. The four teams including SHQ lead by **SSM Tredwell**, EPI Tp with their leader **Sig Witty**, Dhekelia Tp with no apparent captain and of course AFD Tp, lead by **Sig Gav** 'I'm not vain at all but how's my hair' **Prigmore-ski.**

It was a promising start for all Troops except Dhekelia who didn't win a match and limped of the field after the first game. SHQ's team (which included members from anywhere other than SHQ) put up a valiant effort for a bunch of OAP's which paid off when they won, on a technicality mind you, (they scored more the most). The modest AFD Tp (under **Gav Prigmore-ski**), who were visciously robbed of the title for a little misdemeanour that upset the referee, even though **Gav Prigmore-ski** had trained the side so well. All in all it was a good day apart from all the troops parading at the med-centre the next morning. Never mind lads, heads up, only eleven months and three weeks and you'll all be back out there, or have biff chits in hand?.

We would also like to welcome **SSgt Danny Cain** and family to the Troop from Paderborn, and say cheerio to **Sig James Milevski-hoof**, who's off to JCUNI, and not forgetting **FofS Neil McGregor** whose looking forward to some time in sunny Blandford. Congratulations are in order for **Cpl** (soon to be Sergeant) 'Cow' **Paterson** for passing the RSJCC. Unfortunately 'Cow' Pat is still missing presumed dead, last seen taking a wrong turn in Pond Bottom on exercise.

DHEKELIA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Colin** 'George' **Alexander**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Sean** 'Taff' **Bryant**

DEPARTURES

A fond farewell and good luck to **Sig Lynn** 'Mrs Bate' **Marshall** off to Civvy Street in Aldershot, where she shouldn't have any trouble getting work. Also **Sig Matthew** 'Hoop (basket ball) warrior' **Stables** on his posting to Ireland, good luck to the both of you. Also soon to go is **Sgt Ritchie** 'internet geek' **Musgrove** and **Cpl Brent** 'skin' **Readhead**, but there only going as far as Epi Troop but good luck anyway.

ARRIVALS

A warm welcome this month to new boys **Sig Jim** 'Who you looking at?' **Wright** from 3Bde NI, **Sig Kieren** 'Gary Glitter' **Johnson** from 1Div Germany and **Sig Wayne** 'Where am I, what am I, who am I?' **Davies** coming straight from the factory. Hope you all enjoy your tour's and manage to fit a bit of work in. Also a warm Troop welcome to **LCpl Colin** 'Stress Head' **Simpson's** wife and daughter, **Becky** and **Kirsty**.

PROMOTIONS

Well done to **SSgt Sean** 'Taff' **Bryant** on coming off the WO2 board, more worrying is the fact he appears to be going through a midlife crisis and is now sporting a short young person haircut and his first tattoo, very worrying indeed. Speaking of worrying behaviour **Sgt Tony** 'I'm in love' **Cecil** has been acting weird lately what with his frequent visits to the welfare officer, who happens to be a lady.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Well done to **Sig Gareth** 'Welsh Romeo' **Davis** and **Sig Chris** 'Your name's not down your not coming in' **Hodgson** on their bid to improve east west relations and make the world a safer place to live. Another well done to **Mr Terry** 'Eric Clapton' **Brice, Mr Simon Dunn** and **Mr Graham MacDougall** on recently completing an FA coaching course, maybe the Bitsa team might win for a change. A congratulation must also go out to **Sig Kye** 'Trocadero Margarita' **Topping** who recently got engaged while on leave and also got the tour extension he was after. Cheers also to **Cpl Brent** 'Psycho' **Readhead** and **Sig Wayne** 'That'll be the floor again' **Davies** on their attempts to ingratiate the Troop upon the Cheshire's, well done lads. Congratulations must go to **LCpl Tom** 'Posh Honey Monster' **Cockerill** for having the largest nork's on the Island. A get well soon to **Mr Terry** 'El Mariarchi' **Brice** after your little bit of pugilism in the local club.

Welcome back to **LCpl Sid** 'Tech' **James** and **Sig Ben** 'Mech' **Tierney** from the ISDX course they have just completed. A special congratulations is due to **Sig Ben** 'The Cranium' **Tierney** for coming higher than **LCpl Sid** 'Demolition Derby' **James** on a Tech Course. Yet us Mech's are still only on the low pay band. Strange but true? An 'about time' must go out to **LCpl Gordon** 'Odd Ball' **Pyrah** and crew for finally finishing the test hut rewire, well nearly finishing, and only two weeks behind schedule, great work fella you've done us proud. Last but by no means least a hello to **Cpl Jim** 'What no car?' **Stocks** in the sunny Falkland Islands on his double tour that he bizarrely volunteered for. I mean, what sane person would rather stay there than in sunny Cyprus, mind you at least it meant I didn't have to go so cheers mate. I'll get you a beer in for that when you get back.

In case the rest of the Troop feel left out here's a quick hello to them all, **Sgt Ritchie** 'I was an AT Sgt Major me' **Avery, Sgt Tony** 'I'll be walking everywhere for a while' **Cecil, Sgt Stu** 'I've got to be in by 7pm' **Foster, Sgt Si** 'nee Hulland' **Nicholson, Cpl Graham** 'The Wedge' **Dorwood, Cpl David** 'Mac' **Macullam, Cpl Kurt** 'Foggarty' **Molden, Cpl Hugh** 'Hefner' **Taylor, LCpl Piers** 'I want to be a PTI me' **Daw, LCpl Dave King, LCpl Chris Rowland, Sig Steve Baxter, Sig Daniel Bishop, Sig John** 'trocadero special' **Dent, Sig Ben** 'the flash' **Mitchell** and **Sig Andy Pyle**. The notes this month were compiled by the ever brilliant, always cool **Cpl Gaz** 'The big red fat controller' **Watson**. The wittiest and funniest man ever to walk this Earth and a top geezer to boot.

PS. See you all in the bar.
PPS. I'm wasted in this job me.
PPPS. Oh yeah, **Cpl Hogg's** gone to Germany.

EPISKOPI TROOP – *by LCpl Reade*

Epi Tp being the sport-billy troop of the Squadron has had an eventful last month with seven of the Troop entering the 12SU Walkabout Competition. In the worst weather, with ferocious thunderstorms all day, we all completed the arduous long distance orienteering event and **Sig Campbell's** team nearly won. Another event was the Cyprus all island sevens rugby competition which yet again our Troop represented the Squadron and did better than we thought, but no medals. On a sadder note we would all like to wish all the best to our departing line sergent, **Sgt** 'ANT' **Tranter** as he's leaving us to go to civvie street and a normal life, good luck in whatever you do mate.

259 JNCO CADRE COURSE 2001 - *by LCpl 'Rock' Hudson*

This month has been eventful in 259 Sig Sqn, for the Junior NCOs'

1 Section in action

and Signallers, with a gruelling cadre course organised by **Lt Covey-Crump**. During the one-week course we split into three sections comprising of:

Section 1. **Sig** 'Welsh Gwa' **Le Cras**
Sig 'Swat' **Tierney**
Sig 'Taff' **Davis**
Sig 'Mint Cake' **Kendall**

Section 2. **Sig** 'Kenny' **Campbell**
Sig 'Gurkin' **McGurk**
Sig 'Bonus Boy ' **Baxter**
LCpl 'Richie' **Berry**
LCpl 'Campy' **Varley**

This is not a holiday shot!
The island in the background contained an ammo box, which had to be retrieved, good job we had our swimming cozzies

Section 3. **Sig** "Ship Cat" **Wells**
LCpl "Rock" **Hudson**
LCpl "Twitch" **Fell**
LCpl "Fossie" **Foster**
LCpl "Taff" **James**

The action packed course was split down into three parts. First of all was the lessons phase where in the morning we were beasted half to death by **Sig Prigmore** including log runs and circuits. After that we were put in a classroom and taught about characteristics of a leader and preparing for our own lessons. After all the theory it came round to giving our own lessons on various subjects eg. **Sig Le Cras's** basic Welsh lesson teaching us chat up lines and how to order a pint.

Sig Kendall tried to remember his newly gained navigational skills and wondered whether the fence meant he had gone too far!

The second phase consisted of a 15 mile yomp around the Airfield in Akrotiri, interspersed with six (very!) welcome breaks at Command Task posts. The day proved to be taxing both physically and, more often than not, mentally!

Enthusiasm and moral was at a high as Sig Wells and Sig Le Cras were convinced the command task was impossible

2Lt Milner's dog Megan/Bob proved to cause more trouble than the command tasks!

The third phase was a more hands on practical 36-hour exercise that had night recces, section attacks and first aid tests included.

Capt Alexander and Sgt Cecil don't quite get the hang of the lessons they taught!

The enemy play an active role!

The course insertion by helicopter provided an initial morale boost that was soon destroyed by a delightful stretcher race…oops CASEVAC. Individuals were assessed throughout on their command and leadership potential with **Sig Tierney** finishing top overall. The best Section overall was Section 3, winning a crate of beer, nice one!

Sig Tierney – The lean green fighting machine

FURTHER NOTES FROM 259 SIGNAL SQUADRON AIRFIELD TROOP

Tp SSgt **SSgt Danny** 'I love PT' **Cain**

Airfield Tp would first like to say good luck to **Sig** 'Howard' **Kendall** and his new wife **Stacey** and hope that they enjoy their new life as pads on RAF Akrotiri. There have been a few new arrivals in the mighty fighting Airfield Tp, including our new **SSgt Danny** 'I love PT' **Cain** and **FofS Owen** 'Where's my T shirt?' **Leyland**, we hope they all enjoy the sunshine posting. We would also like to say goodbye to **Lt Sarah Covey-Crump** heading off to Germany as she now leaves the Troop with no women in it what so ever. Also, a goodbye to **Cpl Danny Rudd** as he leaves for 30 Sig Regt, we are sure he will fit in with the non-stop brew drinking attitude of the Telemechs at 30 Signal Regiment. Tennis was the order of the day on 14 May in the form of a Squadron tennis competition, although almost all of the Squadron were more interested in the strawberries and cream than the sport itself. Ex Young Drive set out to prove the skills of the Airfield drivers with **Sig Kendall re**-writing the Highway Code and showing all the other drivers that it is possible to go round the roundabouts in any direction. Credit where credit is due, however, he has doubled the Airfield Troop Trophy cabinet by adding a fine wooden spoon. We would now like to wish good luck to the Troop members taking part in the upcoming sporting events, a football cup final and the International Akrotiri rugby tens, because everybody knows that 259 Sig Sqn is nothing without the mighty fighting Airfield Troop!

DHEKELIA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Colin** 'George' **Alexander**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Sean** 'George Clooney' **Bryant**

NEWS IN BRIEF

This month has been a quiet one for the troops at the sharp end of the Island. Dhk Tp won the Squadron driving competition with ease, thanks to the driving skills of **Mr Terry** 'El Tel' **Brice, LCpl Martin** 'Baggy' **Bagshaw** and **Sig Chris** 'C and H' **Hodgson. Sig John** 'Trocadero Boy' **Dent** also did well in the individual night drive with some expert parking skills! Courses completed this month include a data comms course, which was attended by **Capt Colin** 'George' **Alexander**, good to see him trying to improve his trade skills. **LCpl Tom** 'Vanessa' **Cockerill** and **Sig Gareth** 'Fault Installer' **Davis** also attended the same course. A special congratulations must also go to **LCpl Dave** 'Polly PE Pants' **King**, **Sigs Daniel** 'Chewbacca' **Bishop, Chris** 'Podium Dancer' **Hodgson, Ben** 'Speedy' **Mitchell, Ben** 'Gwar Lapper' **Tierney** and **Andy** 'The Count' **Pyle** on completion of their confined spaces course. Due to the troops hard work **SSgt Sean** 'Peak Condition' **Bryant** decided that some adventure training was needed and promptly got himself on a diving course. The rest of the Troop still thinks that he is too old to apply to join the SBS! **Cpl David** 'Mac' **McCallum** also enjoyed himself recently on a Kayak course, putting that much effort in that he bust a rib. The Troop would like to say goodbye to **Sig Baxter.** Good luck on his new posting in Epi Tp. Also a big congratulations must go to **Sig Gareth** 'Shotgun' **Davis** on his upcoming east-west marriage. Good luck to you and **Zena**. The guys in the Line Section would also like to welcome back **Cpl** 'Big Red' **Watson.**

EPISKOPI TROOP

The Summer is on it's way here in Cyprus, and the tourists are arriving in their thousands. A busy month for the Episkopi Tp which began with the arrival of an 8lb 7oz bundle of noise for **Sgt Dave Street** and **Helen**. Welcome to the Troop **Grace Alice Street**. I'm sure you'll be learning basic drill on the same day you learn to walk. Still on new arrivals, welcome to Cyprus **Sig Mark Finlay, Cpl Danni Tuton** and **Cpl Pete Sorrell**. None of them wasting any time in their familiarisation drills of the Limmasol Nightlife. Welcome also to **Sig Baxter** following his transfer to our Troop. A huge farewell goes out o **Robert** 'Rab' **Russell** after six years in the Troop. He's off to a sunny place we've heard of called Scotland. We wonder if **Carl Tindall** and **Sgt Pete Szeremeta** have been poached to work at MNCP for their technical knowledge or the fact that their sports skills are now in the hands of SHQ troop for the Hodgson Shield, more on that in a moment.

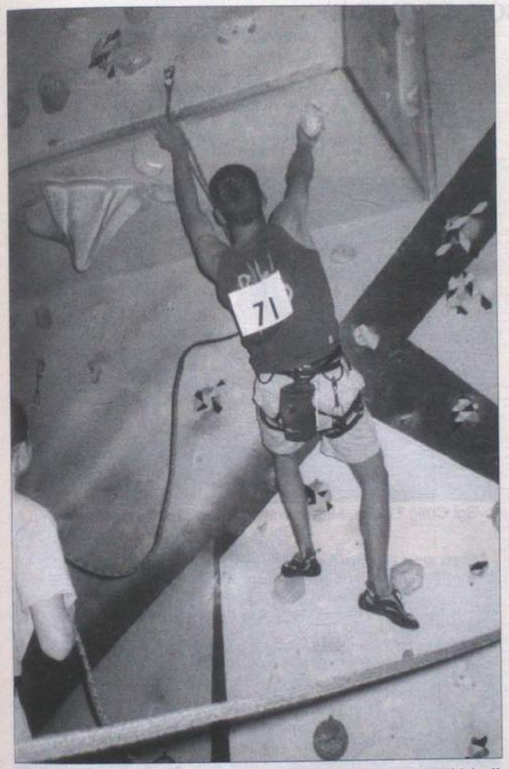
Now it's time for some Medical News. Congratulations to **LCpl Phil Parish** on his successful operation of a delicate nature, and **LCpl Dan O'Connell** for finally undergoing the dreaded snip. On a more serious note, we all send our best wishes to **Sig Mark Witty** who won't be returning to the Troop before being posted to Blandford. He is currently laid up in England, his leg in plaster following a routine rugby tackle, good luck **Mark**. Speaking of Rugby, good luck to the 259 Vipers who, as I write this, are giving their all in the Akrotiri 10's. Epi Tp failed to win the Winter Compendium so I won't write about that, but the Hodgson Shield Basketball and Volleyball takes place on the 30th so hopefully I'll have better news next month.

Exercise Young Drive 2001 provided a good day fuelled with tension and inter-troop competition. Despite a team from Dhekelia winning, Teams from Episkopi Tp came home in second, third and fifth place to give us overall victory. Following this, the next week we were back in the driving seat in the Island wide Exercise Safe Drive. **Cpl John Mercer, LCpl Phil Parish** and **LCpl Paul Fox** drove vehicles from Go-Karts to huge Cranes. They passed more cones than an Ice-cream man at Skegness. Their best event was a 90km night drive across the bondoo collecting letters along a set route. Congratuations to **LCpl Phil Parish** (Third mention this month – that's a bell ring!) who is officially the fourth best driver on Cyprus! We wish we could say the same for **LCpl Scott Varley** who defied the laws of gravity and rolled the Radio Section's beloved Izuzu Twin Cab. Well done to **LCpl Dan Reade** and **Sig George Forman** who managed 15 jumps on their parachute course. **George**, now believing he can fly, learnt his lesson on a bungee jump with no bungee into the sea down at Happy Valley - silly boy. A final word goes to **Sig Will Le Cras** and **Sig George Forman** who are this month's winners in the block car crashing competition. Who will be next?

1 KORBR AND 259 SIGNAL SQUADRON ARMY CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2001

On 3 May 2001 two teams from 1 KORBR and 259 Sig Sqn left RAF Akrotiri to journey to deepest darkest Wales in order to compete in the Army Climbing Championships 2001. The teams consisted of **Capt Peter Kay, Lt Darren Graves, 2Lt Kate Milner, Sgt John Newman, Bdr Joe Cawood, Pte Mark Stevens, Sig Peter Goddard** and **Sig Phil Harris**. The one-day event was held in the Welsh International Climbing Centre in Cardiff and consisted of four categories: VS, HVS, E1 and E2. Each person entered as an individual in his or her respective categories, as well as taking part in the team event.

The day of the competition kicked off with the Very Severe (VS) Category. **2Lt Milner, Sgt Newman, Bdr Cawood, Pte Stevens** and **Sig Harris** all were entered in this event. In total there were 50 competitors and so the decision was made to make the route harder and put the people who made the top of the route into the next category up. **Sgt Newman** and **Sig Harris** had obviously underestimated themselves as they flew to the top of the route. The other three pinged just before clipping into the top of the route saving them from the HVS category, but putting them in the top 12 and hence the VS final. All the competitors in the final reached approximately the same height but **2Lt Milner** and **Bdr Cawood** managed a couple of inches further and won the Regular Army VS and the TA VS categories, respectively.



The next event was the Hard Very Severe (HVS) category, in which all other members of the team competed. Once again, the initial round was a very closely fought event, consisting of approximately 40 competitors. **Capt Kay** and **Lt Graves** both reached the top section of the route, narrowly missing out on a place in the finals. **Sig Goddard** and the two who were initially in the VS section, **Sgt Newman** and **Sig Harris**, valiantly fought off the competition and found themselves in the final. All three members of the team did incredibly well, coming away with a third place, **Sig Goddard**, and a fourth place, **Sig Harris**.

Finally the team from the KORBR entered in the overall team competition. This consisted of a speed climb up two routes, touching as many of the numbered tags as possible. Each competitor had to climb both routes as many times as possible in order to gain the most points. The team made a valiant effort and came a very creditable sixth out of eighteen, in a very hard fought competition. All in all, the two teams had an excellent championships. All the training in Cyprus took place on a wall a third of the size of the one in Wales, and, unlike the other entrants, we had never seen the routes before. Despite these underlying factors we came away with two first place awards, and six out of the eight team members reached the final of their category. Not bad for six weeks training!

EXERCISE YOUNG DRIVE 2001
EXERCISE REVIEW

by LCpl Paul Fox - Team Captain, The Ant Hill Mob
(Overall Runners up)

Any competition within the Squadron will always raise rivalry between the different Troops, but in the case of Ex Young Drive, the competitive spirit was fuelled to a new level by the fact that each Troop put in three teams. Within Epi Tp, tensions were running high prior to, and during the event with each team convinced it was going to win. It was obvious this was going to be a good day. Below, are a few words on each of the stands from the eyes of the 'Ant Hill Mob'.

The Surprise Stand: Being the first team to face the surprise stand, we had no idea what to expect. A driving test was the last thing on our minds and the nerves quickly set in. Everybody considers themselves a good driver, but it's a different story under exam conditions when years of bad habits stand out like a soar thumb. Our team had mixed results from this event but we all agreed how difficult it was to be put under the spotlight once again. It makes you think!

First Parade Inspection: This stand represented another thing that we do every day and once again asks the question, 'Are we good at it?' We were obviously extra careful not to miss anything out on the Land Rover and the 'Ant Hill Mob' did okay here. The lesson to be learnt here is if we can do that good a job of it on the competition, then are we that thorough every day with the vehicles at work? A good stand.

MT Documents: We found this stand to be more of a training session than a test. Not only were we filling in the daily part of the works ticket but completing at the end of a month. I personally came away from this stand having learnt a lot more about works tickets.

Highway Code Test: A little common sense was required here as we sat at the Laptop and answered 35 questions from the Highway Code. Most were straight forward, given some thought, but a few were quite taxing and required debating to reach the correct answer. The 'Ant Hill Mob' wanted to appeal one of our wrong answers, but as **Cpl Mercer** pointed out, The CD ROM is a DVLA one and he didn't write the questions. Who were we to argue?

RTA Scene: This stand was probably the most feared by all teams. It gave the biggest opportunity to mess up the most. Nobody wanted to do badly here. We decided that I would control traffic and ring for help whilst the over two dealt with the casualty(s). Our plan took a back seat from the start, as we couldn't find the casualty who was walking around with a head injury. This turned out to be our lowest score as we fumbled with the injured man and carried out other procedures in the wrong order. But the important thing was that we learnt the correct way to deal with this situation should we come across it in the real world.

FMT 3 Documents: After completing the RTA stand we then followed it up by filling out the actual forms that we would use had it of been us that crashed the car. Hopefully something that we never would have to do. You'd think that it would be easy filling in boxes like, 'name', 'time of accident'. But given the short space of time we had, it proved to be more challenging than first thought. As the last thing on the form was the sketch, these got quite interesting as our time ran out.

Light Vehicle Manoeuvring: Disappointingly, only one member of the team was allowed to drive on this stand. However, the other two helped by guiding the driver from the outside and he negotiated a trailer through various obstacles. Even under the extra pressure of having a video camera recording our every move, the 'Ant Hill Mob' walked away with full marks.

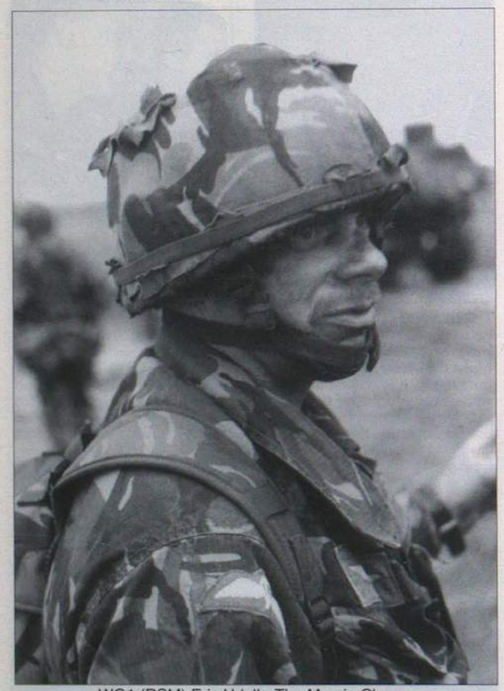
LGV Manoeuvring: Our final stand, and one that we knew we had to do well on to stand a chance of winning the competition. This required good teamwork as our chosen driver controlled a 4 tonne truck in and out of cones whilst blindfolded. It got quite frustrating as our driver was receiving instruction from all angles. To make matters worse, we were being timed, also without his vision, and all that vibration, the driver couldn't even tell when he was moving. An average score marked the end of the competition as we drove back to the Jimmy club to await the results, but not before we all had a go in that Bedford.

After talking to other teams, it is quite obvious that every one had a good time and learnt something from the exercise. The rivalry between teams within the troop and the squadron makes any competition fun, and to learn about something as important as MT and road safety can only be a good thing. The only negative point that I heard about the day was that there could be more actual driving, but people understand that manpower and resources are limited. However, this point did not spoil a good day. 'The Ant Hill Mob' will return next year and the competition won't see us for dust!

101 LOGISTIC BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS & SIGNAL SQUADRON (261)

Sqn Comd **Maj M. Baines**
RSM **WO1 C. J. Udell**

With the second birthday of the Squadron fast approaching, the unit remains at continuous high readiness and is heavily committed supporting the HQs of both 101 and 102 Logistic Brigades. The Squadron paraded together on 18 May for the final time before the start of the deployment to Ex Saif Sareea II with 102 Logistic Brigade HQ. The RSM drilled the troops for the No2 Dress parade that went very well. This was followed by a photograph at the Wellington Memorial where the RSM was allegedly seen earlier, levelling the trees with a chainsaw!



WO1 (RSM) Eric Udell - The Man in Charge

The first sitreps are arriving from Oman sent by **Foreman Sue Spencer** and the second tranche has deployed on RAF deluxe airlines loaded down with sun-tan lotion and insect repellant. As this goes to press one third of the Squadron is supporting enabling tasks in Salalah and Thumrait and the remainder deploy to Oman in July. Congratulate **SSgt Joe Crowe MBE** on the award of his MBE for service in Northern Ireland appointed in the recent Operational Honours List. Congratulations also to the OC, **Maj Mark Baines** and his wife **Jo** on the birth of their fourth child, **Oliver**.

IS OPERATORS
SO2 CIS **Maj** 'Tommy' **Baldwin**
SNCO **SSgt Al Harris**

261 Sig Sqn IS Team deployed on Ex Lucky Sentinel, a coalition exercise involving the US and Kuwait armed forces in Kuwait in support of 101 Logistic Brigade Headquarters. The team consisted of **SSgt** 'Mr MS Office' **Harris, Sgt Craig** 'Where's my Cisco course?' **Elsdon** and **Cpl Andy** 'ATacCS solitare support team' **Monger**, under the leadership of **Maj** Tommy 'I'm slowly trying to round off all the edges of my car' **Baldwin**, SO2 G3 CIS.

Sgt Craig Elsdon, Maj Tommy Baldwin, Cpl Andy Manger and SSgt Al Harris

At no great expense the team provided an NT LAN, interfacing with the American CLAN, using commercial IT equipment and carried out a trial of what's left of the ACSAS software package. Although extremely busy the team took the opportunity to get around some of the Gulf war locations including the Tank Boneyard and Kuwait City in an American Blackhawk Helicopter. We quickly learnt that the American Colonels do not understand our sense of humour – not a first for us!

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Cas Wootten**
Tp Sgt **SSgt Joe Crowe MBE**

New arrivals at the Troop of the glorious 261 Sig Sqn are **LCpls Jez Skelhorn** and 'Scotty too Hotty' **Steel** from 21 Sig Regt (AS), **LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robertson** from 7 Sig Regt and **LCpl Tom Beerling** from 30 Sig Regt. We also have **Sigs Liam Frater, Ben** 'Night-Prowler' **Lightowler, Colin Corry, Mick Keating, Steve Durose** and **Rob** 'I am not going on holiday' **Gilbey**.

FOOTBALL – *by LCpl Skelhorn*

The first season for 261 Sig Sqn started slowly but after some vigorous training we got a good squad together and started winning some matches. The job of **SSgt Joe Crowe MBE** (Team Manager) and **Sgt** 'Chico' **Towers** (Team Captain) was made harder by the fact we were winning with a scratch team and losing with a full selection – the best laid plans ….. We found that 'The Donkey of the Match' was evenly spread but **Sig Jamie Bramald** was frequently 'Man of the Match'. It was a successful first season for the Squadron as we reached the semi-final of the cup and runners-up in the league.

EXERCISE MOUNTAIN KING TIGER – CLIMBING IN SPAIN
by LCpl Hanks

At the beginning of April the Squadron deployed in the oldest minibuses in the army to Spain for a couple of weeks rock climbing lead by **2Lt Wootten.** The programme was climbing every day that actually left little time for drinking! The climbing was increasingly challenging and the routes were all checked in advance, incorporating amazing scenery. We built up from Rock Climbing Proficiency to tackling Grade 8 climbs by some of the group. It was an excellent expedition climbing, sunshine and some cracking nights out; many thanks to the organisers **2Lt Wootten** and **Cpl** 'Fitz' **Fitzpatrick** and our instructors **Mitch** and **John**.

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd/QM **Maj Peter Beauchamp** RLC
Tp SSgt **SSgt Martin Stebbing**

The Troop has been beavering away for Ex Saif Sareea II with stores arriving daily by the truckload. The QM was last seen looking like an Andrex puppy buried under the reams of paper accompanying it all! The Troop recently constructed the really, really BFOT on the square – with an equally big name – the Joint Force Logistic Component Headquarters. It was like a giant Mecano set with instructions so as the rain lashed down directions and guidance were given and eventually it all went up. The next job was the ISO containers and thanks to **Cpl** 'Billy' **Baker**'s comfort box arriving late, a crow bar had to be used; **RQMS** Jim **Alger** liked that a lot!

280(UNITED KINGDOM) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Jim Harris**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Craig Kearney**

JULIET TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Jim Barber**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Kev Roberts**

Firstly let us start with the new arrivals that have been sentenced to three years of soft labour at Juliet Tp. **Lt Jim Barber** the new Tp Comd, **Cpls** 'Richie' **Brown**, 'Slim' **Humphreys** and 'Shaky' **Wilson, LCpls Brown, Price, Hurdman** and **LeMay**, greetings to you all. Farewells to **Sgt Greg** 'Val' **Valentine** who escapes back to civvie freedom and **Cpl** 'Kez' **Brown** who moves all the way to 7 Sig Regt (Football Tp) - lets see if they can get any work out of him! Also a temporary departure to **Sig Gaz Watson** who goes to Bosnia for a few months, minus one eyebrow and head hair compliments from **LCpl Rhys Hughes**, who's also sporting a very short haircut, the perils of drink and hair clippers in close proximity.

The day-to-day excitement that is life at Juliet troop continues without stop. The members of the Squadron Football Team, (**Sgt Valentine, Cpl Dempster Cpl Brown** and **LCpl Donaldson**) return back to work after completion of a successful season. **Cpl Gore** has become duty driving instructor 'famming' new members of the Troop on driving Landrovers and Merc G.D's. With special mention to **LCpl Lee Hurdman's** ability to kangaroo a GD with oil-smooth gear changes and manage to nearly maim two cyclists! Other driving skills worth mentioning include **LCpl Alex Brown** discovering that a Landrover doesn't work very well with no batteries in it!, or even **Cpl Jay Dempster**, top tip its best not to attempt to drive a 5 ton DAF away when it has no brake pipes attached!

Victorious
280 (UK) Signal Squadron BFG Minor Units Football Champions (Cup and League)

Other members of the Troop have just returned from the NATO exercise Combined Endeavour that consisted of three weeks drinking copious amounts of alcohol, partying, and working, apparently. Highlights of the exercise were unnamed persons displaying great driving skills and overcoming parking problems and **Cpl Jez** 'The Diplomat' **Greenlee** and his love for all things American. Other Troop members have recently represented the Squadron in the Morrison Cup athletics.

Divine Intervention?
Sig Parrington demonstrates how to walk over the water-jump in the 3000m Steeple Chase

The Squadron finished up as runners up to 211 Sig Sqn with **Sig Angie Fewster** claiming four medals, the highest number in the team. Other team members included **Sig Kimberley, LCpl Chacksfield, LCpl Donaldson, LCpl Hubble, LCpl Humby, LCpl Moore,** and **Cpl Jackson**. Finally everyone at the Troop would like to send their best wishes to **LCpl** 'Errol' **Flynn** in his recovery from his car accident and a speedy return back to work.

Nice Smile!
Cpl (now OCdt) Timmy Mallett after completing the last 'Bruggen110'

KILO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Lindsey Calderhead/Lt Covey-Crump**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Graham Weavers**

Yet another successful and entertaining few months have kept the 'Kilo Troop Possy' awake. Exercise Cobalt Flash 2 took the tough and hardened working members away, namely **Cpl Pearce, Sig James, Cpl Baber, LCpl Pearmain, Sig Pollock and LCpl Jones** who were located at the 'Stella' det! With sleep taking priority over comms the rare sighting of **LCpl** 'Keep out the sun' **Pearmain** was a major attraction for the exercise.

There have been many recent departures from the Troop starting with a farewell to **Sgt** 'Big Lugs' **Porter**, Beth and family. With self induced terminal illness a farewell goes to **Sig Stevie** 'guts' **Lloyd**. Best of luck in his short life! Other farewells go to keep 'em guessing **Sig Dave** 'Missing' **Machin**. If anyone has seen this man could they please report back to the Squadron. He resembles a rat! A big farewell goes to our two year Troop Commander **Capt Calderhead** who is moving to pastures new at HQ SOinC(A) in Blandford. A big thank you goes to her for the contributions to the smooth running of Kilo Tp.

Hellos go to **Cpl Spike** 'Long jump' **Milliken** and **LCpl Dennis** 'Jakey' **Seymour**. Other new Troop members include **Sig Lee** 'Happy Hardcore' **Meadowcroft**, **LCpl** 'Richie (National debt of Uganda)' **Ingram** and **Sig Adam** 'The Embryo' **Sprogiss**. Finally to add to our ever-expanding Troop a big hello goes to the new Tp OC, **Lt Covey-Crump**. Welcome back goes to the even rounder figure of **LCpl Jimmy McGrory**. Also congratulations go to **LCpl Ryan** 'Let me go home' **Clarke** who has just received his golden medal award for air miles. Congratulations go to **Sig Donna** 'Peter' **Beardsley** who doesn't luckily carry the handsome features of her namesake. We wish you all the best in your marriage.

SUPPORT TROOP
QM **Capt Mark Toms**
RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) Kev Innes**

The Squadron recently had an Inter Troop Athletics day where the Troop did fantastically well coming an overall 4th (admittedly out of four but hey, we did win the Chain of Command and ate the most burgers). It was a glorious day, fun and sun was had by all. Support Troop would like to welcome its new arrivals, the first being the new QM & Troop Comd **Capt Mark Schofield** and his family. **Cpl Brent Grindrod** and **LCpl Rob Newing** also join us, both chefs in the RLC, and finally **LCpl Paul Denham, Sig** 'Rags' **Ragni** 'We ARE LINIES', **LCpl Tony Mason, Cpl Slim Humphreys, LCpl Neil Hagger** and **Sig Andy Ravenscroft** of the MT. Welcome all. The Troop would like to say farewell and good luck to some personnel who have left for more exciting climes the first being the QM **Capt Steve Toms** who on getting his Majority up has gone back to the valleys (14 Signal Regiment EW). **Cpl Bri Woolley** has also departed to god's country! N Ireland (according to **LCpl** 'Shine on' **Mooney**). **Cpls Dave Pendleton, Craig** 'GT' **Straughan, Mark** 'Sibby' **Sibbald** and **Sig Mike** 'Whippet' **Roberts** leave us and the MT.

1st SIGNAL BRIGADE BATTLEFIELD TOUR TO POLAND
by 2Lt Jim Barber

The tour started in unusual fashion with three highly informative presentations given by the subalterns from the three regiments and battalions. This was a very necessary procedure due to the somewhat obscure nature of the planned battlefields and for those who were slightly more learned than myself a chance to refresh on the characters and personalities involved. This study day (hosted excellently by 16 Signal Regiment) served also to introduce the other members of the tour including the first of the two lecturers, **Dr Paul Latawski**, who, proved all conceived ideas about academics.

So, feeling a lot wiser about our Polish friends the fifty-eight members of the tour climbed aboard the sleeper (sauna) at Duisburg and headed for Warsaw, the centre of the tour programme. The well-oiled cogs of the programme showed, as little effort was needed to book us into the Hotel Mecure and get the tour into full swing. Tuesday morning came and the tour began in earnest as we moved south and followed two fast paced operations (one Polish and the other the immense Red Army of 1944). Wednesday brought on a day of urban conflict in the city itself and further proved the arduous conditions that face any force that attempts to fight in a built-up area. Thursday was solely dedicated to the Red Army monster as it tactically closed on the Nazi occupied capital and attempted to encircle the city.

The atmosphere was one of adventure on the final night and anticipation for the train journey home. All expectations were surpassed from this my first battlefield tour and hopefully not my last. Many thanks to 16 Signal Regiment for organising a spectacular tour and I will highly recommend the trip to anyone else.

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT FALKLAND ISLANDS

AN INTRODUCTION FROM UNIT HEADQUARTERS
OC **Maj A. B. Stocker**
USM **WO2 (USM) Renshaw**

The time has just flown by since we arrived. Yet strangely, everyone seems to have fitted in well, and we at UHQ have become one happy family. Like any family there are always upsets and fallings out. Happily, these only ever really occur when the OC and USM start battling it out at the bowling alley.

There is a real spirit of jointism within JCUFI and there is a tinge of purple to each and every one of us. Within JCUFI there is a Flight Lieutenant, **Paul** 'Foggy' **Croft,** in charge of A Flight, a Naval Warrant Officer, 'Mac' **McKie** in charge of B Division and our own **Lt Jay** 'Blunt' **Croslegh** in charge of C Troop. The changes to the names of the Troops are the concept of **Maj** 'The Don' **Stocker** who wishes to preserve the joint nature of the unit and who's blood runs Deep Purple in his veins. Actually, he's more of a U2 man. With this list of personnel, we must mention our new 2IC, **Flt Lt Nigel Bevan**. He arrived two weeks early in order to take over the role following the early departure of our last 2IC. He has already been instrumental in co-ordinating the refurbishment of the bar, and I'm sure that his presence will be greatly appreciated. At the same time, we cannot omit to mention the departing of **WO2 (FofS) Paul** 'Southern Hemisphere' **Hubble** who has been in the islands for 20 months. He will be off to P Wing to be gradually reintroduced into society. His replacement, in May, will be **WO2 (FofS) Mark Todd**.

It was the Foreman who devised all the cunning and testing injects in our recent exercise, Ex Nimble Ram II. This was JCUFI's chance to test all our systems and fault procedures, as well as information reporting. All this whilst being simultaneously invaded by the enemy! Everyone completed the exercise well and there was a real sense of achievement felt within the unit. We all learned something, and every section now feels comfortable and confident that they would be able to perform their job in time of war. During normal working time, everyone is kept busy, and people's tours are flying past, as there is no time to sit and twiddle your thumbs.

If it's not work that is keeping us busy, there are plenty of other things keeping us out of trouble. As a unit, we have been on lots of outings already. There was serious competition during the Go-Karting and no, neither the OC nor the USM are at all competitive! One of the most memorable visits involved **FS Dave** 'Dressage' **Edwards, Lt Croslegh** and **2Lt Stevens** coming face to face with a huge, growling sealion on one of the helicopter trips to Sealion Island. They did not stop talking about their terrifying 'brush with death' for ages. We have also been horse riding (sore rears all round) and have had numerous evenings frequenting the JCUFI bar, the newly refurbished, Sharkies. Trips for the future include helicopter trips to Saunders Island, another boat trip round Mere Harbour and anything else that the Ops Officer, **2Lt Alex** 'Pasty' **Stevens**, can get by fluttering her eyelashes! All in all, it is so far so good for the tour. We just all hope that the rest of the tour passes as quickly as the first half. Thanks to all the work everyone has contributed towards the tour until now, and watch out York, we will be back in August.

Sig Rudkin just beats the others to the finishing line

INFANTRY FAMILIARISATION DAY – 28 FEBRUARY 2001
by LCpl Monk

On 28 February members of JCUFI were invited to take part in an infantry familiarisation day to be hosted by the Falkland Islands Resident Infantry Company, B Company of 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment. The object of the day was to give us an insight into how an infantry unit operates in a theatre like the Falklands, with demonstrations and hands-on experience of some weaponry and equipment that the Signals would rarely, if ever, come into contact with.

The day kicked off with a slight delay due to an unhealthy fluid leak coming from somewhere important on the Chinook. But soon we were off to Onion Range on the other side of Mount Pleasant Peak about five minutes flying time away. Upon arrival, the formalities were taken care of, where to stand, where not to stand, what to touch, and the days events began. The Cheshires began with a demonstration of a section level attack on two positions. While this was going on the Platoon Commander gave a commentary of what we were watching. Giving explanations of what each member of the section's role was and how he or she fitted into the picture of the attack. As the attack drew to a close the Grenadier advanced to unleash what was possibly the quietest grenade in NATO. Nonetheless it was interesting to see such an attack from a stand off perspective.

LCpl Monk, Bravo Division, and his new favourite toy

The second part of the afternoon was what we had really come for. On offer to us were such weapons as the SA80, LSW, GPMG, 9mm pistol, sniper rifle, and the 50cal machine gun, which had almost everyone feeling strangely horny. Once split into groups we each got the opportunity to have a play with the weapons, including firing the GPMG from the hip and shoulder positions. Mock targets were set up so we could hear that satisfying 'tink' as the 9mm rounds of the Browning hit the target plates. The chance to fire the SA80 on automatic at figure 11 targets less than fifty metres away was also given to us on one of the stands, but next to firing the 50 cal and GPMG it was relegated to the back seat. All the guys from the Cheshires were really helpful in answering questions and showing us the ropes, and all were enthusiastic and keen to help, despite them having to get the weapons cleaned again at the end of the day, not an enviable task by any means.

LCpl Monk – Such concentration

All in all it was a very enjoyable day. The weather managed to stay warm and dry and they even managed to tape up the leak on the Chinook for us to do some low level tactical flying through the hills on the way back to MPA. Many thank to all the members of the Cheshire Regiment for a great day.

FITTEST TEAM

The spine chilling seriousness of the situation hit us the moment 7 Sig Regt left for home…the Falklands valuable comms were now left entirely in our hands. Oh dear… Headed up by **Sgt** 'Nepalese Warrior' **Shyam** the team had little choice but to finds its feet…and fast! All the pressure in the world seemed to be resting on our few, but broad shoulders.

Individual characters and skills were quickly identified within the workshop. **LCpl Helen** 'Lil' C' **Caplin** soon established herself as the resident digital exchange Doctor. While **Cpl Stef** 'I'm not a Gurkha' **Sabuda** immediately started his personal mission to spend every given second at work ridding the world of faults. Unfortunately the remainder of the magnificent six seem only to excel at things that don't actually relate to work. **Cpl Si** 'Troy Bagley' **Brewington** is currently working hard at his quest to become the undefeated JCUFI bowling champion. **LCpl Scott** 'Ron Jeremy' **Wilson** is single handily keeping up morale within the Section with his uncanny natural abilities of not only being able to do absolutely everything wrong, but also taking ages to do it. We must confess, for someone who seems to show such limited intelligence when it comes to his job, his capacity to answer general knowledge questions correctly is nothing short of phenomenal. Meanwhile **Cpl Gil** 'Dirk Diggler' **Gittins** still looks to be lost now he's back in the workshop after his extended 'holiday' working in the gym. He also seems to be showing signs of post traumatic stress disorder having had to replace his cherished tight white vest and tracksuit top with the more familiar uniform worn by today's Army.

Oh, and remember…if you've got a problem, and no one else can help, and you can find them, then maybe you can hire the FITTEST team.

LINE SECTION
SNCO IC **Sgt Cascarino**

Farewell to 231 Sig Sqn – back to sunny 7 Sig Regt in Krefeld, and a hearty welcome to 219 Sig Sqn from 2 Sig Regt based at wet and windy York! With the changeover of the roulement Signal Sqns, life at the sharp end (the world of the Telemechs) has been turned upside down. In the space of one week, the whole of the section's manpower, with the exception of **Sgt** 'Fatboy' **Cascarino** and **Cpl Jim** 'Fatboy2' **Stocks** have departed and have been replaced by Mechs from the far-flung corners of the Telemechs' World. We have truly encompassed the ethos of inter-regiment co-operation within the section, from 16 Sig Regt we say hello to **Cpl Declan** 'Death from above' **Maher** along with **Sig Steve** 'Gwaa 1' **Kite** and **Sig Jules** 'Gwaa 2' **Grieves.** From 14 Sig Regt, we say hello to **LCpl Nige** 'Road-kill' **Gerrish, Sigs Chris Turnbull, Chris** 'Van Damm' **Rutter, Andy Poole** and **Andy Davis**. From 259 Sig Sqn we say hello to **LCpl Chris Palmer**. From 30 Sig Regt we welcome **LCpl Darren** 'Fatboy 3 – Gwaa 3' **Richardson** and last and not least our friendly Sys Op Storeman, **Sig Si** 'USM's mole' **Fry** from 2 Sig Regt.

As ever the workload has not changed and the Line Dogs are busy as ever, the ongoing project in the accommodation is drawing to a painful close, and the new guys are earning their spurs gashing in a variety of jobs, from faults to SWS and back again! To the Line Sergeant's dismay, nobody wants to go out with him during the week as the whole Section has embarked on a fitness craze, better late than never lads!

I'm sure that in the months to come these pages will be filled with tales of wonder and delight, especially when 'Rainbow Section' has had time to start performing! Adios!

CHARLIE TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Croslegh**
Tp 2IC **SSgt Eden**

After all the months waiting for this to happen, 219 Sig Sqn finally took over from 231 Sig Sqn, 7 Sig Regt at Charlie Tp. Help! Once the handover/takeover was complete, the lads and ladies got straight into the routine of daily, mind numbing work. Such work was feeding the cat and deciding whose turn it was to make the brews. Anyway, 219 Sig Sqn's first test was Ex Nimble Ram, with all of JCUFI being put through their paces in different scenarios. However, when the exercise was finally over, all of Charlie Tp had learnt very valuable lessons – I think! In the coming months, Charlie Tp has a few more exercises coming up and with all the fast and furious daily work coming our way, it looks like Charlie Tp will be busy until the end of the tour.

BRAVO DIVISION
Division OC **WO McKie**

It has been a busy two months since taking over Bravo Div JCUFI from 7 Sig Regt. In early February as the handover/takeover drew to a close the new Bravo Div, under the watchful eye of the 7 Sig Regt members due to finish their tour, began exercise Nimble Ram. Nimble Ram was used to give the 2 Sig Regt personnel the chance to go through the work they would be doing over the following six months and to be able to air any queries or problems with the experience of the departing unit. A lot of experience was gained on the three-day exercise and faults were injected to simulate most scenarios, from power failures to full circuit outages. With Nimble Ram finished and 7 Sig Regt well on their way back to Krefeld we were able to get settled into some sort of routine and get on with the job in hand. To say there is a bit of a learning curve would be an understatement, it was near vertical. But with a bit of swearing and some precision use of a hammer we can safely say the all new Bravo Div is now in control.

There has been plenty to keep us occupied while not on shift. A couple of us were given the opportunity to go flying with 1312 flight in the C130 to do some air drops over the MPA and to see the Islands from a different perspective. After a fair amount of arm twisting the pilot finally broke and let us have a go at playing Top Gun. Mind you he did wait until we were well over the South at Atlantic so there was less danger of us crashing his plane. Needless to say we all got back without a scratch and tall stories of us dog fighting our way across the sea soon filled the bar. On 28 February the RIC took us up to Onion range to give us some hands on experience on

some weaponry we don't see in the Signals too often. The opportunity was laid on for us to fire weapons such as the GPMG and .50cal machine gun followed by some low level flying with the Chinook through the valleys around the Mount Pleasant Complex.

Sunday 18 March saw the Bravo Division world Go-Karting championship. Despite the rain throughout most of the day, a great time was had by all who attended. The day was split into six heats to determine who would go onto the semi-finals and who would find themselves in the `Driving Miss Daisy' cup. Everyone managed to get plenty of time on the track although I don't think David Coulthard has got much to worry about just yet. Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Stav' **Constdanti** on an impressive victory, even more impressive was his ability to keep a big daft grin on his face for every one of his laps. Looking ahead at what is to come. Nimble Ram II is at the end of the month so with the added bonus of an OpFor to come after us as well as the FofS. Sharkies bar reopens after refurbishment on 30 March which should have a good size Bravo Div turnout.

IT CELL

Signals element being headed by **Sgt Mick** 'Nigel Mansell' **Stoneman**, closely supported by **Cpl Paul** 'Can I go back to Campito' **Brown, Cpl Ian** 'I will get massive' **Waterworth, LCpl Penny Edwards** and **LCpl Matt** 'I really am a DJ' **Lutkin**. Working alongside crabs, er RAF personnel and being employed to provide IT support for over 2000 PCs on the island; the cell runs like a well oiled thing that should be well oiled!

The cell has been extremely busy, aided by the changeover of seven personnel in just four weeks. The cell has a total compliment of ten. However, morale is at an all time high, aided by stimulation banter and conversation like, 'Did you put service pack on that PC?' which always provokes reactions from the opposite sex in which they generally walk away! However, getting into this 'geeks club' ain't as easy as it may seem as FNGs are required to go through a rigorous initiation. The initiation being that of getting extremely lagered and being presented in Sharkys bar wearing very modern looking outfits made of computer hardware and logos. However, the crab, er RAF element do get a late start the morning after. Well, they do need their beauty sleep!

RADCON

We arrived here at last, after the long 18-hour flight from the UK that, for some, was quite an experience. After the weeklong handover/takeover from 7 Sig Regt it was time to put our feet up and have an easy tour. Or so we thought. With Exercises Nimble Ram and Purple Strike within our first three weeks in theatre, life has been anything but easy. Nimble Ram was purely a JCUFI exercise, which tested us on our crash-out procedures and our general all-round ability. It was only for a weekend, but luckily, the Foreman managed to cram in enough serials to last us a week!

Ex Purple Strike came one week later. This is a large Infantry exercise that takes place three times a year, and we were tasked to provide comms for Excon and the exercise controller. On his second day in theatre **Cpl** 'Dave' **Hallway** deployed straight to Excon to immediately suffer the delights of the islands. Along with **LCpl** 'Cal' **Calam** and **Sig** 'Al' **Allardyce**, they managed to keep Excon going. Well most of the time, anyway. With the exercise controller, went **LCpl** 'John' **Kama** and **Sig** 'Chris' **Woods**, who got plenty of exercise tabbing round the island with the man-packs. After the post-exercise shake out, work began on getting our new FFRs up to scratch. This kept us all busy for a few weeks, along with learning our crash-out procedures, which the Foreman and **SSgt Peters** were very keen for us to learn. We learnt the reason why at 6am one Friday when we were all kicked out of bed for a crash-out exercise. So, we deployed with our crash-out kit for however long it took. Luckily **Sig** 'Becky' **Greenhalgh** had all her supplies for 72 hours in the field. A sleeping bag! She claimed she would cuddle up to **LCpl** 'Jay' **Jones** if she got cold. Unfortunately, everything did not go to plan and a week later, the same thing happened again, this time at lunchtime instead of the unsociable early hours. This went a lot better, yet we are still on our toes, waiting for the next time.

Socially, Radcon has been very strong, supporting Sharkies every week, as well as anywhere else that will take us. On top of that, we've had an afternoon of go-karting followed by a BBQ, which was enjoyed by all. Looking forward, we have another four exercises over the next four months so, if nothing else, we will be kept busy. Lastly, we must say hello to the six guys manning the hilltop sites at Campito, **Sig** 'Al' **Allardyce, LCpl** 'Chris' **Storey** and **Cpl** 'Jib' **Ablott.** Then up at Mount Adam we have **Sig** 'Bob' **Zimmerman, LCpl** 'Dave' **McHugh** and **LCpl** 'Phil – how many fags can I smoke in a week' **Hensal**.

THE HILLTOP SITES

Adam: Mount Adam has been manned by 2 Sig Regt lads for nearly two months now, and we've seen a lot of faces come and go, so Mount Adam would like to say goodbye to the following people. **LCpl** 'Wanna be TG' **Storey**, as he will now be a crewman at the other hilltop site of Mount Campito. Unluckily for Campito, this change in crew will have no affect on the nightly quiz, which Mount Adam is dominating at the moment! Also we would like to give **LCpl** 'Press the prestle' **McHugh** a warm welcome to Mt Adam as he might be a help on the quiz side. We would also like to say goodbye to **Sig** 'The best TG in the Corps – NOT, no taste buds' **Zimmerman** as he will be truly not missed. After endless attempts of Murder-by-Curry, we would like to wish him all the best with his new posting. Last, but not least, another warm welcome goes to **Sig Greenhalgh**. She's just very recently joined us, and has not yet been nicknamed. We are sure, however, that she will be a great asset to the Adam Quiz Team.

Campito: We have been up here for seven weeks now and are just starting to get into a routine. **Cpl** 'Jib' **Ablott** has started training in the gym we have up here with **LCpl** 'Chris (I wannabe a P.T.I., I've got the blue shirt and everything)' **Storey**, while **Sig** 'Al (fry all food including Cornflakes)' **Allardyce** is still convalescing from his recent operation. We would like to thank all our overnight guests for bringing refreshments with them so they didn't have to drink the water we haven't got.

CRYPTOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AGENCY (CDA)

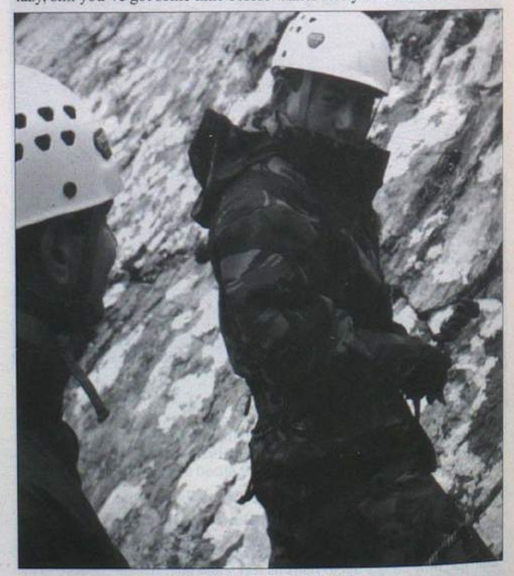
As with all departments in JCUFI the past few months have been extremely busy for CDA including several arrivals and departures. **Capt Steve Holt** took over from **Capt Lee Keiley** in January with all conversations changing from marathon running to the latest tactics used by Bobby Robson. February and March have been taken-up by preparing and deploying on exercises, ships and hilltop sites and the Annual Crypto Inspection. As a completely tri-service organisation the difference in terminology has brought its own rewards with the navy LOM(C) (Cpl equivalent) completely at sea when trying to understand what a RAF borrower is doing with BATCO. The Department continues to be represented in all sports and activities from LOM(C) 'Elkie' Brookes completing in the march and shoot to **Capt** 'Shearer' **Holt** in anything that gets him out of the office.

ROCK CLIMBING IN STANLEY - *LCpl Kumar Limbu*

To refresh mind and body, to take a break from daily hectic work and to add a new height on adventurous skill, seven interested personnel from JCUFI Sqn drove down to Stanley on 13 April. We left MPA around 1600hrs. Ops Officer, **2Lt Stevens**, organized the rock climbing session. An hour later we arrived at Hillside Camp in Stanley. **QMSI C. Hamilton** and his assistant, **Cpl Karen Martin,** welcomed and gave us a brief about next day's programme right after tea. The brief was impressive and friendly, although we had choice on other adventure activities such as mountain biking, hill walking, kayaking etc. However, we stuck to our title plan. When accommodation was sorted we decided to have a night out in Stanley, which happened to be an unforgettable night for me.

We had an early start next morning. We had loaded essential kit and equipment into the Land Rover. Roughly 15 minutes drive from Stanley, we parked the vehicle and walked up to the huge Rock. Needless to say there is no shortage of rocks in the Falkland Islands. Instructor, **Karen**, gave us a safety brief before setting up. The weather was teasing us the moment we got out of the Rover. It's been drizzling, windy and cold day. Regardless of the adverse weather for such training we were single-minded and determined to climb the Rock. I think the desire that the team produced to make a fun of the session in such bad weather was something rarely achievable. **2Lt Stevens** showed real courage to climb the hardest course of three although once, she was hanging like an astronaut working outside the space craft, and following the instructions given from below. Believe me, sometimes following the given instructions may not be that easy. We called a halt to the rock climbing for lunch at 1230hrs.

While having tasty food cooked by St. Helenians at Hillside Camp, we decided to do kayaking instead of the initially planned abseiling. In summary it was a good fun, we have plenty to laugh at and remember. I feel sorry for the guys who have missed this opportunity through being lazy, still you've got some time before winter really commences



'Soldier, you climb; I fly.'

1 (ROYAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS)

Sqn Comd **Maj S. Gregory**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. Scott**

Another hectic month of exercise and operational commitments has been interspersed with a greater than normal series of welcomes and farewells. The Squadron welcomes the several members to its fold: **Cpl John Fawcett** and **LCpl Paul Clarke** are congratulated for successfully completing SC Course 2/00. In addition, the Squadron welcomes **Sigs Yates, Dunmore, Holden** and **Orton**. Extended congratulations go to **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Hardy** and **Cheryl** for the birth of **Christopher** and **Thomas**, similarly **Cpl Jay Fawcett** on the arrival of a baby boy in recent weeks. A sad farewell goes with **SSgt** 'Deano' **Poole** after 8-9 years in Special Communications. He is now attached to 39 Sig Regt for 12 months. Our best wishes go to him and his family. **Sgt Kev Heaton** leaves the Squadron for his Yeoman of Signals Course and **Cpls Ian Grant** and **Luke Stanley** head for Hill Enterprises to try their luck outside of *The WIRE*. Special congratulations go to **Cpl Stu Penman** on notification in April of his award of the Joint Commander's Commendation for Distinguished Service on operations overseas. A well deserved recognition.

NEW HONORARY COLONEL - *by Sgt Jase Broome*

Sir Lawrence Verney TD DL recently retired as Honorary Colonel of the Squadron. **Sir Lawrence** worked hard on behalf of the unit and is warmly thanked for all of his support. **Sir Nigel Mobbs KStJ JP** has been appointed as the new Honorary Colonel and is warmly welcomed by all ranks. **Sir Nigel** visited the Squadron on 1 May where he was briefed on the unit's peace and war roles and given a full tour of the unit. The tour started and finished in the Squadron bar where most ranks were to be found. The Squadron looks forward to seeing **Sir Nigel** again on exercise later in the year and wish to formally welcome him to the unit.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION COURSE 2/00 - *by Cpl John Fawcett*

The start of November saw myself and five others form up at Bletchley for the 16 weeks of SC Course 2/00. The course was split up into three phases under the watchful control of **SSgt** 'Deano' **Poole, Sgt Si Marvel** and **LCpl Mark** 'Test' **Gower**. The content of the course remained unknown to the students apart from one common theme - the dreaded skills.

Phase 1 of the course concentrated mainly on basic communications skills, electrical safety, basic test equipment and antenna-making. This gave **LCpl Paul** 'Fantastic' **Clarke** the opportunity to demonstrate his 'Scissor-hands' skills in ably destroying a perfectly good TFD - an astonishingly good effort rewarded by the donation of a slab. Phase 1 ended with Christmas leave but not before being given a series of complex presentation titles and progress tests.

Phase 2 of the Course saw us straight into further skills and a broader range of teaching and testing. The Unit new equipment trial gave us a chance to get out on the ground around the UK and put new levels of skills to the test. The opportunity to 'trial' some local food and drink establishment was not missed and thanks must go to **Maj Charlie Miller** for the regular provision of Cornish Pasty NAAFI breaks. On return from the trial, a great deal of time and effort went into learning some of the unit's specialist equipment before going into presentations and cut-off skills tests. At this point, I would like to thank all agencies throughout the Corps and in industry who helped the students with information for their projects.

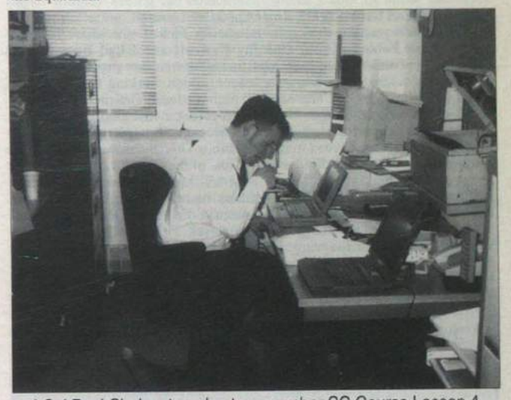
Phase 3 comprised further skills, detailed training on classified equipment, methods and concepts. This was interspersed with a healthy dose of shooting and short courses outside of the unit. The final test exercise was across Canada after which final tests were carried out before being notified of our results. Before finishing, I would like to thank the Training Wing and all instructors for their guidance, fines and assistance in the course.

FUTURE SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS COURSES - *YofS*

At the time of going to press we see the completion of another successful Special Communications Course, with students deploying to South Africa for their part in the final exercise. If you feel you have what it takes to pursue a career in special communications then call 94240 8517/8/6. Dates to put in your diary are:

Assessment Courses:	28 August -7 September 2001
	21 January - 1 February 2002
	26 August - 6 September 2002
	20 - 31 January 2003
Special Communications Courses:	19 November 2001
	8 April 2002
	18 November 2002
	14 April 2003

Anyone who missed out on a 1 Signal Squadron (Special Communications) presentation can visit the Squadron for an SC overview by calling the Training Wing on 94240 8517 or 01908 638517. Likewise, suitable Officers and SNCOs are welcome to attend any briefings held at the Squadron.



LCpl Paul Clarke struggles to remember SC Course Lesson 4 'Words of more than two syllables'

EXTRACTS FROM EXERCISE GLOBAL LYNX 3 CANADA GENERAL

March saw most elements of the Unit on exercise in Canada on Global Lynx 3. This served as a Headquarters Special Communications staff exercise and dual served as the end of course text exercise for Special Communications Course 2/00. The Exercise was coloured not only by, at times, harsh winter conditions, but also by the welcome news of promotion notification for **SSgt (FofS) Ted Heath** to Warrant Officer Class 2 and **Sgts Simon Wesseldine, Darren Podmore** and **Simon Marvel** to Staff Sergeant. Congratulations to them all.

MAIN BASE STATION (GOOSE BAY) – *by Sgt Simon Marvel*

On 2 March, 12 personnel from the Squadron landed in the Barren Wastes of Goose Bay, Canada not to be welcomed by the RAF but by the Compulsory Drug Testing Team. Once this formality was complete, all personnel moved up to the accommodation and settled in ready for the hard work ahead. The next day everyone on the operator and technical side of the detachment chipped in to get the location up and running ready for the communications phase of the exercise to begin. Once set up and running, communications went particularly well over some unfeasibly long links. The only major challenge of each day was the continually clearing of the ever increasing amounts of snow on the resistors. This task had to be carried out at intervals of between 15 – 30 minutes. Not everyone was disappointed at this as it enabled **LCpl Dave Carrington** and **Cpl Al Shrewsbury** the chance to wear their GIMP masks and the other amazing kit issued by **Sgt Dave Thomas** of the RQMS Department. Following an ever-increasing flow of visitors from the Squadron hierarchy and Staff Officers from HQSC, the welcome order to close comms was received ten days later. After a successful communications exercise all personnel went on some well-earned continuation training, taking part in activities such as Skiing and Skidooing. A special mention must go to the talents of **LCpl Bri Jones** for his forever-impressive performances on the slopes. His efforts were much appreciated as the slope groomer machine was very often not in use and him going down the slopes on his back with his skis at the top much improved the standard of the slopes. Another impressive sight of the exercise was that of the RQMS trying desperately to unravel the power cable from around the blades of the snow-clearing machine without anyone noticing what he had done. Unfortunately everything is on both video and camera.

FIELD DETATCHMENT 3 – *by LCpl Paul Clarke*

The det deployed to Canadian Forces Base Kingston on the shores of lake Ontario for the first phase of the exercise. Weather was better than expected, with a bit of chilly breeze making life slightly uncomfortable (-15). Antenna set up was more of a challenge than usual, as the permafrost proved slightly too much like concrete, taking a couple of stakes as the first casualties of the exercise. Comms were 'booming' into Goose Bay almost as soon as we had set up, and the deployment of a new antenna for field trials confirmed our fears that it was working fine. Now we had to get some work done, kicking off the second element of the exercise -

communicating from Kingston to Goose Bay, this was very successful. The third element of the exercise involved a move to the capital city Ottawa and a set up on the roof of a major building of interest in the centre of the capital. Accommodation was in the plush Lord Elgin Hotel nearby. Somebody had to do it! The run up to the Canadian St Patrick's Day celebrations was well underway, making for an extremely warm and hospitable environment for us to look forward to after work was over. After endex was called, the Det set out to the mountainous region of Quebec for a few day's Skiing and Snowboarding, resulting in more bruises and bashes between the three of the Det than the six nations final. This was **Cpl Mick Peace's** excuse to retire to the massage and aromatherapy suite, but it is generally accepted that this decision had something to do with the masseur!

FIELD DETATCHMENT 2 – *by LCpl Mark Gower*

Camp Shilo was the chosen initial site for Field Det 2 which featured **SSgt Deano Poole**, myself, **Cpl Jay Fawcett** and **LCpl Brown**. The decision to abandon pole crossings for snow trenches proved welcome and comms across the country were soon in and working for the HQSC scenario phase to begin. The off-shift activities saw Det members trying to strike a workable balance between recycling a vast amount of quality Canadian food and making use of the excellent physical training facilities. A 1000km drive later in a dubious Dodge caravan saw the Det setting up in Wainwright for the next phase of the exercise. Local concern about the potential introduction of Foot and Mouth Disease turned quite real and quickly saw the Det members disinfecting all clothing and equipment. Nonetheless, comms came in a dream and an experimental 6600km shot direct to UK proved successful. This proved to be a most valuable exercise for the team, HQSC and the course students. It is only hoped that somewhere a little closer to the equator will be the chosen location for the next Global Lynx.

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Field Det 3 find friends in Ontario

Cpl Mick Peace and Sgt Simon Wesseldine not convincing anybody

JOINT SERVICES SUPPORT UNIT DIGBY
RAF DIGBY

1 SQUADRON

With the sheer amount of arrivals and departures within the Squadron of late, you would expect the normal working environment to be severely affected. Not so! It is a true testament to the Squadron that life goes on as it always has, with the minimum of fuss and bother. The Squadron has been involved in various charity events of late, including the obligatory Red Nose Day and the McMillan Nurses Charity Night. Both of these events were well attended and raised some much needed revenue for these particular charities. **SSgt** 'Daz' **Winfteld** made his own personal contribution to the charity effort, by completing the London Marathon in a very respectable sub 4 hours. A big well done goes to all those involved in the charity effort. Other notable achievements over the last two months have been in the Commanding Officers Cup Competition. Despite the ever present problem of trying to find enough competitors for each particular discipline, the Squadron has produced some excellent performances. Particular praise must go to those Squadron members who completed in the Superstars and Log Race competitions, finishing second and first respectively. The Squadron was also victorious in the recent March and Shoot competition. We are now looking forward to the next competition, the Inter Squadron Swimming competition. We are sure that under the expert guidance of **Sgt Merritt** and **Cpl Lisa Gibbons**, we can repeat the success of late.

A v C WATCH PAINTBALL 16 MAY 2001

The Squadron had the ideal preparation for the March and Shoot competition as A and C watches went to war! On the outskirts of Ancaster, the cries of battle could be heard as the paint-ball day began. After a less than confident drive to the area by **Cpl** 'Waft' **Ashton**, we were presented with our coveralls (not meant to be worn by anybody over the height of 6ft 2', as **Sgt** 'Lanky' **Stevenson** will testify). Suitably dressed in our 'protective' equipment, battle commenced. The old saying that 'no plan ever survives first contact' certainly applied as some of the scenarios turned into all out and indiscriminate slaughter. Various people were rapidly noted for their own personal qualities. **JT** 'Sniper' **Bell** proved to be an excellent asset to her team, inflicting some heavy casualties in her somewhat unconventional style. **SSgt** 'Bernie' **Topham** initially took the easy and less painful option by honing his 'section in defense' skills. This tactic, whilst effective at the start, proved to be a most painful experience judging by the cuts and bruising to his head and jaw! As the games progressed, others began to develop their own skills. **Sgt** 'Stealth' **Donnachie** perfecting the quiet, flanking maneuver, as opposed to **Cpl** 'Gav' **Brown** who preferred the full frontal assault, often ending in his own painful demise. Meanwhile, **JT Carla** 'Sit and wait' **Casement** preferred the waiting game, producing some noticeable casualties.

There were the inevitable comedy moments. Of particular note was the individual battle between **SSgt** 'REMF' **Topham** and **Cpl** 'Waft' **Ashton** conducted at a distance of approximately two paces around a tyre! No kills were reported due to the poor weapon skills of both individuals, the battle only ending when **Cpl Ashton** was shot in the back by **JT Paul** 'Maverick' **McCormick.** The day ended exchanging bruises and war stories over a couple of shandies, after another less than confident drive home by **Cpl** 'Waft' **Ashton**. Many thanks go to **Cpl Ashton** for organising such an excellent day out.

The arrivals and departures are too numerous for all to be mentioned, but we say a fond fairwell to the following; **Cpl Jim Ford** (14 Sig Regt), **Cpl Martin Goulden** (civvy street), **Cpl** 'Gav' **Brown** (Naples), **LCpl Sommerville,** and **JTs Copley, Fegan** and **Cochran** (all 14 Sig Regt). A huge hello goes to the following; **SSgt** 'Paddy' **Brown**, **Cpl Ali Phillips, LCpls Phil McKenna, Che Aylward,** 'Fitzy' **Fitzgerald,** 'Berty' **Lancaster, Pete Walsh, Natalie Young, Buxton, Barber** and **Baxter.** Last, but by no means least, special congratulations go to the Sqn OC, **Maj** 'Monty' **Mountford,** who has become a proud father (again). We all wish him well in his new 'venture'.

2 SQUADRON

Since the last edition, the Squadron's Royal Signal's personnel have been boosted to nine with the arrival of **Cpl** 'Mally' **Mallinson** after a long course at Exeter University, so the goaty beard has had to go! We also welcome **Cpl Gaz Leadbitter** and **Cpl Jon Seaton** back after their detachment in the sunny Falklands.

3 SQUADRON

HELLO'S AND GOODBYES

We'll start at the very top and welcome **Sqn Ldr Andy Gudgeon** who has taken the helm here at 3 Sqn. His mission is to demolish the existing establishment and to build a smooth-running and well-oiled machine — good luck to him! There has been a change in the Co-ord's chair with the detachment to the Falkland Islands of **WO2 (Supvr R) Frank Dalton,** he took up the post of OPSWO at JSSU(FI). His chair has been filled by **WO2 (Supvr R) Dave Fuller,** so the Squadron's email intray has now been reduced by half. **WO2 Russ Dalton** has moved on to be replaced by **WO2 Smudge Smith** as the new RQMS, so the boys in Log Support Group have now got a chance to put some of their PT kit away! **WO2 (Supvr R) Andy Marchant** has arrived fresh from his tour in the Falklands, he has moved into the 'caring and sharing' department of OOD and is waiting on his promotion to WOI — congratulations on that. Training Flight has continued to provide the Squadrons with capable operators, turning the fresh-faced youngsters from DSSS, Chicksands into jaded and (somewhat) educated old sweats. **WO1 (Supvr R) Paul Skeith** is currently away on resettlement (how long!) and is due to be replaced by **WO1 (Supvr R) Troy Phillips** from EOD, so the Flight would like to welcome him.

4 SQUADRON

It has been a quite period for the Squadron as Foot and Mouth put paid to most of the training plans. However, this has allowed us the time to recover from a myriad of leaving functions. Most recently, we bid a fond farewell to **SSgt Mark Finch,** who leaves the Corps after 24 years (including boy service). All the members of the Squadron wish him the best of luck in the IT industry.

651 SIGNAL TROOP

It would be fair to say that the Troop has seen its fair share of arrivals and departures over the last three months, each member of the Troop adding their own unique 'boo-boo' to the Troop archives of 'I wish I hadn't done that'. How can we forget the arrival of Sgt 'I knew I had some hand luggage', who halfway up the mountain realised he had unwittingly left his rifle at the Theatre Arrival Centre (DOH!). Or the OC who drove 30km to check an ISO container having unwittingly forgotten the keys (DOH!), the names have been omitted to protect the innocent (or was that to protect the author?). Going quickly onto departures, the Troop said it sad farewells to **Capt** 'H' **Hutton** who was well known for wearing dodgy hats and sailors uniforms….but that's another story and we the Troop still have the photographs of that most excellent leaving do. Another sad farewell to **JT Mel** 'I guess that would be unleaded' **Wirth,** who's design of the now infamous 651 Signal Troop tee shirt has become an instant hit and a 'must have' fashion accessory.

Like politics, the weather in Kosovo has been unpredictable, with Easter Sunday seeing the detachment under a foot of snow and with Brigade declaring 'Spring' and recalling all snow chains! Saying that the summer has finally arrived and those extra camp beds, courtesy of the QM are now put to good use. The Troop has also had it fair share of VIPs, including a recent visit from **Brig Tadier** (COMBRITFOR). The Brigadier was particularly impressed with the initiative shown by the members of the Troop in the building of the new BBQ area and troop bar, much credit must go to **Sgt Martin** 'DIY' **Clewlow** and **Cpl Stevie** 'Sun-God' **Read** for their sterling efforts in this department. Apart from the usual Troop operations, 651 played host and provided logistical support to a Rebroadcast (VHF) element of 1-508 Airborne Battalion during Ex Dynamic Response (29April-9 May), an annual multinational exercise. During the exercise the Troop loaned a Wolf Defender to provide 'battery charging' facility to the 1-508 detachment, an unusual sight! The Colonel of the Battalion visited the site and presented 651 with a ceremonial coin to express his thanks and appreciation during the exercise.

The departure of Capt 'H' has seen the arrival of **WO2 (Supvr Radio) Eddie Fisher** who's first task was to shift the 'dreaded' portaloos inherited from two previous OCs, the phrase the sh**tv end of the stick comes to mind. The new OC is coming to grips with the operation, however, he has yet to be convinced to impose the suntan order as recommended by **Cpl Stevie Read,** combat shorts and flip-flops! Other new arrivals include arrival **LCpl April** 'I'm having a blonde day' **Holthain**, first tour for her, and doing well with it, although we hope Winnie the Pooh gets better soon. The Troop is enjoying a 'fitness fad' at the moment; it's not unusual to see members of the Troop challenging the Goles Hill — definitely not for the faint hearted! Finally **Cpl Gareth** 'I'll be in the Gym —really!' **Davies**, supposed to meet his replacement off the Aircraft today, ooh not today sir, you'll have to do a few more days on your tour, he might turn up later in the week! Not at all funny for him, mildly amusing for the rest of us. Still **Gareth** the bar will miss you for sure!

Soon the start of June, and the unofficial Goles half marathon, which involves running all the way down the mountain to the main road, turning round, running all the way back up to the top…..then doing it all again! Definitely only hard nuts to apply for this one, which is why only two of the Troop have risen to the challenge, good luck

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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All contributions for *The WIRE* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 2079 or 2085. Internet: www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/museum/rsa.htm

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 to 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.*

NOTES FROM THE AO'S DESK

Branch News: Maj Steve Clarke has been posted and has handed over secretarial duties of the Airborne Signals Assn to **Capt Mark Rouse. Mark** is the MTO at 16 Air Asslt Bde Sig Sqn (216) at Colchester. **John Smart** has succeeded **Tom Davies** as Hon Secretary of the Swindon Branch. **John** can be contacted at; 52 Malvern Rd, Swindon SN2 1AT, Tel: 01893-335430. We wish **Tom** all the best on his move to live in Cornwall.

Corps Carol Service: It has been necessary to change the date of this

year's Corps Carol Service. It will now be held on Monday 17 December, starting as usual at 1800hrs, in St Stephen with St John, Rochester Row, Westminster. This will be followed by sherry and mince pies in the nearby Church Hall. All serving and former members of the Corps, plus their families, are cordially invited to attend. Apologies are offered to those who have already made accommodation arrangements using the old date.

Cenotaph Parade – Remembrance Sunday 11 November 2001: A limited supply of tickets for the Cenotaph Parade is available from this office. All who have served under command of British Forces, plus War Widows/Widowers are eligible. **Michael Aimable** has, once again, kindly agreed to act as the Corps co-ordinator and members attending the Parade should fall in under the 'R SIGS' board, which **Michael** will be holding. March off is at 1010hrs. First Aid, lavatories and refreshments are available at Horse Guards Parade.

Field of Remembrance: The opening ceremony for this year's Field at Westminster Abbey will take place at approximately 1120hrs on Thursday 8 November and all those attending should be in place by 1100hrs. **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** and other members of the Royal Household have indicated their intention of attending. The Field will then remain open until 1600hrs 15 November. During the time the Field is open, crosses may be laid on the Corps plot in memory of loved ones. The Corps plot is number 57, which is just inside the West Gate (as per last year). Crosses will be laid by Association HQ on behalf of all Branches of the RSA. Immediately following the ceremony, all those attending are cordially invited to join **Maj Gen Tony Boyle**, Chairman of the RSA, for refreshments in Chelsea Barracks, courtesy of 238 Sig Sqn. It is hoped to provide transport from Westminster Abbey to Chelsea Barracks.

Annual Reunion: Over 600 members, plus 350 guests, attended the Association's annual reunion, which was held at Blandford Camp over the weekend 23/24 June. During scorching weather, members enjoyed the now traditional Princess Royal Day Parade by the serving soldiers of 11 Sig Regt. The standard of drill amongst the soldiers was such that several members openly shed a tear of pride. One old comrade commented, 'There's nowt wrong with the Corps these days when they can perform like that.' We were pleased to see several proud parents of soldiers in the audience. Following the Parade, Association members met and enjoyed a pint with the soldiers in the Semaphore Arms. The afternoon arena display started with a bang when the 'Museum Living History Society' put on a re-enactment of target spotting, using a 25pound field gun and an Auster. The Corps Band, the Corps Pipes and Drums and the TA Band put on their usual polished performance and the White Helmets thrilled us with a show of their skills. Those of you who saw **LCpl Hildreth** take a fall from his machine (indeed it ran him over) will be pleased to know that he suffered only bruising and was released from hospital after overnight observation. The six finalists for the annual standard bearers' competition were: **John Mumford** (Reading), **Barry Moody** (Scarborough), **Bill McNamara** (Glasgow), **Peter Howells** (Swindon), **Harry Duncan** (Newcastle) and **Michael Hawkins** (Bristol). Such was the closeness of the scores at the end that the judges had to 'count back' through the preliminary heats to determine the winner. **Barry Moody** pipped **John Mumford** by the slimmest of margins to hold the champion's cup for the next year. Both were presented with an engraved silver salver by **the Master of Signals**. Thanks go to the Corps RSM **(WO1 Sean Keilty)** plus his judges: **WO1 George Coffin** and RSA Member **Mrs Jillian Hurst**, for running the competition. **The Master** also presented the Aldershot Branch (**Fred Bridges**) and West London Branch (**Harry Ruff**) with the '75 Year Pennant' for their standard. This was to mark 75 years in existence for both Branches. Following the Playing of Retreat Ceremony, members enjoyed entertainment, buffet and a renewal of old friendships in the Sergeants' Mess until the wee hours of Sunday morning. Our thanks go to **WO1 (RSM) Harry Kemp** for opening the Mess doors to the old comrades. The Sunday began with a church service, with the Chaplain General, **The Venerable John Blackburn**, attending as our VIP guest. Many will remember him from his days at Catterick Garrison and the Apprentices College at Harrogate. The Corps RSM took great delight in 'beasting' members whilst they were forming up for the traditional March Past. His threats of jail for less than 100% effort worked wonders –even our In-Pensioner guests, **Buck Taylor** and **Doug Woollford** kept in step with the beat of the Corps Band. The Association's recently built Memorial Rock Garden was then dedicated by the Association Chaplain and good friend **Peter Clemmett**. Families will now be able to scatter the ashes of their loved ones over the garden. The Memorial Garden was built with donations from Branches and affiliated associations and our thanks go to them for their contributions. All in all, the Reunion was an outstanding success and our thanks go to everyone who worked so hard to ensure things went smoothly. Our thanks also go those members who travelled from afar to attend and for making their own accommodation arrangements. For **Ivana** from Glasgow Branch - next year, could you leave the Guinness perfume at home. Make a dairy note for next year's Reunion at Blandford

29/30 JUNE 2002. IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION

'Register of postings': It was pleasing to see that the Assn HQ's 'Register of members' postings' was instrumental in reuniting several former pals over the Reunion weekend. If you haven't yet recorded details of your postings whilst with the Corps – why?

New Life Members: A warm welcome is extended to the undermentioned Life Members, enrolled since the last *WIRE*. We wish every success with their 'second career' to those who have recently left the Corps. It is hoped that all in the 'RHQ Branch' will consider joining their local branch of the Association.

Rank & Name	*Service*	*Branch*
Sig Jim Owens	RHQ	1952-54
Sig Ted Wilders	RHQ	1955-65
SSgt Woodie Power	RHQ	1977-93
Cpl Alan Seaton	Birmingham	1966-91
WO1 Dave Warburton	Sheffield	1956-91
SSgt Brian Ireland	RHQ	1950-73
Sgt Lee Perry	Bristol	1990-date
WO2 Peter Van Den Broek	RHQ	1983-01
WO2 Mervyn Gass	RHQ	1963-01
Cpl Kev Gillman	RHQ	1989-01
SSgt Neil Fisher	RHQ	1977-01
Sgt Mick Hanson	RHQ	1991-01
Sgt Jason Cook	RHQ	1990-01
Cpl Mark Balkham	RHQ	1990-01
Cpl Steven Hoffman	RHQ	1990-01
Cpl Sam Saunders	RHQ	1962-01
LCpl George May	Chesterfield	1951-53
Sig Mike Payne	Beverley Ex-Boys Assn	1951-61
Sgt P. J. M. Jeffries	North London	1946-48
Lt Col Brian O'Connor	RHQ	1953-91
Sig L. J. Hartzig	12/15/18 AFSR Assn	1946-48
LCpl Dave Cunliffe	RHQ	1976-88
WPte E. M. Norton	Derby	1956-58
SSgt Robert Carroll	RHQ	1977-01
Sgt Chris Garrill	RHQ	1977-01
SSgt I. M. Logan	RHQ	1977-01
Cpl Graham Parkhill	RHQ	1991-01
SSgt Joy Phipps	RHQ	1978-01
Sig Adam Richardson	RHQ	1997-01
Cpl Dean Spiers	RHQ	1987-01
LCpl Ken Holifield	RHQ	1951-53
Sig 'Wedge' Wilson	Loughborough	1949-50
Cpl Martin Parkinson	RHQ	1987-99
WO2 Seb Wiles	RHQ	1985-01
Pte Lynne Frew	Glasgow	1976-80
Pte Sandra Forsythe	Glasgow	1976-81
Sgt Mike Humber	RHQ	1967-78
Lt Sara Banks	East Kent	1968-72
WO2 Mo Nelson	RHQ	1961-86
Pte Jenny Nelson	RHQ	1964-67
LCpl Paul Dunkley	RHQ	1954-56
Sig Lloyd Crooker	RHQ	1953-55
Sgt Paul George	RHQ	1976-01
Sig Kent Mossop	RHQ	1999-01
Capt Norman Bain	RHQ	1977-01
Cpl Jim Tierney	RHQ	1980-88
Cpl John Bland	RHQ	1978-85
Capt David Wild	RHQ	1966-98
LCpl Terry Rowles	RHQ	1950-52
Sgt William Martin	Nottingham	1941-47
SSgt Ian Burton	RHQ	1984-01
Sgt Bill Wild	RHQ	1955-78
Cpl Rob Burn	RHQ	1991-01
Sig Harry Cleverley	West London	1960-62
Cpl Mike Scott	RHQ	1966-77
Maj Derek McConnell	Birmingham	1970-date
SSgt Bob Heaselgrave	Birmingham	1969-99
Sig Mel Brown	Reading	1946-48
Sig Peter Mitchell	Reading	1947-49
Capt Bob Bousfield	RHQ	1974-01
Sig Alan Hall	Beverley Ex-Boys Assn	1948-51
LCpl Ina Anderson	RHQ	1986-94
Sig Matt Bates	RHQ	1987-94
Cpl Philip Alger	RHQ	1983-94
SSgt John Coles BEM	RHQ	1970-94
Cpl Mark Brown	RHQ	1978-94
LCpl Allan Busby	RHQ	1984-94
SSgt Dave Campbell	RHQ	1972-94
Sgt Alex Carmichael	RHQ	1969-94
Sig Craig Carr	RHQ	1988-94
Sgt Terry Carter	RHQ	1972-94
Sig Dave Chubb	RHQ	1990-94
SSgt Bob Clair	RHQ	1970-94
Cpl Peter Clark	RHQ	1980-94
Sgt Peter Clarkson	RHQ	1970-94
Cpl Lisa Clayton	RHQ	1982-94
LCpl John Cotton	RHQ	1985-94
Cpl Tim Cox	RHQ	1979-94
Sig Kevin Wells	RHQ	1988-94
SSgt Allan Burnett	RHQ	1972-94
Cpl Robert Charlton	RHQ	1984-94
Lt Col Gary Smith	RHQ	1983-01
WO2 Ray White	Eastbourne	1968-01
Sig Chris Wood	RHQ	1961-65
Sig David Carmichael	RHQ	1991-01
Sgt Russell Dodd	RHQ	1977-01
LCpl Richie Horan	RHQ	1993-01
Capt Mick Turnbull	RHQ	1985-
date		
Sig Daniel Yates	RHQ	1996-01
Sig Hugh Richardson	RHQ	1955-60
LCpl Ronald Batchelor	RHQ	1951-53
WO1 John Godwin	RHQ	1959-83
Sgt Mike Wheeler	East Kent	1964-75
Sig John Black	Glasgow	1992-93
Cpl Tina Siddall(Hayward)	RHQ	1970-76
Cpl Paul Brinklow	RHQ	1960-65
Maj Paul Robertshaw	RHQ	1967-01
Maj Ronnie Allan	RHQ	1971-01
Capt Peter Young	RHQ	1996-01
Capt Lee Hendricks	RHQ	1989-01
Capt Imogen Mulholland	RHQ	1998-01
Maj Gerry Hegarty	RHQ	1969-01
Lt Col Bob Binham	RHQ	1969-01
Capt Lee Wookey	RHQ	1976-01
Capt Kyle Barker	RHQ	1994-01
Maj Guy Bennett	RHQ	1988-01
Lt Col Richard Thurston	RHQ	1974-01
Maj Carole Rankin	RHQ	1990-01
SSgt Nick Bell	RHQ	1977-01
Cpl Albert Saunders	Scarborough	1944-48
SSgt Maurice Fidoe	Derby	1968-88
Sig Ron Sear	RHQ	1947-49

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS; NORTH CHINA SIGNALS SECTION IN THE 1930s

Peter W. Curtis - June 2001

'Wotcher me old China', that much hackneyed slice of rhyming Cockney slang could well describe the interesting, varied and quite unexpected replies **Peter Curtis** received from his enquiry regarding the North China Signals Section in the 1930s. **Peter**, readers may recall wrote to *The WIRE* (April edition) hopefully seeking news and views about the North China Signals Section in which his father **Sgt 'Bill' Curtis** had served in Tientsin (1934) and where **Peter** was born. Four replies were received including two from former soldiers who saw service in the NCSS in the 1930s.

The Curtis children and others
outside Mimosa Court, Tientsin in 1934

First to respond was **Edgar Harrison OBE MC BEM**(Mil), who now lives in Bath, and who saw service in Tientsin, Shanghai, Shanhaikuan and briefly in the Hong Kong Signals Section. **Edgar** told **Peter** that the responsibility of the North China Signals Section was threefold:

1) To maintain WIT communication with Hong Kong.
2) To maintain part of the landline to Peking,
3) To maintain W/T communication with Shanhaikuan between the months of May and October.

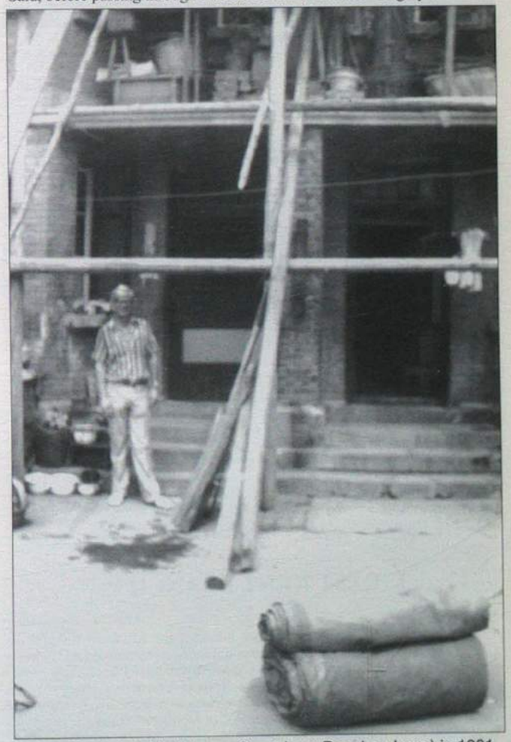
From his memory **Edgar** believed that the Sections complement was, in addition to the OC, a Sergeant Foreman of Signals, a Corporal, a Lance Corporal and fourteen other ranks. **Edgar** was intrigued by **Peter's** father's regimental number and suggests that he may have been originally in the RE Signals.

The next letter was from **Ron Larby** of Neasdon N. W. London who informed **Peter** that his own father served in Tientsin, Shanghai and then Hong Kong as a farrier with the 2nd Battalion Scotts Guards. **Ron** is of the firm belief that British troops of Brigade strength were in China because of the throes of the Civil War between the forces of **General Chiang Kia Shek** and the forces of **Sun Yet Sin** and various war lords. It was feared that the fighting would spill over into the international trading concessions and settlements, therefore the British Army was called upon to ensure the safety of lives and property. **Ron Larby** told **Peter** of a very interesting anecdote, in that whilst in Shanghai, in the 1930s, guardsmen were approached by the Shanghai Prison Service with a view to enlisting into the SPS when their army engagements came to an end.

Peter also received a timely postcard from a **Lee Edinger** of Harrogate, who believe it or not, was on a cruise (possibly on a 'slow boat to China'!) passing through the Suez Canal when *The WIRE* article caught his eye. **Lee** informed **Peter** that along with his sister he was a 'Tientsin child'. His father was paymaster in the RAPC. Both **Lee** and his sister went to the multi national Grammar School.

The final letter came from **Capt Frank Lawson** of Manchester, who, like **Edgar Harrison** saw service in the Tientsin Signals Section in 1937. **Frank** joined the RCS in 1934 (the year of **Peter Curtis** birth in Tientsin). Now 83 years old **Frank** informed **Peter** that he was on duty at the recreational unit at Shanhaikuan when he received the message that Great Britain was at war with Germany. The original message form is now in the Signals Museum at Blandford Camp. **Frank** also confirmed that the Tientsin Signal Section was to maintain communications with Tientsin (HX8)Peking-Shanghai-bong Kong (GHN4) on a No 6 Transmitter and a Post Office Transmitter from the British Embassy in Peking.

Alas there was no response from any other person who, like **Peter**, was born in Tientsin. Looking through some old back numbers of *The WIRE* magazines there is a report in the February 1934 edition from the North China Signals Section correspondent, which congratulates the Commanding Officer, **Lt WhitewayWilkinson** and his wife, on the birth of a baby girl. So there is at least one other birth besides Peter's in Tientsin in 1934. Nevertheless the letters were very helpful in colouring in a picture of what life was like, in an army garrison, in China, in the 1930s. Finally three troopships were mentioned in the letters, 'HT Dilwarra', 'HT Georgie' and the' City of Marseilles,' most, **Peter** suggests in this article, stopping off in Hong Kong, Colombo and Port Said, before passing through the Suez Canal bound for 'Blighty'.



Peter Curtis outside Mimosa Court (now Ronghau Lane) in 1981
Note the scaffolding where houses were under structural repair
as a result of the 1977 earthquake

ERROR CORRECTION

In June's Issue page 249, article 'Lest We Forget'. Two errors were printed. Albert Thurling was a Lance Corporal and not a Signalman. Also it was the MoD that provided the stone not the War Graves Commission.

DARLINGTON BRANCH

Members of the Association were invited to attend a joint Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner at the Bradford Armouries, Darlington TAC on Saturday 9 June 2001. Along with serving members of the respective messes of the Parachute Association, the RSA had a very enjoyable evening hosted by Maj Graham Jennings and his staff. Lt Col Ian Westerman, CO 34 Sig Regt (V), took the opportunity to present former **SSgt Tommy Williamson** with his Volunteer and Reserve Services Medal (VRSM) during the evening. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Dent Cup by former **Cpl Lew Prosser** of Middlesbrough Company 50 (Northumbrian) Divisional Signal Regiment TA to **Maj Graham Jennings** of 50 (N) Signal Squadron (V). **Lew** had helped to win this trophy as part of a boxing competition back in 1938 whilst serving with the Regiment. Our warmest thanks go to **Maj Jennings** and the members of the Officers and Sergeants Messes for a marvellous night and look forward to future functions with them.

The CO 34 Sig Regt (V), (Cpl) Lew Prosser, Mr Ron Botham and OC 50 (N) Sig Sqn (V) after an enjoyable nights entertainment

DERBY BRANCH

It's now sometime since we last appeared in *The WIRE*. It has taken us a while to sort things out after the old Chairman's, death, but I'm now glad to say we are getting there. Amongst other things we have selected a new Chairman, **SSgt Alan Landsborough,** who many will recognise as the current NRPS SQMS at 46 Signal Squadron and the new President is the old PSAO, **Capt Cliff Royston-Webb.** Who said we at 46 don't keep things in the family?

At the recent AGM we took the trouble to streamline the Committee with the retirement of our stalwart Treasurer, **Capt Ernest Williams** who decided to call it a day at 78 years young. However, he continues to attend our monthly meetings, replaced by **Sgt Jeff Almond.** Our long-suffering Secretary still remains as always **Joy Elliott.** March 2001 saw our annual RSA Dinner, which for the first time was held outside the TA Centre at a local hotel where the CO of 38 Signal Regiment, **Lt Col N. P. Harrison MBE** R Signals was our guest of honour. Some 44 members and friends sat down to dinner and a good time was had by all, judging by the noise! The meal being excellent and much catching up with the happenings and whereabouts of old friends took place.

Finally I would like to remind the readers both serving and retired that we meet at the Sergeants' Mess Kingsway TA Centre Derby on the third Wednesday of every month at 1930hrs. I know there are many of you who live in the area but perhaps you don't know of our meetings? Why don't you come along and join us, you'll be sure of a warm welcome, and you never know you might even get to like it?

EAST KENT BRANCH

SOCIAL

A record 18 Members of the Branch attended the Association AGM at Chelsea Barracks where many old acquaintances were revived and where the catering in the form of a tasty and plentiful buffet brought a most successful Meeting to an end and the Branch returned to the wilds of Kent. Our Chairman, **John Ballantyne**, together with his Committee continued to entertain us by leading a detachment from the Branch (dressed appropriately) in enlivening the proceedings at the Sing-Along-a-Sound-of-Music at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury. **John** was enchanting in his lederhosen and his wife, **Marion,** was suitably irreverent as a nun. As was **Marie**, the wife of a previous Chairman - she preferring to pretend to be a local -vicar. There were Buddhist priests, Officers from the Kriegsmarin together with assorted extras from the Branch making up a jolly crowd. Our Hon Sec was most distinguished as an escapee from a Tyrolean Hunting Lodge whose deafening vocal accompaniment must have brought a tear to the eye of Miss Julie Andrews (and many others). In May, 44 Members took to the River at Gravesend and made their way up the Thames to the site of the London Eye where some, with a head for heights, enjoyed the magnificent view from on high. Others remained on terra firma and wandered about until the aeronauts came down from their pods. The motor vessel Pocohontas was then reboarded and she then transported our party back down river to the accompaniment of a delicious buffet served by the Skipper and his crew, a most successful day.

NEW MEMBERS

John Ridler was a National Serviceman from July 1949 to July 1951, serving with 16 R. Signals Troop. attached to C Sqn. 5 Dragoon Guards in BAOR. **Brian Roalf** served as a National Serviceman with the Radio Relay Troop in 4 Div Sig Regt in 1959/60. Co-incidentally, he was serving in the Troop at the time that **Don Crisp**, the previous Chairman, was the Troop Staff Sergeant.

AND YET MORE SOCIAL

John Ballantyne and his Committee have come up with yet another innovative medium of entertainment and a goodly mob of hairy and muscular Barndancing Members converged on an unsuspecting Village Hall to give vent to their native toe tapping and thigh slapping. They were accompanied by their husbands who also threw themselves about a bit. Our next ventures are (a) the Association Reunion at Blandford and (b) the Annual Cricket Match in July, both being looked forward to with eager anticipation and which will be reported upon in the next issue.

EAST DEVON BRANCH

The Branch took part in the celebrations in Phear Park, Exmouth, over the weekend 9-10 June with a stall run by members selling bric a brac and generally promoting the Corps. On the Sunday a parade of more than 400 marched through the streets of Exmouth led by the band of the Royal marines - Lympstone. Followed by a lone piper, who headed a group of veterans to Phear Park where a new Wall of Remembrance was unveiled. The Branch, amongst others, laid a wreath to pay tribute to the service of the unforgettable part played by British and American servicemen in Northern France on 6 June, 1944 - D Day.

The Branch would like to welcome any ex-serving and serving members of the Corps who live in the East Devon area, and invites them to meet with them at the RAFA Club, Exmouth on the third Tuesday of each month, 7.30 for 8.00, wives and partners are welcome. We also have several events coming up. See our website for more details.

www.rsigsexmouthgroup.supanet.com

GLASGOW BRANCH

The AGM of the Branch was held on 17 April 2001. The Branch President, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**, presiding. In his opening remarks the President congratulated the Branch on achieving it's tenth anniversary, and the tremendous effort that has been put into this by the committee and members alike. He particularly mentioned, **Bill Taylor** the former Chairman, **Eric** and **Ivana** the Treasurer and Secrectary. He praised the turnout of members and associate members and said, 'There are many others of you who have made a major contribution besides, and the continuing support of the active membership and their wives has been a major factor in your success. You have maintained an excellent record for participation in the reunion at Catterick and Blandford, in the Remembrance Day in Glasgow and for the many and varied social events you organise'. He continued, 'We are now looking forward to the blessing of the standard on 28 April, and this perhaps, is a suitable point at which to remind ourselves, what tremendous support we get from 32 Scottish Signal Regiment throughout the year. In particular, for the use of their premises and facilities, and the warm welcome extended to us.'

Prior to the AGM business, the president thanked **WO1 (RSM) A. Hilborn** of 32 Sig Regt for her co-operation and support of the Branch. The members congratulated her on her commission to the rank of Captain. A 'Jimmy' set in a crystal was presented to her with a base inscibed, 'Presented to RSM A. Hilborn by the Royal Signals Association Glasgow Branch'. She leaves with best wishes, being roundly applauded by the members. **Angie** thanked the Members and said she had enjoyed her stay with 32 Sig Regt and the ssociation with the Branch Members. She then introduced her successor, **WO1 (RSM) Steve Russel** who was applauded by the members. He intimated that he would hope to carry on the co-operation between the Branch and the Regiment, as had his predecessors. The Branch Members gave a very warm welcome to **Steve** his wife **Tracey** and their family to Glasgow.

Ivana Muir, Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB, Joe Keegan and Eric McWaters at the Branch AGM

At the AGM there were 76 Members and Associate Members in attendance with apologies received from several members. The minutes from the AGM 2000 were passed. The Branch Chairman, **Joe Keegan**, thanked Committee Members **Eric** and **Ivana**, for their support and hard work. He also thanked the ladies of the Branch for their excellent catering arrangements, a big thank you to **Bill Taylor** for his help and guidance throughout the year, and the Branch Members for their support over the last year. He reported that during the past year he had been privileged to work closely with 32 Sig Regt. The Regiment and the Association had bonded well, and he would like to take this opportunity of thanking all members of 32 Sig Regt for their help and assistance. As **Joe** had indicated at the AGM in May 2000 that he would not be seeking re-election as Chairman at the 2001 AGM, it came as a surprise that he had allowed his name to be put forward for the post, against the nomination of **Eric McWaters** as a candidate for Chairman. In the voting **Joe** was successful, and will remain as Chairman for a further two years. The Branch Secretary, **Ivana Muir** gave a report on Membership. She will determine by May of this year, the number of members who are fully paid up, then she will put on a separate list those members who will be regarded as lapsed members until they paid their fees. **Ivana** wished to record her thanks to **Peter Cuckow** at Blandford, for his assistance during the year, especially when the Branch Members had their visit to the Annual Reunion last year. Her report states we have been busy socialising, mentioning the various functions arranged over the year by the committee.

This year is the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Branch, to celebrate the event, there will be a drumhead service, beating retreat, a supper and disco, this with an arrangement by the CO of 32 Sig Regt, **Lt Col J. K. McKee MBE. Ivana** thanked all the members for their support, asking them to remember we have had ten good years, let's have another ten good ones. The Treasurer, **Eric McWaters**, reported that he was happy to say that the Branch funds were healthy. Each member was given a copy of the balance sheet before the start of the meeting. He thanked all members and friends for their continued financial support over the year, enabling him to pay the bills on time, and to continue to maintain a sound status with our suppliers. The balance sheet shows that the main financial base of the Branch is dependent upon Branch Members' fees, therefore all Members should support the Branch and wherever possible encourage new members to join up. He willingly accepted Members' fees after the meeting.

Under AOCB there was a discussion and explanation of the items brought up in the AGM 2000, regarding a couple of changes in the Branch Rules, these were now accepted. It was also agreed that when a member reaches the age of 80 he/she should not be required to pay Branch Membership fees. This scribe having reached that age was in full agreement. There being no further business, the president thanked the members for their attendance, and wishing the Branch every success in the future, closed the meeting. The members then retired to a grand buffet spread, which had been prepared by **Betty Taylor** and **Annice McWaters** the Members appreciate their efforts very much. It takes a lot of hard work and many hours of preparation, to produce trays of a variety of sandwiches and rolls, with fresh coffee and tea available.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

To anyone who looked in vain in the June issue for my usual notes, unfortunately although I faxed them across ten days early, on 5 April (as I was going on holiday), for some unknown reason they were mislaid between the fax and the Editorial office, which is downstairs, hence no Northern Ireland notes. That being so I must repeat two of the unprinted items. Firstly the passing of **Peter Youll's** wife for which we extend our deepest sympathy to **Pete**. Secondly our thanks to **Bill Craig** for his excellent work in reducing our Branch bye-laws to pocket size. If any Member (or indeed any other Branch) requires a copy please contact our Hon Sec, **Ian Wolfe**. The Branch annual formal dinner was held in Clonaver TAVR Centre on Good Friday, 13 April 2001 (ie: just after I had submitted my last article to *The WIRE).* The writer, unfortunately, was unable to attend but it would appear to have been a most successful evening. During the dinner the prize winning Ravenhill Flute Band once again provided some very suitable music. After the usual toasts the Chairman, **John Brown**, introduced the guest of honour, **Lt Col M. P. Llewellyn**, Commander Comms NI and CO 15 Sig Regt who suitably replied. We wish **Lt Col A. P. R. Roberts MBE**, ex-CO 40 (U) Sig Regt (V) well on his recent posting and welcome **Lt Col Robert Kelly**, as the new CO 40 (U) Sig Regt (V). Branch office bearers **Lt Col (Retd) Terry Lightfoot** (Branch Rep to the Central Committee), **Maj (Retd) Bill Douglas** (Branch President) and **Maj (Retd) Noel Johnston** (Branch Vice-President) were pleased to have attended his dining in recently. We would also like to welcome **WO1 (RSM) G. C. N. Keane** to 40 (U) Sig Regt (V) and were glad he was able to attend our recent Branch meeting.

Our TAVR Members have left for Annual Camp including the Branch Hon Sec and Branch Treasurer leaving our next meeting rather depleted. The day after the meeting our contingent left for the Blandford Reunion in two cars (via the cross channel ferry of course), and were joined by the serving members on the last day of Camp. More in the next *WIRE* article when we have the usual report on the Reunion from our Reunion Organiser, **Edgar McCall**. Once again if you are reading *The WIRE* and are in Northern Ireland, then if you are not already a Branch member or indeed are still serving, you are welcome to join us any third Wednesday of the month in Clonaver TAVR Centre, Belfast.

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

It's been quite some time since the Shropshire Branch featured in *The WIRE*. However, the decision by the Central Committee of the RSA to award three Branch stalwarts with the 50 Years Badge is, we believe, a cause for celebration. Especially when our Chairman, **John Wall** managed to persuade the Mayor of Shrewsbury, **Cllr Peter Jones**, to make the presentations in the lovely setting of Shrewsbury Castle, now an excellent military museum. Originally scheduled to receive this prestigious honour were our Chairman, **Maj (Retd) John Wall MBE TD JP**, our Treasurer, **WOI (Retd) Phil Johnson** and our 'General Factotum', **Sgt (Retd) Colin MacMillan.**

Preparations had all been made, fine weather ordered, the Press informed, then poor old **Phil's** migraine started playing up and much to everyone's disappointment, he was forced to pull out of the ceremony at the last minute. This was a great pity because the Mayor had done his homework, and both he and the Mayoress made excellent hosts, personally serving refreshments to all their guests. Accompanying the recipients were their wives **Philomena** and **Jane**, Vice Chairman **Reg Clark** and his wife **Eve, Emyr Edwards, Derek Evans**, and **Maj (Retd) Brian Ivison** Area 2 Representative. When making the presentations the Mayor said how delighted he was to present the Awards on behalf of the Central Committee. For the benefit of his other guests, he then read out the personal letter signed by the Chairman, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** CB, and a brief summary of **John's** and **Colin's** backgrounds and careers. The Branch was delighted that both our local papers the Shropshire Star and the Shrewsbury Chronicle had sent along photographers to cover the proceedings. We need all the publicity we can get if we are to attract new members. Although **Phil Johnson** missed the civic ceremony, he was well enough later to bring his wife **Thea** along to the Abbey Hotel in Shrewsbury, to join **John** and **Philomena Wall** and **Colin** and **Jane MacMillan** for an informal celebratory dinner at which **John Wall** presented **Phil** with his 50 Badge.

Following the presentation of the 50 Year Badges by the Mayor of Shrewsbury, **Cllr Peter Jones** to **John Wall** (Chairman) and **Colin MacMillan**, The Mayor poses for a group photograph outside the entrance to Shrewsbury Castle Military Museum. Left to right **Emyr Edwards, John Wall, Colin MacMillan, Philomena Wall, Jane MacMillan, The Mayor Councillor Peter Jones, The Mayoress Mrs Margaret Jones, Brian Ivison, Reg Clark.**

The recipients pose for photograph outside the Abbey Hotel Shrewsbury after entertaining their wives to a celebration dinner. Left to right Phil and Thea Johnson, John and Philomena Wall, Colin and Jane MacMillan.

Reference has been made in these notes to the military museum in Shrewsbury Castle. Shropshire is full of interesting places to visit, and anyone touring in the locality is strongly recommended to add the Castle to their itinerary. Included in the wealth of memorabilia accumulated by all the County regiments, is the exhibits appertaining to the Shropshire Yeomanry, who's family history is perpetuated by 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V). Having made the effort to assure our friends that the Shropshire Branch is alive and kicking, despite the advancing years of our active members. Now it's time for the commercial. If having read these notes, any members living in Shropshire or adjacent counties feel motivated enough to come along to our meetings, they will be made most welcome. We meet in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess 5 Div HQ Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury, on the third Friday of each month at 1930hrs, with the exception of June, July, and August. For further information, please contact the following:

Chairman-**John Wall** Tel. 01743 350606 Mobile 0790 500 5717
Secretary-**Brian Podmore** Tel. 01538 381695 Mobile 0771 197 7676
Email; GzeroVNU@aol.com
Or visit the Branch Website on www.royalsignalsassociation.or$.uk

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

The Branch Annual Lunch went ahead as planned on Sunday 29 April 2001. It took place at Kings Court Masonic Centre at Chandlers Ford. This was the first time that we had used this venue and all the members were suitably impressed. The consensus of opinion was, that it be kept in mind for future functions. Our Guests of Honour were **Maj Gen Tony Boyle CB**, the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association and his charming wife **Ann**.

Top Table

A total of 69 members and guests, including members from Salisbury, Reading , Aldershot and Winchester Branches sat down and tucked into and excellent lunch. The raffle, organised and carried out with style by **Ruth Dear, Vera Packer** and **Janet Mitchell**, raised the magnificent sum of £132 to swell the coffers. Several prizes for the raffle had been kindly donated by the family of the late **Len Hill**. After the toasts, the response was given by **Tony Boyle**, who gave a short amusing speech in which he expressed his delight in being at the function. Since taking over as Chairman he has attended other Branch meetings around the country getting to know and understand the strengths and weaknesses of the RSA. He stated that he would like to see greater membership and closer links between the RSA and the Corps. In particular he intended to address the problem of accomodation for RSA members at Blandford during the annual get-together.

All in all the function was a success, all credit and thanks to **Chris, Sid, Tony** and the rest, who worked so hard to bring it all together.

KOREA REMEMBERED - *by ex-WO2 Norman D. Davies*

On 16 April 2001, I returned to Korea as a member of the British Korean Veterans Association, Wessex Branch. It was the first time I had returned to Korea since I left in May 1952. This year's reunion was to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the involvement of the British and Commonwealth Troops in the war. In particular the commemoration of the Battle of the Imjin River. A battle in which I took part as a member of the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade, Signal Squadron, serving at the Brigade's Tactical Headquarters. Over the eight days I attended ceremonies and services from Pusan to the 38th Parallel including several battle sites involving 29 Brigade. At the Gloucester Memorial at Solma-ri in the presence of the **Duke of York, Gen Sir Farrar-Hockley**, Ambassadors and many dignitaries, we veterans lined up and marched over 'Gloucester Bridge' and up to the memorial to be greeted by the UN Honour Guard and the ROK 25th Division Band. After the speeches and addresses, the **Duke of York** spoke, ending with a message from the Queen. There followed the Service of Remembrance, the Last Post played by a Royal Marine Bugler and wreath laying while a UK Piper played a lament. The ceremony ended with the veterans presenting Scholarships to High School children, on a one to one basis. It was a most moving and emotional event and I am not ashamed to admit that I was moved to tears as my memories mingled with the event in which I was taking part.

After the ceremony we proceeded to 'Castle Hill' where the Glosters made their famous last stand. Here, among the trenches, dugouts and gun pits from 50 years ago, we were given a briefing on the battle by **Gen Sir Farrar-Hockley**, who at the time, was Captain, Adjutant of the Glosters and who was taken prisoner by the Chinese. Standing there looking down at the Imjin River as it snaked its way along the valley, I also remembered the four members of the Signals Squadron who formed the Rear Link Radio Crew attached to the Glosters and who were also taken prisoner. They were **LCpl Jennings, UCpl Ward, Sig Cairns** and **Driver Miles**.

Two days later we were in the area covered by the Northumberland Fusiliers, Royal Ulster Rifles and the 8 Hussars during April 1951, the west flank of 29 Brigade. Also in this area the Brigade Tactical HQ was sited, with the heights of Kamak-san between and the Gloster's positions in the east. In these hills and valleys the Brigade fought the rearguard action that bought time for UN forces to fall back, regroup and stop the Chinese from retaking Seoul again. From the briefing given by the 8 Hussars, RNF and RUR veterans and my own memories, we were able to reconstruct some of the actions at that time although, after 50 years, the change in terrain and the advent of civilisation made it a bit difficult. The terrible experience that the infantry and tank crews went through caused several of them to break down as they remembered, and who could blame them. During the first big retreat from Pyongyang in December/January 1951, and in early January, the Royal Ulster Rifles and 'Cromwell' tanks of the 8th Hussars, fought against overwhelming odds in the area known as 'Happy Valley' at Chaegunghyon. 240 Officers and Riflemen were killed or missing and about 20 tanks were knocked out and abandoned.

With us on the coach, apart from the veterans from the RUR and Hussars, was a serving RUR Major. He had come out on behalf of the Regiment and was attempting to locate areas of action involving the RUR's during the war. In particularly he wanted to locate, as near as possible, the area of 'Happy Valley' and where a Memorial had been raised to the men who had died there. Long ago The Memorial itself had been taken back to Ireland to the RUR Depot at Ballymena. The veterans who had fought and survived the action reconnoitred and finally agreed on a spot, which seemed central to the area of the battle. It was there that we held a service, laid wreaths and with the Last Post being played by a Royal Marine Bugler, paid our respects to the lads that had died.

A day at Panmunjom and the Demilitarised Zone brought home the fact that we were still only in a truce situation. This seemed to be emphasised by the constant attention paid to us by the North Korean guards and military personnel. We did the grand tour around the Advance Camp manned by the UN Command Security Battalion; the Conference Room; the Joint Security Area and the Bridge of No Return. Most poignant part of the visit was seeing the Freedom Bridge across which 12,773 prisoners of war walked after the war including several members of the Glosters who were in our party. One can only imagine how they felt.

In Pusan, veterans from UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the Philippines attended the Korean National Cemetery for one of the more memorable and moving occasions. In the cemetery lie the bodies of 2,300 men including 885 from the UK. I had seen the cemetery in the media, read about it, been told about it by those who had visited before, but nothing prepared me for the feeling when I actually stepped through the Main Gate. It was a feeling of overwhelming sadness. The United Nations Command Ceremony was conducted in the morning. The **Duke of York** made a speech ending with a message from **the Queen. Gen Thomas A. Schwartz,** Commander in Chief, UN Command, ROK/US Command and US Forces Korea, and **Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley** along with other dignitaries also addressed the veterans and guests. After lunch the UK and Commonwealth Veterans marched on for the Commonwealth Ceremony and Service, again in the presence of **Prince Andrew**. After the ceremony he walked among the graves speaking to the veterans. Most moving was the personal tributes being paid by family members and regimental comrades by the laying of wreaths and the planting of wooden crosses. As a personal duty, I located the graves and paid my respects to the Royal Signals lads who had died.

In lighter moments we attended a Garden Party at the British Ambassador's Residence in the presence of **the Duke of York** and **Roger Moore**. Veterans, grey haired or balding and bemedalled, circulated; swapping war stories, while the ladies (bless them) vied to be noticed by the celebrities. It was an excellent affair with a buffet and drinks befitting the occasion. Highlight of the visit was a Cocktail Party and Banquet hosted by **Gen Lee, Sang-Hoon**, ROK Army, Retd Chairman The Korean Veterans Association and in the presence of **the Duke of York, Gen Sir Farrar-Hockley** and Ambassadors from countries involved in the war. It was a glittering evening at the 'Hotel Shilla', Seoul's premier hotel. This was a great success at which 81 UK Veterans were presented with the Korean Veteran's Medal for service during the war.

Over the 50 years many words have been written about that 'Forgotten War'. However, I have always felt that the role of the Royal Signals in that conflict was somewhat overshadowed. Talking to journalists and TV interviewers while in Korea made that pretty obvious. They seemed to have no conception or interest in the communications aspect of the conflict. **Ex-Sig Ron Larby** in his book, 'Signals to the Right - Armoured Corps to the Left' and in my own book 'Red Winds from the North', sought to give some insight into the Royal Signals actions and involvement. Perhaps this article will also serve as a reminder of the vital role that the Corp played in Korea and other conflicts.

REUNIONS

BEVERLEY EX-BOYS ASSOCIATION

Our Reunion this year will be held at the Lensbury at Teddington Lock on Saturday, 6 October. Tickets and full details can be obtained from **Tony Hull** on 01202-770261.

We have received the following report from our member, **Jim Batt**:
I visited Beverley again for the third time this year, exactly fifty-one years after I first went there as a boy soldier. This time it was a very auspicious occasion, the date was 10 May 2001, and it was to witness the ceremony for the end of term of office of the Mayor of Beverley, **Neville Holgate**, who has served the town for the period 2000-2001. It was also to celebrate the accession to this high office of **Councillor Birt** for the period 2001-2002. The ceremony took the form of a speech by the outgoing Mayor, followed by the nomination of the new Mayor and the voting in of the new candidate by the full Council. As there had only been one nomination, there then followed a speech by the new Mayor in acceptance of the office. In his speech the new Mayor spoke of all the sterling work done by **Neville** for the town and its residents. I met both the new Mayor and his wife, the Mayoress, who I am sure will do a very good job, but **Neville** will be a hard act to follow. After the speeches there followed the handing over of the robes and chains of office by the outgoing Mayor to his successor, who donned the same, having divested himself of the robes and chains of office of Deputy Mayor. Immediately before the robing ceremony **Neville's** last words as Mayor were, 'We will now disrobe,' which caused laughter from the crowded assembly, consisting of Council members, church dignitaries, ACF, scouts, press and members of the public. On completion of all ceremonies and Council business, I, along with a number of other people, was invited to the Mayor's Parlour for a buffet and wine. I was there as an invited member of the Beverley Ex-Boys Association and was introduced to quite a number of people. I made sure that our Association was well promoted. **Neville** has been a good friend to the Beverley Ex-Boys and he was telling people of our presence in the town between 1950-1955, and the fact that we have now formed an association. The new Mayor appears to be a decent chap and I feel there is no reason for us not to have a good ongoing relationship with him. It was explained that our Secretary, **Tony Hull**, could not attend due to his wife (our Assistant Secretary) **Beryl's** incapacity following a knee operation. **Neville** and his wife both sent their best wishes to **Beryl** for a speedy recovery. **Neville** reiterated his wish to continue his association with BEBA, although he is no longer Mayor he remains a Councillor and still wants a permanent reminder of our presence in the town all those years ago. **Ken Loft**, the Mace Bearer, will continue in this office. He oversaw the ceremonies of the handover/takeover of Mayor and his responsibilities include seeing the Mayor is properly robed and is where he should be at the right time.

Last but not least, the meeting took place in the Beverley Guildhall, the first time since its refurbishment, and what an impressive building it is. I had an enjoyable time meeting old friends and new, amongst the civilian population and they look forward to meeting us all, hopefully for next year's Reunion.

12th/15th/18th AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENTS ASSOCIATION

34 members of the Association, their wives and guests, assembled at the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, for their annual reunion and dinner on Saturday, 12 May. The first to arrive were **Ron Thompson**, who had left Fort William at 3.30am, and **Ray Foulds** who he had picked up as he sped through Glasgow on his way south. **Arthur** and **Betty Thomas** arrived somewhat later from Wolverhampton, **Arthur** bearing the South Staffordshire Branch Standard that presided proudly over the celebrations. Particularly welcome were **Andrew** and **Sylvia McKowen**. **Andrew's** father, **Maj George McKowen MBE**, commanded 1 Coy, 15th Air Formation Signals, from its formation until it disbanded after VE Day.

Chairman, **Gerald Evans**, in welcoming all to the reunion, remarked on the good heart of the association with more members attending the reunion each year and a growing membership rapidly approaching 200. He called for a minute's silence in memory of **Ron Pritchard, John Warke, John Farrier, Daniel Clements** and **John Johnson**, news of whose passing had been received since the last reunion. **Colin Morgan** then made a moving tribute to all those who had contributed to the success of the association. He brought blushes to the cheeks to those present and doubtless red ears to **Paul Quinn**, the energetic organiser of the South East Area lunches who had recently taken on the additional task of editing the association newsletter. After dinner **Alan Johnson**, one of the founder members of Air Formation Signals in the Middle East (3 GHQ & 3 AFS) and later a member of 18 AFS in Europe, treated us to a slide show charting the development of the trade of Dispatch Rider. From the early days when they wore Service Dress Caps and greatcoats with only a blue and white armband to indicate who they were. He showed a number of photographs of members of the Bar-None Motor Cycle Club, of which he was also a founder member, and described how the club came to be formed in the Middle East and named thus because 'None shall be barred from membership'. In his audience were a number of past members of the club, RAF and Military Police as well as Royal Signals. His presentation was followed by a barrage of questions. **Alan**, who is now in his 80's, still rides a vintage motorcycle, a big port AJS, almost as old as himself!

As the staff at the North Stafford have always made us very welcome and as the venue and timing suit so many of our members, next year's reunion has already been booked and will take place over the weekend 11/12th May, 2002, at Stoke-on-Trent. All past members of the 12th, 15th and 18th Air Formation Signals, their sister Air Formation Signal Units and CAFSO Staff who served in the UK, Europe or Middle East will be welcome. Contact **Colin Morgan** (01554-774638) for membership details.

CALLING ALL EX ROYAL SIGNALS SERVICEMEN FROM 7TH AND 11TH ARMOURED DIVISIONS WHO SERVED IN THE BERGEN-HOHNE/HAMBURG AREA IN 1945

7th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (207), based in Hohne Garrison, Bergen Belsen are looking for any Ex Royal Signals Servicemen who served in this area during the latter stages of World War 2. We would like to contact them concerning the history of Royal Signals participation during the fighting through this area and on to Hamburg. This Unit is duc to return to Hohne from Kosovo in November this year and is planning to take part in a Remembrance Service and Commemoration as part of 7th Armoured Brigade. It is likely to be a memorable event. Should anyone who served as part of the 7th and 11th Armoured Division, both of whom liberated this area, be interested in taking part then they should contact **WOI (RSM) Mark Tivey** on 0049 5051 962555 or 962267, fax 962422. The history of this Formation and of the action that took place in this area is deep seated and memorable. Many people died during the latter stages of the war, even after having survived for so long. We will remember them. Florcat Jerboa.

8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION LANGELEBEN REUNION BRANCH 25TH-28TH MAY 2001 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The 8th AGM and reunion was held in Konigslutter Germany over the weekend 25-28 May to coincide with the local 'Shutzenfest'. This reunion was also to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Langeleben Camp in 1951. The Avalon Konigshof Hotel was the venue for our dinner and dance on the evening of Friday 25 May enjoyed by 112 members and guests, many of them had not met since the 1950s-60s and many old friendships where renewed. On the Saturday after the AGM we all met at the Kaiserdom where local bands where playing prior to joining in the march through the streets to the town hall in the market square. Our contingent led by two standard bearers and our President, **Maj Gen Peter Baldwin CBE,** were considered the smartest on parade

even though our average age approached 60 (old soldiers and all that). After civic speeches by the Shutzenmeister and the Burgermeister, **Herr Arnulf Baumann**, the march continued on to the marquees in the festival site where an afternoon and evening of drinking, eating and dancing with the locals cemented the unique relationship that we have with the people of Konigslutter. Sunday, for most of us, was a day of rest and recuperation after the excesses of Saturday, many of our members went to Langeleben to take a last look at the old camp before the redevelopment due in the coming months, takes place. The weather over the whole weekend was glorious and quite a few of our members and guests stayed on for a few days to visit Berlin and to travel into the old East German zone or into the Harz Mountains. A report of our 50th Anniversary Reunion appeared with photographs in the local press, also praising the comfort given to the local population by the British army during the uncertain times of the 'cold war'.

LOST COMMS

Miss Lucille Cross would like to hear from anyone who served with her father, the former **Cpl (Teleprinter Operator) Peter Cross** (nicknamed Jimmy) in the following stations; Beverley 1951/53, Woolwich 1953/55, Malaya 1956/59, Gloucester 1960/61, Hounslow 1962/64, Singapore 1964/67 and Germany 1967/69. In particular, she would like to hear from **Alan Savage** and **Alan Swinbank**, both good friends of **Peter**. Anyone who can help is asked to contact **Lucille** at, 29 Hunters Road, Clayton-le-Woods, Leyland, Lancs, PR25 2TT.

Mr J. Fryett of 24 Garrick Way, IPSWICH, IP1 6NG, is trying to trace an old friend, **David Shorter**. He knew **David** in Tokyo, Japan 1946 and he was a regular soldier. Anyone who can help please contact **Mr Fryett** at the above address.

Ex-'F' Company Boy **2327716 Ken Selmes** (June '38 - March '41) would like to meet his apprentice friend **23277?? George Stokes** again. We last served together in the War Office Signals Army Chain Station at Kidderminster in 1942. Our service was due to end when we were 26 in 1949/50 (when I left). If any reader can recall **George** please contact **Ken** at 35 Cornwall Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NH or Tel: 01722 335503.

The photo is of 'Able Troop', 6 Armoured Division & Signal Regiment, Bunde, BAOR 22. It was taken in August 1953, on the occasion of **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Nairn**, departing for demob. The wood carving is a giveaway, it was liberated by 'Able' Troop whilst on exercise in Schleswig Holstein, but put under close arrest in the guardroom on our return to camp. It inevitably ended up in the Sergeants' Mess, but it was kindly loaned back to us for the above photo. Some of the faces in the photo belong to **R. Dunkerly, A. Buck,** 'Scouse' **Edwardson, M. Forshaw, J. Fish.** As most of them and myself are in our seventies I fear this may be the last chance for me to contact them. If any of you should see this please write to me, **Mr F. Nairn** at 12 Lanercost Drive, Newcastle/Tyne, NE5 2DE

CORRESPONDENCE

From: **Richard J. Smith**
'Whales Farm'
Gotton
CHEDDON FITZPAINE, Nr. Taunton,
Somerset
TA2 8LL

Dear Sir,

Having been given your name by the Museum Archivist, I write in the hope that you and your Readers may be able to help. One of my interests is research into Military History and individuals of particular interest.

To this end I am endeavoring to research the late **Sgt Arthur H. Gray**, who served with the Royal Signals during World War 2. He was serving at Catterick when he won the Area Senior Billiards Tournament with the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, School of Signals, in 1940/41 and 1942. A World War 2 War Medal was awarded to **Sgt Gray** but a certificate states that he did not live long enough to receive it in person. There is no record of his death at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and as I am not a relative I will be unable to get information from Hayes. It has been suggested that a note in *The WIRE* magazine asking that anyone who knew **Sgt Gray** or can give me any information about him to kindly contact me.

I hope that you don't think me impertinent but I have no other avenues left. As a matter of interest, if my thoughts are correct, **Sgt Gray** may well have served in The Boer War, World War 1 and World War 2, which is some achievement indeed.

I am fully prepared to cooperate with any request you may have with regards to my research.

With very best wishes.....

From: **Mary Christina Liddiard**
1a Nelson Road
Daybrook
Nottingham
NG5 6JE

Dear Sir,

The Photo below was taken in Korea, 1951-53. My husband was **Dvr Jesse Liddiard**, 22250646. He is on the right of the photo. Does anyone know who the other three men are.

Yours Sincerely.....

From: **Capt Frank Lawson**
3 Guardian Mews
Cotteril Close
Maple Road
Brooklands
MANCHESTER
M23 9HY

Dear Sir,

Royal Corps of Signals
North China Signals Section - Tientsin 1934

I refer to your article in *The WIRE* regarding Tienstin and would like to inform you that I was posted to Hong Kong Signal Section in 1936. I travelled out on the maiden voyage of HT Dilwara and I returned to the UK in 1940 via HT Georgic that was the last troopship out of Hong Kong before the Japanese invaded. I joined the Royal Corps of Signals on 6 June 1934 - your Birthday Year - and now 83, and joined Tientsin Signal Section in 1937. The HQ was 10 Downing Street in the British Concession, each country having its own concession. I remained in Tientsin and Peking (Beijing) during 1937-40 operating the British Embassy with the UK and other worldwide nets. I was on duty at a recreational Unit at Shanhaikwan (the Eastern end of The Great Wall) when I received the message that Great Britain was at war with Germany. The original Message form is in the Signals Museum at Blandford Forum.

I am an active President of the Royal Signals Association Sale Branch Manchester that meets the second Tuesday each month. I regret that I am not familiar with any of the names which were referred to but would appreciate being in touch with any members who may read *The WIRE*.

The function of the Hong Kong and Tientsin Signal Section was to maintain communications with Tientsin (HX8)-Peking-Shanghai-HongKong (GHN4) on a No 6 Transmitter and a Post Office Transmitter from the British Embassy in Peking. I am unable to answer the query as to the reasons for the British being in China in the 1930s, no doubt it requires a political answer. I am sure that there are many stories that could be exchanged but space dictates the issue. I look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely and fraternally.....

DONATIONS

RSA Eastbourne	£ 150.00
RSA Huddersfield	£ 50.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
David & Katie Hopkins	£ 50.00
238 Signal Squadron	£ 86.47
A. V. Brand, Funeral Directors in memory of Maj Eric Chaffey	£ 10.00
Mrs W. A. & Mr P. A. Rashid in memory of Maj Eric Chaffey	£ 20.00
W. A. Ramsay in memory of Maj Bob Aitken	£ 20.00
Mr L. D. Moodie MBE in memory of his son Sgt A. M. Moodie	£ 100.00
H. R. White in memory of Brig D. White OBE	£ 100.00
19 Signal Regiment Association in memory of Col J. Stuart-Usher	£ 25.00
RSA Bournemouth in memory of Mr K. M. Bartlett	£ 5.00
From friends in memory of Mr L. H. Hill	£ 364.00
Mrs G. Rapsey in memory of Lt Col F. G. G. Rapsey	£ 100.00

LAST POST

Church - LCpl W. D. Church	Served 1986/94	Died June '97
Collins - Maj D. B. Collins	Served 1948/85	Died 01/06/01
Crosby - SSgt J. W. Crosby	Served 1943/60	Died 14/06/01
Dilworth - Sgt G. Dolworth	Served 1937/46	Died 29/05/01
Fullard - Sgt D. R. Fullard	Served 1943/47	Died 19/05/01
Jones - Cpl E. W. Jones	Served 1937/47	Died May '01
Moodie - Sgt A. M. Moodie	Served	Died 18/05/01
Nevin - Sig A. E. Nevin	Served 1939/46	Died 31/05/01
Ramm - Sig D. E. A. Ramm	Served 1948/72	Died 30/06/01
Stuart-Usher - Col J. Stuart-Usher	Served 1927/55	Died 29/05/01
Wales - Sgt A. D. Wales	Served 1940/46	Died 25/04/01
Whyman - Maj G. J. Whyman	Served 19??/01	Died 05/06/01

Collins - Maj (TOT Retired) David 'Rastus' **COLLINS,** late R Signals. **David** was born in Blaina, Monmouthshire in 1933. He enlisted as a Boy Soldier at Maidstone in 1948 and then joined 1 TR in Catterick. From these early days, friends and comrades called him 'Rastus'. In 1951, trained as a Line Mechanic, he was posted to Germany. He subsequently served in the Far East, the Middle East, and in Europe. He was promoted Sergeant in 1953, and became a Foreman of Signals in 1964 (Foremans' Course number 20). He was promoted Warrant Officer Class 2 (FofS) in 1969, and Warrant Officer Class 1 (FofS) in 1972. **David** was commissioned and promoted Captain (Technical Officer) in 1976. He met **June**, who was a teacher with the British Forces Education Service in Herford, Germany in 1976. They were married in 1979. Posted to Shetland in 1983, **David** was promoted to Major (TOT) to command the NATO Forward Scatter Sites at Mossy Hill, Collarfirth Hill and Saxa Vord. Both he and **June** fell in love with the Northern Isles. Among his duties as OC Shetland, **David** was frequently called upon to host VIP visits from NATO Bigwigs. There was also a Royal Visit by **The Princess Anne.** In 1985, as his tour of duty neared it's end, rather than move away from his beloved Shetland, **David** took early retirement. He and **June** bought a cottage in Virkie, not far from the 'Maybury' Admin Base. His Regular Army Service totalled 37 years, 195 days.

In retirement **David** turned his hand to woodturning and metalwork. The results of his labours were successfully displayed and sold at local Craft Fairs. Like so many ex technical types, he also pottered with his tape/disc/cassette-recorders, radios, computers and latterly the Internet ... and there was always PROPER MUSIC in his house. A small but productive kitchen garden held a team of egg-laying ducks. **June** set a fine table and any visitors to 'Firs' were assured of superb food, excellent wines and splendid company. 'Rastus', when on form, was a raconteur par excellence! Upon raising a Shetland Branch of the Royal Signals Association in 1994, prospective members voted that **David** become President. He thoroughly enjoyed the monthly sessions with his Branch members at the Legion in Lerwick. One of his duties was to conduct **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman**, the then Association President, on his visit to Shetland in 1998.

In the early 1990s **David** fought Prostate Cancer. He suffered a heart attack in 1995 and overcame the heart-bypass-surgery that followed. Becoming an OAP in 1998 was no problem, for it meant he could enjoy a Pensioner's Pint at the Legion. Life in the Shetlands for **David** and **June** was 'Just Wonderful!' Then, in the winter of 2000 **David** became increasingly unwell. In February 2001 he attended the Royal Infirmary in Aberdeen, where it was confirmed that his cancer had returned. He came home to the Shetlands. With **June** constantly by his side, he was visited by family members and friends, from far and near. He was touched by the many messages of sympathy and support that were sent him. After a brief respite **David** passed away peacefully on 1 June 2001. His comrades in the Shetlands and elsewhere, send their sincere commiserations to **June** and the family. RIP 'Rastus'.

Lees - Maj (TOT) A. J. 'Leo' **Lees** who died aged 77 served in the Corps, in various capacities, for over 50 years. He was a big man in every way - noted for bringing the highest standards to everything he did. By nature he was a modest person with a great sense of humour.

Albert John Lees was born on 8 September 1923. In 1938, at the age of 16, he entered Boys Service. During World War 2 he served with the Special Forces. He was captured by the Germans in Greece and made three separate attempts to escape captivity but was recaptured on every occasion leading to long spells of solitary confinement. He was eventually released by the Russians and made his own way home to the UK. After the war he continued to serve in a variety of postings where his technical ability became increasingly recognised. In 1961, after nearly 23 years in the ranks, he was commissioned as TOT. He spent his first two years as an officer with 7 Signal Regiment in Herford returning to the UK in 1963 where he joined 8 Signal Regiment. In 1964 he joined HQ COMCAN in the UK before a happy tour in Malta. In 1974 he spent a short time as the TOT of the School of Signals prior to joining Trials Squadron. There followed a posting to Hong Kong where he spent three and a half years with 27 Signal Regiment. In 1976 he began his last tour as a serving officer with 4 Signal Group in Rheindahlen. Although he hung up his uniform in late 1978, he was to continue his service to the Corps as an RO in Germany, eventually retiring at the age of 67.

In his younger days he was a very fine sportsman - he represented both the Corps and the Army at Rugby. He was the most committed of soldiers; the Army was his life to which he always displayed the most positive of attitudes. He was a great family man and it is to his wife, **June**, and to his family that the Corps extends its condolences and good wishes at this sad time.

Henry - Catherine beloved wife of **Maj (Retd) Paddy Henry MBE**, died 11 May 2001 at St John's Hospital, Livingston, after a short illness.

McKenzie - John 'Mac' **McKenzie**, died in Peterborough Hospital on 4 May 2001 after a year long struggle, borne stoically and with great dignity, at the age of 56 against leukaemia. **John** joined the Junior Leaders at Denbury, Newton Abbot in 1960 and served in the Royal Signals in the U.K, Germany (especially Bruggen where he had fond memories) and Singapore. An active and competitive sportsman participated in most sports however, excelled in rugby where he represented the Army and the Royal Signals. He left the Corps in 1978 to start anew in Peterborough but he never lost touch with the corps and his true friends, who stayed with him to the end. **John,** to all who knew him, was a true gentleman, a very loyal friend, a wonderful husband to **Linda** and a doting father to his daughters **Louise** and **Gail**. In the last several years he took great delight in spending time with his three granddaughters **Kelly, Kayleigh** and **Aimee**. He will always hold a special place in our hearts and memories.

Nevin - Mr A. E. 'Ted' **Nevin**. It is with deep regret that the Liverpool Branch of the Royal Signals Association announces the death of **A. E. Nevin**. **Ted** passed away on 1 May 2001 at Arrow Park hospital on the Wirral. **Ted** enlisted at the age of 17 years in the 55th Division Signals in 1939. He trained as a Lineman and then he went on to acheive his boyhood ambition as a DR (no doubt the IOMTT had greatly entertained him). In 1942 he sailed from Liverpool on the P&O liner *Mooltan* for the middle east, via the Cape. Where he took part in the Sicily landings. He was hospitalised on the Elder Dempster liner *Aba* after receiving a shrapnel wound at Catania. He returned to the Italian mainland to serve with the 11th Corps of the US 5th Army. Following his army service **Ted,** being the caring person he was, gave a great amount of his time to the local British Legion. A very large attendance at his last farewell confirmed this. We at the Liverpool Branch offer our sincere condolences to his widow **Isla**, son **Keith** and daughter **Kim**.

Ambrose - William 'Bill' **Ambrose** passed away on 20 June 2001, after a long illness caused by a brain tumour. **Bill** was a Harrogate apprentice between January 1961and December 1963 and went on to serve in the Corps until December 1971 as a Radio Relay Technician reaching the rank of Sergeant. On leaving the service **Bill** spent 2fi years with the Trans Arabian Pipeline Co. in Saudi Arabia, before joining Racal Communications Ltd in 1974, with whom he was employed until his death. Initially employed as an Overseas Installations Engineer, **Bill** rose to become a Technical Manager, before moving, in 1991, into Project Management.

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY TRAINING AND ADVISORY TEAM

OC **Capt Jerry Hughes**
YofS **SSgt (YofS) Steve Hillier**

After returning from Ex Prairie Eagle, a four-week exercise in Poland, the Team took advantage of some excellent adventure training and sporting activities. Well done to the OC, YofS and **Cpl Robson** for completing the Rotterdam Marathon. Congratulations to **Stu Mackie** and **Mick Gee** on their promotion to Lance Corporal and to **Nick Robson** for passing his PTI course. Farewell and best wishes to **LCpl Al Smale-Saunders** and fiancée **Theresa,** hope you both enjoy Herford. It is goodbye to **Cpl Nick Robson** and the best of luck at 14 Sig Regt (EW). The Team welcomes **Sig Dave Green** who recently arrived from 15 Sig Regt.

EXERCISE PRAIRIE EAGLE 2001 - *by LCpl Mick Gee*

Yes, it's that time of the year again, when we go to sunny Poland, but someone or something was trying to stop us from going. Five days to deployment, 'Sorry Boss no Gucci command vehicle, it's getting back-loaded tomorrow.' Then on the morning of the said deployment the FFR decided that it had seen enough of Poland and didn't want to start. It was 0300hrs and things were a bit frantic. Nevertheless we left Sennelager on time, albeit less two vehicles and a trailer! During the long journey we had a chance to grab a quick shower, **Mick** 'Greengrass' **Gee**, dropped a large adjustable spanner on his big toe! He is the only person I know that carries a Part 3A in his wash-bag, I dread to think what he uses the breakdown flag for! When we arrived at DPTA, Poland we were issued with the most important bit of kit 'our meal ticket'. We went to our new found site which was recced by **Yeoman Steve** 'Capt Darling' **Hillier** and set-up the complex. Things were quite noisy that night due to the armour cutting about the area, but it all became clear in the morning as we were informed that we had pitched up in a tank range, thank you Darling. Then there was the field promotion of **Stu** 'Blowfly' **Mackie** who was the victim of an ongoing troop windup helped along by **Dave** 'Penknife Surgery' **Moorhead.** The days of scheming came to an end as the OC, **Jerry** 'General Melchet' **Hughes** bahhhhh, presented **Stu** with his tape, congratulations **LCpl Mackie**. A mention must go to **Nick** 'Thrush' **Robson**, I am glad that you brought that Blandford dipole along with you and enough paper to supply a regiment!

CMSC ADVENTURE TRAINING – BAVARIA - *by LCpl Stu Mackie*

As summer approaches the lads from COMSECTAT joined the CMSC contingent for a very enjoyable week's adventure training in Bavaria. Before it started **Dave** 'Meathead' **Moorhead** dropped a clanger by announcing he couldn't actually do any adventure training because of his in growing toenail! The first night was a 'quiet night in' at the lodge bar, (mmmm!). The first days activity was a gruelling days hill walking and **LCpl Stu** 'JD and Coke' **Mackie** and **Cpl Dave** 'Stabilisers' **Storey** joined **Cpl Martin Reed** bringing up the rear of the team, 'Aren't you supposed to be on your Summer Mountain Leaders course in a fortnight **Martin**?' On Wednesday morning we set off early for a day's mountain biking, a quality day enjoyed by everyone, except **Dave** 'Kamikaze' **Green**. He managed to launch himself from his bike and end up a mixture of cogs, limbs and a chain all tied together, but miraculously he was able to get up dust himself off and carry on, despite the blood gushing from his wounds! We got back to the lodge in one piece though and then rounded the week off nicely with a day white water rafting which everyone agreed was awesome, apart from **Sig Dave Moorhead** who nearly drowned. A big thanks goes to **SSgt (YofS) Del Goodenough** for arranging the week.

Sgt Phil Smithson, Capt Jerry Hughes, SSgt (YofS) Steve Hillier, Cpl Nick Robson

EXERCISE LONELY SKI II - *by LCpl Al Smale-Saunders*

The Exercise consisted of six days of alpine skiing in and around the French boarder town of Chatel. The team **included Maj Mark Winston-Davies** (CMSC), **Capt Windy Millar** (CMSC), **SSgt (YofS) Steve Hillier** (COMSECTAT), **Cpl Dave Storey** (CMSC) and **LCpl Al Smale-Saunders** (COMSECTAT). The journey down was uneventful (except for the mad driving and nightmare parking in Chatel town centre) and by 7 o'clock in the evening we had got our accommodation, skis and lift passes. The first day on the slope was free ski where old skiing legs where re-discovered and dusted off. It was soon clear that the slopes in the resort were certainly not for beginners, even the junior slopes were either steep, narrow or both. Our instructor was a Frenchman named **Alain** who farmed cattle on the slopes in the summer and pulled some of the craziest stunts on the slope in the winter. We were also with a number of French skiers, most of who were in the twilight of their years, but generally were very good, and a dodgy Dutch couple. The first morning of lessons were spent showing **Alain** what we could do, which, compared to him, was very little and by the end of the day everyone was worn out. The next day it appeared that **Dave Storey** had not been totally correct about his ability and he was moved down a group, which amused us greatly. For the top group, **Alain** took us off piste for some more madness and had us doing jumps off cliffs and skiing over mogul fields. As the week progressed, we all improved noticeably in most aspects of our skiing, but by the end of the trip everyone was tired due to the hard skiing we had been doing, and most were glad when we headed back. A lot was learnt from the lessons by all and we became better skiers for it. Many thanks go to **Maj Mark Winston-Davies** for organising the trip, and we look forward to the next trip in the future.

REGULAR SIGNALLER,
LANCE CORPORAL
OR
CORPORAL

INTERESTED IN EARNING £250 BEFORE TAX
NO CATCHES?!!

The Royal Signals are included in the Satisfied Soldier Bounty Scheme (SSBS) that is designed to improve recruiting and all Regular Corporals and below are eligible. It is a very simple scheme; you obtain SSBS cards, which are called Recruit Preference Cards from your unit. Each card has a serial number; you write your details in the card and give it to a potential Royal Signals Recruit.

Once the individual completes Phase 1 Training, you receive £250 before tax.

RECRUIT PREFERENCE CARD

Keep this Card Safe

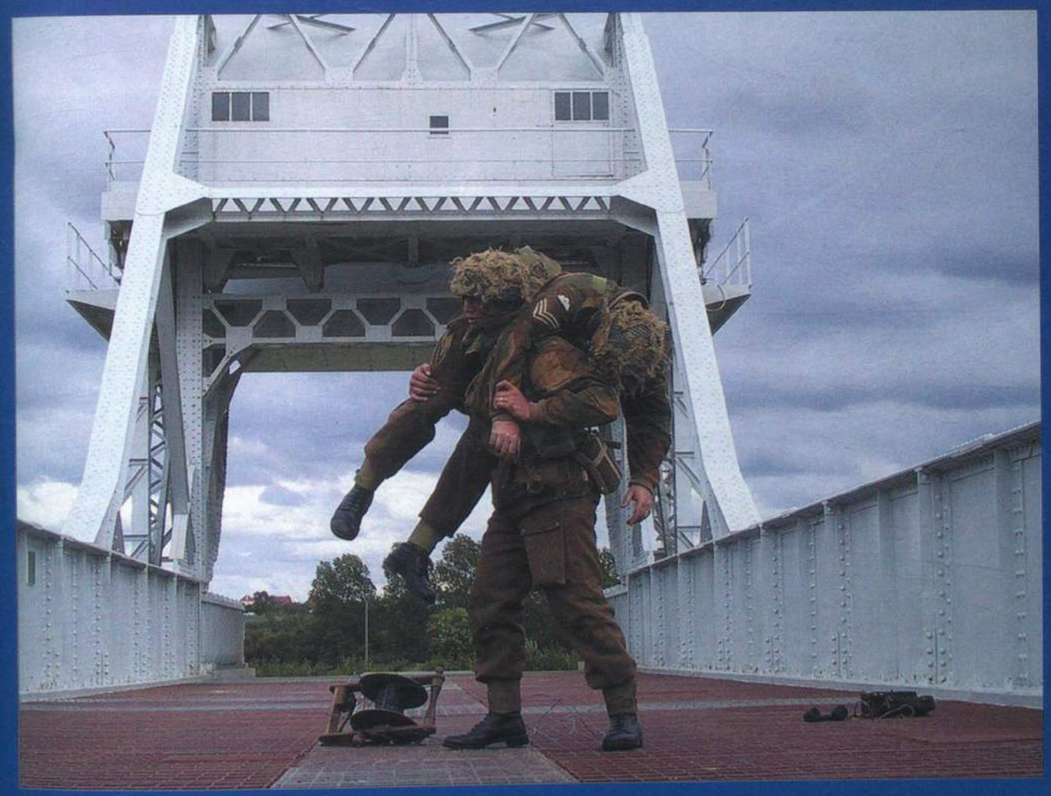
Take it with you to all interviews with the Army Careers Staff and Recruit Selection Staff

There is no upper limit to the number of cards you can issue, so if you know a lot of people that want to join the Royal Signals, you could earn yourself 'LOADS OF MONEY'.

You can use the card anytime, however, why not go as a Satisfied

THE Wire

October 2001



The Royal Corps of Signals

A ROYAL VISIT TO 36 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

Sgt Roles explains the technical aspects of a 'Mux', whilst his companions look as if they know what he's talking about!

Her Royal Highness is introduced to the Project Officer, Capt Russell Edwards

Her Royal Highness with the PSAO of 44 Squadron, Capt Brown
'Yes Ma'am, it was at the Little Big Horn that I was scalped!'

Her Royal Highness is presented to members of 45 Squadron by Maj Mike White

Her Royal Highness is presented to 54 Squadron, nice cam Ladies and Gents

Her Royal Highness is shown around the 44 Squadron Stand by WO2 (FofS) Ward
Meanwhile the Master of Signals speaks to LCpl Ashpole
and reminds him to give him back his uniform after the visit is over

The Royal Signals Magazine

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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

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The Wire

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Editor Lt Col (Retd) P. Valder
Deputy Editor Mrs J. A. Herring

Member of the Association of Service Journals

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FRONT COVER

Shows **Sgt Nigel Brewin** and **Cpl Michael MacDonald** taking part in a reenactment of part of the story of the Corps Hero, **Cpl Thomas Waters**

BACK COVER

Comes to us courtesy of the Spenborough Gazette, a local Leeds paper, and shows **Sig Ramzan**, from 34 Signal Regiment (V), and three local children at a Fete in support of the Kenmore Cheshire Home for the Disabled

The closing date for copy to REACH this office, in order to go in the DECEMBER issue is 15 OCTOBER 2001

UNIT NOTES

Unit Notes are increasing in size. Although the Editorial Staff approve of this trend there is, however, a limit! The compilers of *WIRE* notes are reminded of the guidelines regarding notes as follows: Major Units three pages of text, font size 8pt
Minor Units two pages of text, font size 8pt

We accept that there are exceptions for special events. We are always happy to receive good quality photographs but large numbers of these should be reflected in a reduction in the quantity of text.

Particular gripes are - a series of Troop level descriptions of the same function - boring - pick the best and don't send the rest. Photographs that only show the backs of peoples heads or photographs of a large number of people who lose their identity when we shrink the photo.

Authors alone are responsible for the content of their articles. The opinions expressed in the articles of this publication are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Royal Signals or the Ministry of Defence. This publication should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

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BOWMAN

by Maj A. R. Blackwell

Most readers will have an opinion on BOWMAN – probably several. This article aims to spread some facts about BOWMAN … the first being that many soldiers will see it in their current unit within their current tour. On 19 July, the Secretary of State for Defence announced that Computing Devices Canada (CDC) had won the recent BOWMAN competition. This is not the first time that a company has been selected to supply BOWMAN; there are, however, some key differences this time.

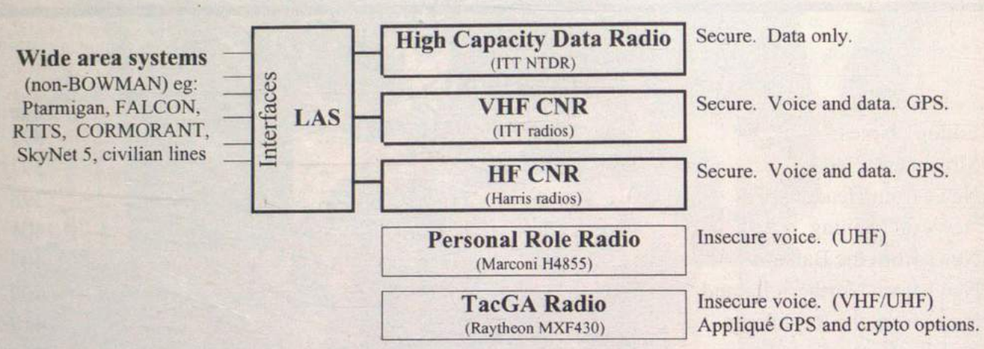
First, the selection followed an intense competition between three major defence companies.

Second, the contract will be to supply BOWMAN (that is, provide equipment, install it on vehicles, ships and aircraft across all three Services, provide initial training and support the system), not merely conduct further research and development.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the initial costs and timescale are fixed. In other words, BOWMAN is real. So what will it be? In broad terms, BOWMAN is:

- A secure voice and data service down to half section level.
- The basis for the subsequent Digitisation of the land battlespace.

BOWMAN will comprise: voice and data HF and VHF combat net radio (CNR); an UHF High Capacity Data Radio (HCDR) and a Local Area Sub-system (LAS). The BOWMAN family also includes the Tactical Ground to Air radio (PRC 346), accepted into service in November 1998 and used operationally in the Balkans and Sierra Leone and the Personal Role Radio (PRC 343) accepted into service in August 2001 and currently being fielded. BOWMAN can be viewed in system terms:



The heart of the system is the LAS. This will replace the current Clansman harness, Ptarmigan cabling within and between HQ vehicles, intercom cabling and the wide range of ad-hoc cabling required for currently fielded computer networks. One information bearer between vehicles will replace the miles of cabling that currently form tangled and fault-prone webs around deployed HQs. The LAS will provide connectivity within vehicles for all voice and data services, and connectivity between vehicles and with non-BOWMAN systems. Thus, for example, a Satcom detachment may connect directly into a brigade HQ via the BOWMAN LAS, or a staff officer may make a call over Ptarmigan via the LAS. Indeed, only one radio per net even needs to be switched on in order to serve an entire cabled-up HQ … fewer masts, antennae, generators (and duty operators 'sitting on set'?).

The High Capacity Data Radio is a new capability, designed to meet the communications needs of the vastly increased amount of data that will be passed in future. Whilst future trunk systems are ideally suited to transport data at formation HQ and above, a more mobile and fluid network is required at lower tactical levels. The HCDR network will be a self-managing (from the user's perspective), secure network which will automatically route data around the battlefield in the most efficient manner.

The secure voice and data service, based on combat net radio, will replace the current Clansman system. The way in which we organize our radio nets will probably not change much – they are, after all, linked more to the operational chain of command than the technology involved – but all HF and VHF radios will be combined voice and data capable, and all will be secure. BATCO will only need to be issued to the Corps Museum and we will be able to exchange data all the way down to half section level, as opposed to regimental/battalion HQ. All manpack combat net radios will have a GPS chip embedded, which will provide conventional GPS functionality (own location, navigation, etc) as well as providing data for automatic transmission of locations in order to provide an accurate 'friendly picture' of where our own troops are – situation awareness. Vehicles equipped with BOWMAN will have one GPS per vehicle.

The Personal Role Radio … The PRR is a short range (~500m), insecure voice radio for use within sections and other small teams. It is a new capability and will enhance low level command and control – what we currently do by shouting, hand signals, whistles, flares and the like. Some 45,000 are being purchased and issued at the rate of 2,000 per month during 2002 and 2003. Royal Signals units will receive PRR to enhance the local defence of HQs and some isolated detachments.

Introduction … The first two years of introduction (2003-2004) will see an incremental programme of conversion, starting with a mechanized battalion being converted and undergoing trials, and building up to a full brigade by the end of two years, with trialing being an almost continuous activity alongside conversion and training. If all goes well, the next three years will see the remainder of Defence converted. Units in the Formation Readiness Cycle (FRC) will be converted in their Training Year and non-FRC units overlaid in the same three year period. The high level fielding plan as it currently affects the Corps is:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Summary		**First brigade & trials**		**Main Fielding**		
Development	Design lines and field proving					
Trials		TFTs / Bn OFT	TFT / Bde OFT	Bde OFT		
12 Mech Bde		First Bn	Remainder			
Div HQ and Sig Regts			3	1		
Armd Bdes				7×	20×	4×
Mech Bdes				19×	1×	
Cdo and AA Bdes				3 Cdo Bde	16 AA Bde	
Sig Bdes				1×, 2× and 11×		
Personal Role Radio	**PRR Fielding**					

So what?… Many readers will see BOWMAN in their unit in their current tour. It is real, and it is happening now. So what effect will it have on us? Apart from the obvious ones –HQs will be set up and taken down faster, the Yeoman won't need to account for BATCO, the Foreman won't need to spend hours cannibalising Clansman radios, and GPS and situation awareness will make it obvious when the new Troop Commander has got hopelessly lost – there is likely to be a significant shift from operating individual sets and intrusive maintenance to network management, supervisory duties and accurate asset tracking. The enormous leap in capability that BOWMAN will bring requires expert management if the services are to be easy for users to operate. The emphasis of our work will move away from 'working the radio' to 'managing the system'. BOWMAN has been designed to be flexible to meet many different scenarios – the different configurations are virtually limitless and future operators and supervisors will need to understand what the underlying technology is capable of in order to get the best out of the system. Many parts of the system, notably the HCDR network, are completely new concepts. No-one in their right mind would currently claim to offer the definitive guide to getting the best out of such a system and we will clearly have a lot to learn. The success of BOWMAN will be more about understanding it and exploiting it than it will be about familiarity with the buttons.

The White Helmets

OPENING SHOW

On returning to Blandford, our training was hampered further by the Foot & Mouth outbreaks and more injuries, namely **Sig Marcus Kershaw** (fractured wrist) and **Sig Carl Potter** (fractured elbow), both of whom had accidents dismounting from the '3 Bike Fan'. With the knock-on-effect caused by the problems so far, it was only logical for the team management to decide on a postponement of the Opening Show. Invitations were changed and arrangements were made for the show to now proceed on 18 May. The weather began to improve and the training moved along nicely. There were quite a few changes to the show this year with an increase of riders to the Opening Ride, the Irish Whip and the Charlie's Diamond and with the addition of the Honda sponsored 400cc race quads. Rehearsals came and went, albeit with a few hiccups (no change there then!) and before we knew it, it was Friday morning and the Lads were getting ready to perform. The atmosphere in the garages prior to the show was excellent, with the Army Press Team on-site, there were cameras clicking, camcorders rolling, interviews being conducted and people in various poses strutting their stuff and giving their cheekiest grins in the name of 'publicity'. Time came for the show to commence, the Band was playing, the SOinC arrived and at 1130, twenty Triumph Tiger 750's thundered onto Hawke Square for the Opening Ride. The show went very well indeed and the crowd was very appreciative (probably of the unusually nice weather as well as the performance). Before you could say 'Cor look at that fire!!', the show was over and another three people joined the prestigious ranks of the wearers of the much coveted White Helmet. Congratulations to: **Capt Kyra** 'Betty Boop' **McAnulty, Cpl Steve** 'The Hat' **Girling** and **LCpl James Brown** 'aaaoooww'.

Cpl Malin and Sig 'Merry' Scott at the front on a Training Day

LCpl 'V Mal' Hildreth gives his bike another polish!

LCpl 'Scouse' O Leary at the Opening Show on one of the Team's new CCMs 600 jump bikes (604Es) - British of course!

Should you make a purchase as the result of seeing an advert in *The WIRE*, please let them know that you saw their advert in your Corps Magazine

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

HERO'S SISTER VISITS THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

Mrs Florrie Egan, the sister of **Cpl Thomas Waters**, Royal Signals hero of the D-Day landings, paid an unexpected visit with her family to the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford on 13 August 2001. **Cpl Thomas Waters** was awarded the Military Medal after rescueing a colleague and repeatedly repairing communication lines under sniper fire on the Benouville Bridge (later renamed Pegasus Bridge) over the Caen Canal. His gallantry is remembered in the famous Corps painting *'Go To It'* by **Peter Archer**. **Mrs Egan,** who is 83, was one of ten children, she was very close to her brother, **Tom**, four years her senior, who died in 1956. She is seen here with **Sgt Brewin** and **Cpl MacDonald** of Radio Systems Group who were keen to meet **Florrie** having re-enacted the Normandy Assault and **Tom Walter's** heroic effort on 6 June this year (see the front cover). The family had many anecdotes told to them by **Tom** to add to the well-known story. A new display on 216 Sig Sqn is being prepared and will soon be on view in the museum.

THE PRESENTATION OF
THE PENGELLY MEDALS TO THE MUSEUM

His sons **Raymond** and **Christopher** recently presented the medals of **Sgt Leslie Ralph Pengelly MVO** to the Museum. **Leslie Pengelly** was called up in 1941 for wartime service and after training at Catterick was drafted to Singapore where he served until 1944 before transferring to India and Burma where he was, amongst other things, an air courier. In 1945 he was in Singapore at the time of the surrender. In 1948, after discharge from the Corps, he took up employment at the Buckingham Palace Post Office where he remained until 1956. He then worked with the General Post Office as a Personnel Manager but returned in the mid-1970s to Royal duty and became the Court Post Master. He retired in 1981 and was appointed Member of the Royal Victorian Order for his services. He was also awarded the order of the Legion of Merit for his services during the state visit of **Monsieur Mitterand**. **Leslie Pengelly** died in Novemeber 2000 aged 79 and **Col (Retd) Cliff Walters** accepted his medals on behalf of the Corps.

Raymond and Hilary Pengelly, Col (Retd) Cliff Walters and Christopher and Christina Pengelly at the medal presentation

Bill and Maggie Maughan present the medals of Lt Col Charles Maughan MBE TD to Col (Retd) Cliff Walters

PRESENTATION OF
THE MAUGHAN MEDALS TO THE MUSEUM

Lt Col Charles Maughan MBE TD was a wartime member of the Royal Signals. He was born in 1911 and when World War II call up was inevitable he joined the TA and was commissioned into 50th (N) Motor Division Signals in Darlington. He was desperate to serve in an active theatre but hearing difficulties became a barrier and his first three years of war service were mainly in the training organisation. Never daunted, he 'kicked up a great fuss' and eventually boarded the *Queen Mary* liner on a passage to Egypt. Here he served in Cairo and went on to join the invasion of Sicily with 13 Corps in August 1943. The outcome was a fascinating wartime career with the 8th Army. He fought the whole of the Italian campaign through Sicily, Cassino, Rome, Florence and Trieste. **Charles** was no ordinary officer and he maintained a very detailed diary, of many volumes, relating his exploits and experiences of the wartime campaign. He was appointed MBE for his services in Europe. He became CO of 13 Corps Signals in 1945 and was demobbed after the war. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1958 where he died and was laid to rest in Wellington in 1978. His son **Bill** and daughter-in-law **Maggie** recently presented his father's diaries, medals and other items of interest to the Museum. The diaries are packed with **Charles'** personal thoughts as the war progressed. We are very grateful for these donations which are an important addition to our historical records.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY – IN THE CORPS

Back in 1955 **Sig John Edward Godwin** joined the Royal Signals for his three years National Service. On completion of his basic training he was posted to Cyprus for a two-year tour and thereafter he returned to Richmond in North Yorkshire before being discharged in 1958. **Mr Godwin** celebrates his 65th birthday on 30 October this year, he now lives in Rotherham, South Yorkshire with his wife **Ethel.**

Sig J. E. Godwin (Right)

In 1978 **Sig M. Godwin** joined the Corps (following his fathers footsteps) and since completing his basic training in Catterick North Yorkshire, he has served with units in Germany, Belize, Cyprus and the UK. **Capt** 'Blod' **Godwin** is currently the Quartermaster Technical 1st (UK) Armoured Division HQ & Signal Regiment, based in Herford.

Capt M. Godwin — Busy at work

In January 1999 **Sig J. L. Godwin** joined the Corps (following his grandfather and fathers footsteps) and after completing his basic training in Bassingbourn, he moved on to Blandford to carry out his trade training as a Sytems Operator. He is now serving with 232 Signal Squadron, 7 Signal Regiment, currently based in Krefeld.

Sig J. L. Godwin — Suited Up (NBC Style).

Finally in April 2001 **Sig L. F. Godwin** became the latest member of the Godwin Clan to enlist into the Corps (following his grandfather, father and big brothers footsteps), **Liam** passed out of Bassingbourn on 20 July and is currently undergoing trade training at Blandford.

Sig L. F. Godwin (shortly before his Pass Off Parade)

MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
AUGUST 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Maj N. R. N. Caleb	JACIG (AE)
Maj P. E. J. Drew	G6 HQ LAND
Maj N. W. Gill	D/Bowman
Maj P. K. Gorford	Indiv Trg Pol, DI Trg Pol (A)
Capt S. A. Bason	Joint Staff Div J6 HQ BF Cyprus
Capt A. Jenkins	15 Signal Regiment
Capt A. J. Rickman	Joint Comms Unit Northern Ireland
Capt A. M. Taylor	Civil Affairs Group
Capt G. Tomlinson	RHQ AFNORTH

OFFICERS
SEPTEMBER 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Col A. W. Merrick MBE	SBLO France
Lt Col S. P. Hunt	JACIG (AE)
Maj L. V. Tomkins	HQ BFFI

WOS AND SNCOS
AUGUST 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
A/WO1 FofS R. J. Wymer	CPD CIS Svcs Gp
WO2 RD N. R. Furnival	ATR Bassingbourn
WO2 RD K. P. Innes	BMM Kuwait
WO2 RD I. H. Pennell	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt M. K. Abraham	16 Signal Regiment
SSgt A. E. Buckle	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
SSgt S. Cain	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
SSgt R. D. Long	JSIO Chicksands
SSgt P. McDonald	60 Signal Squadron (V)
SSgt M. I. Pavier	7 Signal Regiment
SSgt M. Simcock	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
A/SSgt R. J. Ayling	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
A/SSgt S. J. Crooks	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
A/SSgt P. G. Mitchell	15 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt N. J. Ulley	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt M. A. Bell	39 Signal Regiment (V)
Sgt M. A. J. Brown	7 Signal Regiment
Sgt D. A. Cascarino	RHQ AFNorth
Sgt D. P. Churchward	1 Signal Squadron
Sgt K. A. Cooney	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt P. P. Corcoran	7 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (207)
Sgt S. P. Dade	2 Signal Regiment
Sgt A. J. Dawes	RHQ AFNorth
Sgt A. P. Duplock	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218)
Sgt K. P. East	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Sgt J. P. Ford	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt A. Hayes	14 Signal Regiment (EW)

Sgt A. Kempton	... ...	31 Signal Regiment (V)
Sgt V. C. Key	... ...	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sgt S. R. A. Marvel	... ...	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt M. Meaden	... ...	NSE Northwood
Sgt R. Midgley	... ...	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sgt G. A. Paver	... ...	JHQ Centre
Sgt L. Rotherforth	... ...	RHQ AFNorth
Sgt S. Rowe	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt G. A. Sorley	... ...	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
Sgt D. A. Street	... ...	225 Signal Squadron
Sgt M. A. Trotter	... ...	34 (Northern) Signal Regiment (V)
Sgt A. T. D. Waddington	... ...	1 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt P. A. Waters	... ...	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Sgt D. J. Windsor	... ...	ATR Bassingbourn
Sgt A. Wood	... ...	BATUS

WOS AND SNCOS
SEPTEMBER 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
A/WO1 RD A. P. Staniford	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
WO2 RD M. A. Giles	4 CTT
WO2 RD A. Hartley	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
WO2 RD P. Robson	33 Signal Regiment (V)
A/WO2 RD M. A. Sherwood	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt J. Barr	Comms Proj Div
SSgt A. M. Chester	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
SSgt R. A. Dickinson	39 Signal Regiment (V)
SSgt R. C. Eden	2 Signal Regiment
SSgt A. S. Egan	2 Signal Regiment
SSgt A. C. Fensom	20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200)
SSgt G. P. Hudson	HQ ARRC
SSgt C. D. R. Kitchener	20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200)
SSgt G. J. Low	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
SSgt A. MacPherson	SHAPE ACE Commsec
SSgt S. P. Norris	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
SSgt S. Taylor	2 Signal Regiment
SSgt D. J. Turner	16 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt C. A. Bremner	40 Signal Regiment (V)
A/SSgt M. K. MacPhee	16 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt C. M. Ogg	34 (Northern) Signal Regiment (V)
A/SSgt A. D. Smith	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt G. T. Bevan	HQ SOinC(A)
Sgt L. D. Box	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt C. J. Brankin	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt P. J. Challis	JHQ South
Sgt S. P. Chell	ACOS J6 PJHQ (UK)
Sgt M. J. Clarke	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt D. W. Cook	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt H. Dunlop	HQ SOinC(A)
Sgt G. E. Dunston	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. L. Ebdon	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt D. J. Eyes	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. Farnfield	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt J. Hatch	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt R. G. Howe	2 Signal Regiment
Sgt P. J. Howl	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt P. F. Hughes	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. J. Hunt	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt S. W. King	16 Signal Regiment
Sgt P. J. Landregan	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt P. J. Levick	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt R. L. Milligan	NSE Northwood
Sgt M. J. O'Hara	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt P. Oulton	2 Signal Regiment
Sgt A. C. Paling	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sgt S. R. Pope	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sgt N. Roberts	15 Signal Regiment
Sgt N. T. Shrimpton	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt G. G. Sutherland	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt G. R. Tibbetts	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt C. F. Usher	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt K. M. Waring	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt A. J. Watson	17 CTT
Sgt N. J. Watt	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt M. P. Whittaker	3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regiment
Sgt M. Yuill	7 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt M. Allen	600 Signal Troop
A/Sgt R. J. Smith	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)

CORPS CAROL SERVICE
NEW DATE MONDAY
17 DECEMBER 2001

1800hrs, Church of St Stephen with St John, Rochester Row, Westminster, London
New singers for the choir please contact **Lt Col John Chambers** on Tel: 020 7405 2644
or E-mail: jwilton@mtgb.demon.co.uk

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS UNITED KINGDOM SUPPORT COMMAND (GERMANY)

DRIVING RAIN GREETS MARCHING TEAMS AT NIJMEGEN
by Nigel Sargeant

Driving rain greeted some 40,000 marchers - among them over 1,300 British Servicemen and women - during the 85th Nijmegen Marches in Holland last week. Blazing heat and dazzling sunshine are the usual order of the day at the 'Vierdaagse', the annual 4-Day marching epic that takes place every July. However, this extraordinary mix of fun and foot-slogging - which attracts people from all over the world to take on four 40km circuits around the beautiful Dutch town of Nijmegen - this year sunstroke and heat exhaustion were replaced by exposure and frequent drenchings. Still, nothing could dampen everyone's traditional high spirits.

The weather might not have been over-welcoming but the hospitality from the Dutch townsfolk at the biggest event in their annual calendar was as superb as ever. Many of the onlookers live along the route and declare a four-day holiday as normal life cheerfully gives way to a non-stop festival. Bars work flat out and children hand out sweets and cakes to the walkers! The Marches kicked off in fine style with the Flag Parade, a traditional show of pomp and pageantry at Nijmegen's sports stadium, where enthusiastic crowds watched teams from each participating nation march past bearing their national flag. A few hours sleep and then the marching kicked off for real on Day 1, with the first teams setting off at 4am to crack half the course in the cool. Crowds of well wishers lined every step of the route ensuring a fun atmosphere, however hard the going got.

The Vierdaagse is all about extremes - whether excessive heat, rain, staggering numbers, or one-off surprises and this year was no different. The oldest marcher by far was Dutch lady and local celebrity **Annie Berkhout**, who this year was taking part in her 65th march, having clocked up nine even before WW2! Out of the total marchers, some 5,500 military personnel from 23 countries took part. For the second year running, UK fielded the biggest Military Contingent, several hundred up on last year. Almost 100 teams of Regular, Reserve and Cadet marchers from all three Services took to the tarmac. Such a large turn-out inevitably calls for huge admin back-up and, as in previous years, both Army and RAF Support Staff were out in force to give the marchers food, welfare and medical support every painful step of the way. Operating out of Heumensord Dutch military camp, which rapidly turned into a mud-bath after the torrential rain, a 130 strong team coordinated by Rheindahlen based HQ UKSC(G) included medics, chefs, RMP staff and Army dog handlers.

Maj Mal Biggs, Officer Commanding the British Military Contingent commented, 'With a heavy workload, not helped by the weather, it was all about team effort by both the Army and RAF staff. Particular thanks should go to colleagues **Maj Pete Williams** and **Sqn Ldr Phil Tyler**. An added complication to this year's operation was that our attendance at the Marches was not confirmed until 1 June, owing to the Foot and Mouth crisis.'

A key task for the back up team is to run Rest Areas around the circuits, offering much needed refreshments and first aid - above all blister treatment - to the thousands of Service marchers who stream past each day. The British military reception teams always welcome Canadian and Australian military marchers, as well as British Bobbies, and this year was no different! The British medics treated some 1,100 injuries great or small, chiefly blisters but with a fair smattering of knee injuries, pressure sores and 'immersion foot', with the Foot and Mouth situation in UK having reduced people's opportunity to train. **LCpl Stephen Torley**, working with a team from Hohne based A Sqn 1 CSMR said, 'It's vital to start training at least three months before to harden the feet, and above all select the right footwear, especially when marching through pouring rain for hours on end.' Good preparation was very much on the minds of a threesome from 3 Battalion REME. **Sgts Bob Cowan** and **Liam Cates** and **Cpl Steve Bowron** regarded Nijmegen as excellent training for the 'IDATA Sport Extreme 350', a tough trek through the deep snow of Alaska next February. Bob said, 'With Nijmegen and then spending a harsh winter on operational tour in the Balkans, we feel we'll be well prepared.' The team is looking for backers - phone Paderborn mil 3726!

Other BFG teams this year included 7 Sig Regt, 2 CS Regt Wksps REME, 37 Sqn RAF Regt and 1 (UK) ADSR. Not to be outdone was **SSgt Tony Knott** from G3 HQ UKSC(G), marching for his ninth year and attending as an individual, 'The marches get me out of the office! I want to crack a decade of marches next year before retiring.'

Nijmegen is always marked by music and the British contribution was as ample as ever. Besides the numerous bagpipers from the many Scottish military contingents, the Minden Band of the Queen's Division were on hand for both lighthearted and more poignant occasions. They provided accompaniment to a formal wreath laying ceremony at Nijmegen's Allied War Cemetery, where both the British and Canadian contingents - who traditionally work together at the Marches - laid wreaths to remember those who died in the War. That evening the Band laid on a show of marching and music when GOC UKSC(G) and his HQ staff hosted VIP visitors to a Reception at Heumensord. Back at the marching route, the finishing line for the military teams each day is always at Heumensford's huge Beer Hall. Cheered in by those already across the finish line, every team is welcomed with some free liquid refreshment. For many of the walkers, however, their top priority is a long sleep before hitting the road again. As the 85th Nijmegen Marches came to a close the usual defiant vow was to be heard echoing around, 'We'll be back next year.' So will the Rheindahlen back up team!

HEADQUARTERS SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)

TRAILWALKER (UK-) 2001
21 JULY - A FUN DAY OUT BY THE CORPS RSM

My yearly jaunt down to the Trailwalker (UK) 100km race started not in the usual manner in that viewing a Pass Off Parade at ATR Pirbright preceded it. Junior soldiers of the Corps and 28 other cap badges put on a fine display. Many of the 19 Signallers on parade reported to Blandford after a couple of days respite, we welcome them into the fold with open arms.

After a fitful night's sleep at Thorney Island the team consisting of myself and three members of 2nd Signal Regiment; **SSgt Paul Jude, SSgt Angus Macpherson MBE** and **SSgt Chris Symonds** made our way to the start line. After many hello how are you's to our fellow runners and Nepalese race organisers the race began in perfect running conditions at 0700hrs. The aim was to finish better than our previous year's time of 13hrs 34mins, little did we know what lay ahead.

After cruising through the first two check points at Harting Down and Hilltop Farm we pushed on to Littleton Farm, this was the telling point in ours and other teams race. Unbeknown to the race organisers a local mountain biking race was taking place with very similar signs to ours, adrenaline got the better of common sense, one and a half hours late we arrived at Checkpoint 3, dehydrated and furious with ourselves. As much as we tried to put our mistake behind us, the extra 10km had taken its toll. It soon became apparent that our goal for the day would be to finish, regardless of time, as a team of four. We persevered, one checkpoint blending into another, up the killer hill to Checkpoint 7 at Truleigh the 63km marker passed and a warm meal inside us we were back to our old selves. The team is probably the most experienced Trailwalker (UK) contenders with 11 races between us. This began to show dividends as the final five checkpoints were consumed with a tight team performance and outstanding support from **Sgt Pete Preece** and **Cpl** 'Mac' **McDougall** from 2nd Signal Regiment Training Wing.

100kms completed, we know we were better than our 16 hour finish time but at the end of the day we finished as a team, battered and bruised but content in our joint efforts and mutual support. Trailwalker (UK) is are exceptional event for those who either want to test themselves or just enjoy the fantastic scenery of the South Downs. I know where I will be on 6-7 July 2002, hope to see you there.

PRESENTATION OF LEEMAN ROAD PRINT FROM 2 SIGNAL REGIMENT

2nd Signal Regiment have kindly donated a print of their recently unveiled Leeman Road painting. Pictured receiving the presentation on behalf of the HQ Officers' Mess is the SOinC(A), his COS, **Col G. J. T. Rafferty** and the Corps RSM. The print was gratefully accepted by the SOinC(A) and now hangs in HQ Officers' Mess.

XI HEADQUARTERS 11 SIGNAL BRIGADE

Comd	**Brig C. L. Le Gallais CBE**
COS	**Maj R. P. Wilson**
DCOS	**Maj R. C. Young**

HAIL & FAREWELL

The Headquarters is going through its annual clear-out and bringing in new blood ready to meet the challenges of the coming year. Sadly, we bid farewell to **Lt Col Steve Hunt** who is moving to the intriguing world of JACIG. He must, however, pass the 'recognition' course to be accepted as a true spotter and wearer of the coveted anorak. **Capt John Hiorns** was also dined out prior to taking up his new appointment at 21 Sig Regt (AS). Having spent the past two years travelling between the Balkans and Christchurch he is looking to a well earned rest at Colerne! Good luck to you both and of course to **Mary** and **Kath**. We also welcome **Maj George Burrows** who replaces **Maj Rab Young** (now DCOS) as the SO2 Log Sp and **Capt Mark Edwards** as the SO3 CEC. Enjoy your stay in Donnington.

LATE NEWS

Lt Col Steve Hunt passed the course but his posting to JACIG has

been delayed for a few months. His idea of going on gardening leave has been thwarted and he is now the SO1 Project Officer in 11 Sig Bde – unlucky.

EXERCISE SAIF SAREEA II – THE STORY SO FAR!

Meetings, meetings and more meetings and for good luck we will have a video-conference every week…. The exercise is certainly gathering pace. **Brig Charles** has been on a fact finding mission to Oman and confirmed his accommodation arrangements for the exercise. He has informed us that Arabic for tent is spelt m-e-s-s! **Capt Mick** 'Its sorted' **Purves** has now handed over all responsibility for deployment to **Maj George** 'No its' not' **Burrows** who is quickly finding out the reality of being a Staff Officer. Spectrum Management is in the hands of **Maj Dick Gamble** who was dispatched to Oman with the unenviable task of sorting out the business of frequency management for all exercising components and BFBS. His last words of 'I won't be back until its fixed' are worrying! Our first man on the ground is **SSgt Ray King** who deployed this week. He has the task of controlling the Theatre Distribution Agency. He has taken lots of books with him.

CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome back **Cpl Steve Piper** who has just passed both his Junior Command Course at Blandford and his EFP. He is now taking a well-earned rest back in the Crypto Room, or is he hiding from the SO3 COMSEC? Congratulations are also extended to **Cpl Simon Emmett** who has just had the good news that his wife, **Sharon**, is with child. Those who know **Cpl Emmett** will know how much this means to them both.

STOP PRESS

We have just been informed that **WO1 FofS Pete** 'Ratty' **Stowell** has been awarded the **MBE** for his work in this Headquarters. Excellent news and well deserved.

HEADQUARTERS 2 (NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS) SIGNAL BRIGADE & LAND INFORMATION ASSURANCE GROUP (VOLUNTEERS)

Who? You may have noticed a new formation flash appearing – the EW flash superimposed on the Land sword. That means you have come into contact with the LIAG – Land Information Assurance Group – a new TA specialist unit formed to provide independent advice on information assurance matters. The group, commanded by **Lt Col John Kirby OBE**, is an All Arms unit currently consisting of 23 TA Officers who work in a range of fields covering IT, security and related consultancy. It is a R SIGNALS sponsored specialist unit and is under command of 2 (NC) Sig Bde, but is directly tasked by G6 HQ LAND. LIAG was formed in July 1999 as a result of the Strategic Defence Review and spent the rest of the training year recruiting and writing procedures. In its first operational year (Training Year 2000/01) the Group carried out a number of IA tasks, including an IA Review of the ISIS and Land CSS(R) information systems with site visits to Brecon, Sennybridge, Shrewsbury and Wilton; another IA Review on the ARRC systems during Ex Arrcade Fusion in Germany and drafting a paper for SOinC (A) on Land Component IA. The current training year has seen the first operational deployment of a team to Kosovo to carry out a review of the Op Agricola Theatre Information System (OATIS) and a review of APC Glasgow's AFOS system.

ANNUAL CAMP IN PRISTINA?

The Kosovo task is an excellent example of how the Army can capitalise on skills and experience not readily available within the Regular Army. A team of 6 (**Majs Alan Evans** and **John Tydeman**, and **Capts Brian McMillan, Ed Moses, John Pringle** and **Ian Sneyd**) went through a fast-track mobilisation procedure and deployed to Pristina for 12 days. The task involved looking at the way that information was processed, protected and managed, and the team left a list of action points for implementation. The team also looked at the security implications of the increasing use of the Internet. Whilst there, the team visited all the main UK sites throughout MNB(C), and will carry out a follow up visit later in the year. Kosovo has been the first operational theatre to have the benefit of such a review, and the group will be carrying out a similar task in Bosnia at the end of the year when 97(SFOR) Sig Sqn (V) take on responsibility for CIS in that theatre.

PROBLEMS WITH YOUR PAY?

With a cry of, 'Go North young man,' (well probably not too much young in the equation any more) LIAG carried out a review of the Army Personnel Centre (APC) Glasgow. The team (**Majs John Burnage, John Bosley, Chris Barrington Brown, John Hogan** and **Capt Brian McMillan** [local liaison officer, restaurant guide and networks guru]) spent a week in Glasgow looking at the myriad of critical personnel, pay and management systems in use there. APC is an excellent example of how business is supported by well managed and integrated IS platforms. The review went extremely well and the numerous Pay and MCM divisions were welcoming and helpful to the extreme (hold the enemy close and deny him manoeuvre?). One of the highlights of the review was the visit to the Document Handling Centre (DHC), its air of tranquillity and quiet efficiency probably belies the amount of hard work and frantic activity that actually goes on there! After supporting both the 'recce' and the full review our thanks must go to **Willie Graham** and his team from APC IS support. They were excellent 'hosts' and given their imminent outsourcing to EDS, together with the plethora of checks/audits that have gone on during the past few months, are still remarkably cheerful!

THE FUTURE

Information Assurance is not a black art, but the days of being able to depend on information being protected by placing computers in a locked room are over. The group's skills – covering security strategy, compliance, consultancy, penetration testing, security architecture, network management and forensic investigation – are exactly those used by industry to contribute to a holistic approach to protecting information systems. The point of contact for any queries on LIAG's role, capabilities and advice on tasking is **Maj Alan Evans**, SO2 Co-ord, on Cosham Mil (94382) 4322, Civil 01225 814322. The Group's E-mail address is liagoffice@tinyonline.co.uk

LIAG Team in Kosovo

ROYAL SIGNALS INSPECTION TEAM HEADQUARTERS LAND COMMAND

OC **Maj (TOT) Plumb**
FofS **WO2 (FofS) Marston-Weston**

HELLO NEW BOYS

The Team warmly welcomes its new arrivals **SSgt Rod Main** and his family and **Cpl Marcus Bartrip**. Both bring new qualities to the Team and the more astute reader will notice that both bring firsts for RSIT. This is a *WIRE* exclusive. **Cpl Marcus Bartrip** is the first JNCO on the team and **SSgt Rod Main** is the first FTRS on the Team (Disclaimer - this is the truth to the best of my knowledge having done 4t***all research). We wish them well as they progress under the watchful eye of **Sgt John** 'The Daddy' **Payne**.

SUB AQUA GOLF AND BBQ

The most noticeable thing that happened between RSIT setting a date for a Golf & BBQ day was a heat wave. The most noticeable thing that happened on RSITs Golf & BBQ days was torrential rain. However, when did rain ever stop RSIT, speed us up a bit maybe but never stop us. **Maj Gig** 'The Teacher' **Plumb** and his partner **Sgt Suren** 'The Pupil' **Rai** set the early pace but were soon hampered by the unrelenting downpour, allowing **WO2 Andy** 'Gore-Tex' **Marston-Weston** and **SSgt Rod** 'Never Again' **Main** to lead the way. **Sgt Tim Mayner** and **Sgt Paul Hughes** made up the numbers and kept the water features stocked up on golf balls. Confident that the rain could not get any heavier the team waded on through the course in their waterproof cotton trousers and polo shirts, but to our amazement the Gods kept the rain coming heavier and heavier.

BRAVING BRAWDY

July saw RSITs jet set lifestyle take them to the end of the world as we know it, or Brawdy as it is commonly called throughout the Corps. The week's activities were slightly undermined by having to do some sort of inspection at some point and very good it was too, wasn't it **Sgt Paul** 'No Faults Found' **Hughes**. When employed in a high pressure, all action, demanding unit such as RSIT the need for a new buzz is a constant search. In this case our search ended at the Brawdy indoor Go-Karting centre. The first heat saw **Andy Marston-Weston, Paul Hughes, Tim Mayner** and **Rod Main** at the grid. The only thing faster than this bunch of speed demons was the track owner trying to find his insurance policy (and a passing snail) as he watched the carnage unfold. The eventual winner was **WO2 Andy Marston-Weston**, closely followed by **Sgt Tim-Mayner** whilst **SSgt Rod** 'Racing Snake' **Main** and **Sgt Paul** 'Demolition Derby' **Hughes** acted out scenes from Mad Max.

The second heat saw two generations of the Plumb family go head to head with **Maj Gig** 'Coming Through' **Plumb** and son **Roddy Plumb**. Also racing was **Harry** 'Two Foots' **Roberts** and **Sgt Suren** 'Sunday Driver' **Rai. Maj Gig Plumb** wasted no time overtaking all on his way to the starting grid. It was a fiercely fought contest between the two **Plumbs** as they regularly passed **Sgt Suren Rai** on his merry way and **Harry** put everyone to shame in the Mad Max stakes. **Maj Gig Plumb** took the chequered flag with son **Roddy** coming second. So onto the final, **WO2 Andy** 'Faster Than The Speed Of Light' **Marston-Weston** took the lead early followed by **Maj Gig** 'Not Quite Faster Than The Speed Of Light' **Plumb** followed by **Roddy** 'Nearly as fast as light, but faster than Tim Mayner' **Plumb** followed by **Sgt Tim** 'Man On A Mission' **Mayner**. As the race progressed **Sgt Tim** 'Ram Raider' **Mayner** saw his opportunity and sent **Roddy Plumb** crashing into the sidings to over take for third spot. Suddenly winning didn't seem important to **Roddy Plumb** any more as his face told the story that taking **Tim Mayner** out of the game would be much more rewarding. There was to be no more over taking though and **WO2 Andy Marston-Weston** was crowned RSIT Go-Karting Champion. **Sgt Tim Mayners** mis-spent youth came into good use as he clocked up the fastest lap of the day.

So as another block of inspections draw to an end for RSIT and the weary team members look forward to a little breather, you can sleep safely knowing that come September we will be back on the road coming to a Unit near you.

NEWS OF TRAINING

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS AND 11 SIGNAL REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS

The Public Private Partnership (PPP) remains the key focus for the HQ and more recently how the PPP interacts with the Defence Training Review (DTR). Both of these projects will substantially change the face of the Royal School of Signals over the coming years. On the sporting front the Staff Assistant **WO1 Roberts** (AGC), has had a busy swimming season competing in various Masters Swimming Championships and has now been selected for the Welsh Masters Team. The School's own Triathlon Master in the shape of the Garrison Security Warrant Officer, **WO1 Pat Weir** (MPGS), has had a very busy period building up for the Championships in September, in addition he be very active with the School's Sport for all Triathlon programme.

RADIO SYSTEMS GROUP - SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Sqn Comd **Maj I. G. Favager**

The last few months have been quite busy with a large turnover of courses within the Group. Due to the Foot and Mouth disease we had to cancel our annual Battle Camp at Oakhampton, we will just have to make next years Camp a little bit longer and more adventurous! Congratulations are in order for **WO1 (FofS) Rich Conway** on taking on the task of the Corps Foreman, to get over the shock he took a holiday some where in the Indian Ocean. A big hello goes to **SSgt (SQMS) Bill Butler**, who has just come from 4 Mil Trg Sqn. Congratulations and farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) B. J. Forbes-Wilson** on being selected for promotion, he apparently is now an official blanket stacker.

COMMAND SECTION

Although June/July has seen no major Command Courses come through Command Section it has still been a relatively busy time. The Section have been kept busy with the plethora of Cadet Courses which descend upon the School at this time each year and keeps **Sgt** 'Steve' **Burrows** and **CSgt** 'John' **Miller** RM occupied. In addition, instructors have been involved in several minor courses such as 'The Civil Designers Course', which not only sees military instructors teaching civilians, but also generates much needed income for the School. This period has also seen many presentations/exercises being updated to ensure we are in line with the ever changing doctrine of the British Army. In closing, the Section would like to bid a warm welcome to **WO2 (YofS) Paul White**, who has recently taken over as the RSG YofS. A fond farewell to **Capt Neil Sutherland** RM who moves down the corridor to start a CLAIT course or is that a CISM Course!

OPERATIONS SECTION - *by Sgt Morgan*

HIO **Mr Tony Luckman**
Dept YofS **SSgt (YofS) Dave Thomas**

It has been a busy period for Operator Section! Major changes to the Basic Radio Operators syllabus involve all instructors in some serious 'tweaking'. The changes are taking affect as I write, and should result in a more rounded course that better prepares the students for their final exercise. The syllabus is not the only thing that **Sgt Charlie Henson** has been getting to grips with, and the section would like to congratulate him and **Debbie** on the birth of **Sophie Mai**. Obviously a Henson, **Sophie Mai** has **Debbie's** eyes, nose and feet and **Charlie's** hairstyle! **Bob McLaren** has made his long awaited return from convalescence and resumes his place in the Radio Procedures room. He now has two titanium hip joints that enable him to resume his infamous 'greased ferret' party trick, but has the unfortunate side effect of erasing any secure equipment within 100 meters of his location. In closing, the section would like to bid a fond farewell to **Sgt Shaun Gibson** on his departure to (Snigger) Bosnia. All the best mate, and thanks for all the hard work on the LAN.

EQUIPMENT SECTION

HIO **Mr Peter Braithwaite**

The last six months has seen a big turnover in personnel from the section. First of all the farewells, **Sgt Mark Ashmeade** who left the Army to work as a technical trainer, **Cpl Den Sutherland** who also left the Army to work for Cisco, and finally most recent of all, the section tic **SSgt Pete Sanderson** was posted to Germany. We wish all of the above the best of luck for the future. As for new arrivals, we would like to welcome **Sgt** 'Flash' **Gordon** who joins us from Cyprus, **Sgt Gaz Dunstone** from Germany and also **Sgt Smith** who is posted to the section in September for a 2-year stint. At the moment of writing we have no replacement for the Section 2IC. The next six months looks to be just as hectic with almost half the Section leaving/posted and no replacements due until next Easter. **Sgt Gaz Dunstone** is only paying us a flying visit as he starts his Foremans course in September, **Sgt Gareth Dearden** is posted in November and in January **Sgt Dan Coles** leaves the Army. Because it takes an average of three months to train an instructor, it will be interesting to see what happens in the following months with the increase in the number of courses passing through the section

THE OLDEST GALLANTRY AWARD MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

Until the introduction of the first gallantry medal, the Victoria Cross in 1856, the only formal means by which a British military commander could recognise gallant or distinguished service in operations was the Mention in Despatches. To this day it remains a mark of distinction, reserved since 1993 solely for those who display particular gallantry in action. It is an award that is marked by an oak leaf badge worn on the campaign medal ribbon. **Cpl John Wozniak**, Royal Corps of Signals, was Mentioned in Despatches. Whilst serving at 7 Armd Bde, **Cpl Wozniak** was deployed on Operations, in Kosovo. When he arrived in Theatre, he was assigned as radio operator for **Brig Richard Shirreff,**

Commander Multinational Brigade (Centre) in Kosovo. In Gracanica on 6 June when a hostile crowd endangered the lives of his commander, their interpreter and driver, he acted with great courage and presence of mind. As the incident unfolded, he first maintained his position at his radio and called for assistance. Then when the position became unstable he took action. When the Commander's driver was attacked by the crowd's ringleader, and shots were fired, **Cpl Wozniak** took careful aim, fired and wounded the attacker thereby enabling those it was his duty to protect to withdraw safely.

The Chief Instructor — Lt Col R. W. Batho
presents the citation to Cpl Wozniak

RADEX TROOP - COMD/SOLDIER TRAINING

So what have we been up to, where have we been and what's new in the world of the elite ATRA training team? Well as per the norm still working hard to get through the mountain of students that the school send our way, whether they be phase 2/3 students, potential YofS, FofS, or Troop Commanders. We've also had a cricket match (JNCO's v SNCO's and Officers) and from that we have to believe that **Capt Sutherland** RM and **FofS Conway** have been on some kind of grenade throwing course, nice bowling gents. Hats off to **Cpl** 'Parky' **Parkinson** 29 for 1, **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Lloyd** hitting 84 not-out, 16 of which were off ONE of **Capt Sutherland's** grenade throwing overs. Unfortunately the match wasn't decided due to rain stopping play, a rematch is organised. So where have we been? Soldier Training have managed to get no further than our favourite nissan huts down at Piddlehinton, apart from one or two who have been helping out Comd Trg down at the annual Cadet Camp in Newquay, now that's got to be the same as three weeks on holiday. Recently was the promotion board to Sergeant, of which RSG took four, and a huge WELL DONE to **Cpls Foster, Lockwood, Shaw** and **Smith**, also congratulations to **Sgt Bell** for his promotion to Staff Sergeant. Now let's not forget those blessed people posted into our outfit, **Sig Barrow** from JCUNI and **LCpl Dodd** from the White Helmets. Onto those leaving us for pastures new, **Sig Groves** - N Ireland here I come, **Cpls Cozens** and **Wharrier**, who's the unlucky one off to Southampton. Good luck fellas in your new careers. Finally congratulations to those who have dropped the bun from the oven, **Kim** and **Jase Kent** with baby **Molly** and **Angela** and **Paul Cooper** with baby **Ben**.

OPERATIONS SECTION

These notes were written by Sig Douglas from RSBR 00/020 who attended training form 29 January -29 June 2001. This soldier was nominated for the Outstanding Student Award.

I arrived here at Blandford not knowing what to expect for my trade training as it was going to be a new experience. The first part of the RS Op course was a five-week module in FMVT, which consisted of military organisation, message preparation, message handling and keyboard skills. These subjects were taught by computer so you went at your own speed but had target dates to meet. This worked quiet well, as instructors were on hand to help if needed.

The radio module started with an initial brief from the course co-ordinater who explained very briefly what the course entailed and where to go if we had any problems. We got straight into doing, voice procedure and CLANSMAN HF/VHF radio's, as it was obviously the main part of our trade. We went over the basics in voice procedure and learning BATCO before putting it all into practice this also included making calls to another station and replying to them. Learning it in a classroom and then doing it practically worked really well as everything was fresh in the mind and you understood why you were using that procedure. There were five students to one instructor on a net. This method was used for RATT, which came at the end of the course after Radex, the same instructors that taught us voice procedure also taught us RATT and this helped as we already knew them.

I found the theory behind antennas and propagation very intense and hard to get to grips with at first, as it seemed to be thrown at us in the first few periods. Once we actually got our hands on die equipment everything fell into place. I really enjoyed doing the practical side of the antennas as I feel you learn more that way. There was a lot to the theory side, which I feel could have been spread out more. The course did go to Area Systems Group and learn Ptarmigan. We never really got hands on the equipment until later when we went on exercise. During the build up to the exercise we were taught a lot about secure VHF and crypto ??? was interesting. I think the fact that you had to be so aware about what you were doing made it all the more interesting to learn. We also learned a little bit about rebro's but like everything else we had learned it made things easier once you got hands on.

Our two-week exercise out in the field had to be the best part of the course, as everything we learned in the classroom was put into practice. We were tested on our antennas, rebro's, det routine in the first week as well as setting up and tearing down a det. The second week was more scenario based and this was enjoyable, the instructors were able to stand back and prompt us when we needed it. Overall, I would say that the course was very interesting although a lot more practical experience would help us for going to out working units. I feel I know the basics of my trade and I can't wait to get to my working unit.

LIFE IN BLANDFORD

by Cpl Lloyd who is a permanent staff instructor

To many of us within the Corps, Blandford is seen as the Mecca for courses such as RSJCC, Crypto, and obviously the start of a new career for many Phase 2 trainees. Apart form hard work what does 11 Signal Regiment/Royal School of Signals/and Blandford have to offer?

Starting my career at 30 Sig Regt back in November 1992 amenities throughout the Regiment and Blandford, 'An Interesting Georgian Town', were at least somewhat lacking. Needless to say with continual operational tours and exercises, time to yourself for extra curricular activities was somewhat limited. I averaged of my four year tour, approximately only two years at Blandford/Bramcote. Six months home, six months away etc. Not much now I know, compared with some Regiments commitments. However, through time Blandford and the current Regiment have changed considerably. Not only have the forbidding Anson and Benbow blocks been demolished but also activities outside of work have become numerous.

The Garrison itself boasts not only a bowling alley, cinema, sub aqua dive club, hobbies club, stables, shooting club, astro pitch, Corps cricket ground but also an extensive range of facilities come to think of it, if you play it - the amenity is there. You just need the self-motivation. The Blandford area boasts a superb 18-hole golf course, rugby club, hockey teams at four levels including a mixed team. Socially there are in excess of six restaurants from Turkish to Italian within the town. If by chance this extensive range of extra curricular activity or social life is not to your liking, then within driving distance you have Bournemouth, Poole, Weymouth .... need I say anymore? On the whole as I look back over the last nine years and compare it to today's current situation, I find my spare time out taken up with numerous activities, be it with civilian clubs or military. What does Blandford have to offer you? Find out next time your down here by going past the first and last watering hole.

KUKRI TROOP VISIT TO AFV CIS SCHOOL BOVINGTON

by Cpl MacDonald

Kukri Tp would like to welcome **Cpl Des Hill** and **Cpl Treena Hewson** to the Troop as they managed to escape from SYSEX Tp. Also a farewell goes to **Cpl Eric Cassee** who has gone over to SYSEX Tp on his promotion to Sergeant. It is not often Kukri Tp manage to get away from work and visit 'the outside world' but that changed on 23 April when we bomb-bursted onto the AFV CIS School at Bovington (all ten of us). A good day was had by all which consisted of us flying around the training area in a Challenger II and a Scimitar which had the same effect as trying to stop grit getting in your mouth whilst on a bucking bronco. We were also shown just how little room there is to move around when the tank is on the battlefield and getting rounds off (glad I'm not a tankie, give me an air-conditioned Switch any day, I might even do pan-bash). We also learnt not to stand too close the Challenger II when it is firing, (this we learnt whilst trying to get a Troop photo) as the pure fire power is overwhelming as **SSgt Openshaw** found out to his distress. After the display of 'big boys toys' it was down to the simulators to see what it was like to try aiming and firing for ourselves. To be honest after a bit of practice, we found it remarkably easy to aim, laser target and get a round off in a very short space of time. In fact it was that easy, even **Cpl Hewson** managed to blow things up (although she did spend a lot of time trying to shoot a helicopter out of the sky). At the end of the day, everybody had a great time and it was educational for all. I would highly recommend people to try this sort of visit to find out more about the Army in which we work and the units that we provide communications for.

SYSEX TROOP

Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Joe Docherty**
Tp YofS **SSgt (YofS) Gaz Lane**

The Troop continues to endure the hardships of Blandford, and the prevailing wind up on the airfield continues to blow as strong as ever (So I am reliably informed by the troops.) But it isn't all hard work, Recently the Troop went on a little trip to France called 'Ex Fleeting Dragon'. The aim of the exercise was to take Phase 2 soldiers and the over-worked instructors away for some well earned R &R. The full range of activities included, Windsurfing, Body Boarding, Trekking, Sea Surfing, Dingy Sailing and Kayaking. In the evening other activities were arranged to keep us amused these were Beach Volleyball, Command Tasks and the best one of all was Stargazing. The weather was great and most of the instructors managed to get either the sailing or windsurfing off to a fine art. **LCpl** 'Lucky' **Leanne Derrick** deserves a special mention as she managed to rip all her ligaments in one foot on the second day. However, the up-side was she didn't miss out on any of the evening activities as we carried her on a bed down to the beach giving the boss a chance to fit some PT into the programme as the slow plod to the beach turned into a timed stretcher race. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome **Cpl Chris Glenard, Cpl Prem Premkumar, LCpl Nat Whitmore, SSgt (YofS) Gaz** 'When I..' **Lane** to the Troop, **Sgt Gordon** 'Smudge' **Smith** and last but certainly not least **Sig Kev Reeves**. Unfortunately we have to say goodbye so some more main players: **WO2 (YofS) Paul** 'I am off to Disney again this year' **White,** unfortunately we couldn't jack up his post to (UK) Div, as we know he really wanted to go there. Maybe next time **Paul. Cpl** 'Has my tan faded from France yet?' **Steve McBride, LCpl Jim Bonney** who is promoted on posting, his antics with the guitar will be sadly missed and **LCpl** 'Special Forces McNab Griff' **Griffiths.** We wish them good luck and all the best in their new jobs.

RED BULL MOUNTAIN MAYHEM 2001

The Red Bull Mountain Mayhem is a 24-hour Mountain Bike Team Endurance Race held at Sandwell Park near Birmingham and is raced over a 10-mile cross-country circuit. The race is run as a relay of four riders riding round the clock and competing against a field of 360 professional and amateur teams. This year's event was held over the weekend of 23/24 June and saw the first appearance of an Army team as well as the second appearance of an RSS/11 Signal Regiment team. Training for the event was badly hampered due to the Foot and Mouth crisis so all riders had to endure road training for the two months (never again) leading up to the race. The Army team was captained by **Cpl M.** 'Tomo' **Thompson** (11 Sig Regt MT) with **Cpl San-Segundo** (SEME Borden previously 11 Sig Regt), **Cpl Smith** (22 Eng Regt) and **LCpl Caville** (59 Cdo RE). The Team completed 34 laps, some 340 miles and came 12th overall, second in the Sports class and first in the Services team. The RSS/11 Sig Regt team consisted of **Maj** 'Kenny' **Brown** QLR, **Capt** 'A-G' **Allison-Green** KORBR, **WO2 (YofS)** 'Jon' **Evans** (HQ SOinC (A), and **LCpl** 'Lee' **Cote** (11 Sig Regt MT). The team completed 28 laps, some 280 miles and came 96th in the Sports Class.

Both teams were given excellent around the clock administrative and mechanical support by **Mr John Lewis** who instructs Mountain Biking in the 'Sport for All' programme and **LCpl** 'Stu' **Gould** (RADEX Tp). Both of whom had to work extremely hard to keep the bikes going for the 24 hours of the race. Special thanks from **Lee Cote** who's bike was practically rebuilt prior to the start of the race.

Night riding was an interesting experience for all riders particularly for **Jon Evans** and **Lee Cote** who had never ridden with lights before the event (good preparation). Surprisingly the night lap times were virtually the same as those achieved during the daylight. All the riders felt a sense of achievement on completing the race and the camaraderie and encouragement from all teams was exceptional. There are few opportunities for amateurs to race alongside world champions and factory teams, this is certainly one of them. **Gary Fisher** who rode in a celebrity team sponsored the race: other professional teams included the Giant World Team (winners), Dianond Back, Helly Hansen and the Kona (Ford Focus) team.

EXERCISE DROP ZONE VICTOR

Ex Drop Zone Victor was the recreation of a wartime parachute drop onto the site of the Merville Battery in Normandy, France. **Sgt Brewin** and **Cpl MacDonald** of Radio Systems Group were invited to participate. The drop was conducted in the uniform of the WW2 British airborne soldier and the aircraft were WW2 vintage DC3 Dakota's. The drop was in the presence of veterans of 9th Parachute Bn who attacked the Battery on 6 June 1944. 47 (Air Dispatch) Squadron Royal Logistic Corps dispatched the jumpers onto the Drop Zone. All the canopies used were military round canopies but modified to be steerable. Nearly fifty men dropped from two aircraft, sadly with one injury. The airdrop completed **Sgt Brewin** and **Cpl MacDonald** had the use of the original Pegasus Bridge for a photo shoot arranged in conjunction with the Royal Signals Museum and the Pegasus Bridge Museum.

Sgt Brewin and Cpl MacDonald pose beside one of the DC3 s

NORMANDY ASSAULT

The briefing was simple:

'I want this quick, no mucking about in the doorway, just go and keep on going till you've left the aircraft!'

The engines throbbed loudly, the aircraft lifted off smoothly and we were away. The Dakota banked steeply and we headed eastwards towards the Caen Canal. The aircraft was filled with 24 parachutists, all wearing full WW2 British airborne uniform and equipment, about to recreate a jump from 6 June 1944. A further 24 stood and watched us take off, their turn would come later.

Cpl MacDonald 'Mac' was sat next to **Sgt Brewin**, just behind the jump door, we watched as we manoeuvred into line with the Caen Canal, shortly after that we observed Pegasus Bridge passing beneath us, 2500ft below. We carried on, following the glistening Canal up to the coast. The tide was out, we passed well over the sludgy coastline and were soon over open sea, the aircraft turned and slowly dropped to our drop height as we approached the French coast, then it began:

'Port Stick, Stand up....Hook up.' hearts racing now as we cumbersomely stood up, the weight of our canopies and reserves making it difficult to do anything quickly. The starboard stick watching us and wishing blue skies and safe landings

'Number off.' We numbered off, twelve down to one ***'Two minutes.'***

'Action Stations.....First Man in the door....Red on.' pulses raised, 'Mac' moved into the doorway, adopting his position, **Sgt Brewin's** feet were beside his, intending to follow him hot on his tails, the wind blowing the hessian in Mac's helmet wildly as he gazed out over the horizon. **Sgt Brewin** pushed his static line closer to the dispatcher; everyone bunching closer together, ***'Fifteen seconds.'***

From the doorway the gun casements of the battery and the smoke from the Drop Zone could clearly be seen, then it began, ***'Green on...Go!'*** 'Mac' left the aircraft, no hesitation, **Sgt Brewin** followed instantly, not aware of whether he had been told to go or slapped on the back or not, a blur of colour and noise as the slipstream caught us, the rush of air drowning out the noise of the Pratt and Whitney engines of the Dakota. We shouted out our drills, sensing the canopies deploying we looked up, beautiful round green canopies above filling with air, no twists, perfect deployments. **Sgt Brewin** looked around, 'Mac' was close, **Sgt Brewin** could see a collision was about to happen and shouted to 'Mac' ***'Steer Left!'***

'Mac' tried steering left but it was it too late, **Sgt Brewin**, with little time, opened his legs as wide as he could to prevent himself going deep inside 'Mac's' lines, his left foot went in and was momentarily trapped. 'Mac's' canopy half collapsed, **Sgt Brewin's** canopy was failing, he extracted his foot just as his canopy completely collapsed and he started to fall rapidly. 'Mac', completely composed, did not need to deploy his reserve as his canopy started filling with air again, he watched in silence as **Sgt Brewin** plummeted below, his canopy streaming, then, as suddenly as it began, it was over, the canopy inflated and both came down normally. Now clear from each other, their canopies functioning correctly, they looked around, picking where they wanted to land, this was an unprepared Drop Zone with a host of obstacles.

Boarding the aircraft prior to jumping,
authentically dressed in WW2 uniform

'Mac' landed in a field of crops while **Sgt Brewin** landed in a dry, ploughed field, rolling on their fronts and pulling in their lines they collapsed their canopies as the rest of their stick landed around them. They field packed their canopies, throwing them onto a Villies jeep waiting to collect canopies and leg bags and marched off to the RV point as the second stick were coming down. A parachute landed in a horse paddock, startling the horses into a dusty stampede, then, the first two sticks down, the aircraft circled and then headed back to pick up the next two sticks, the next drop would be in another 20 minutes. From the RV 'Mac' and **Sgt Brewin** were taken to the original Pegasus Bridge where they recreated the scene of the Corps painting 'Go to it' and the story of **Cpl Thomas Waters MM**. After this had been filmed by the museum **Sgt Brewin** and **Cpl MacDonald** laid a wreath on the bridge, completely unrehearsed the drill was perfect.

Cpl MacDonald
recreates part of the story of Cpl Thomas Waters MM

The mission over it was time to recover back to the airfield to recover the deployment bags and repack parachutes. The next jump, should it come off will be onto Ginkle Heath in September. **Sgt Brewin** and **Cpl MacDonald** would not have been able to participate in the Normandy airdrop without the support of their SSM and OC and without funding from the 11 Sig Regt PRI and would like to offer their gratitude for all the assistance they received.

11 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col R. G. Nicholson**
RSM **WO1 L. D. Kemp**

Squadrons around the Regiment are now breathing a sigh of relief following the completion of another 'silly season' comprising the Royal Signals Association weekend, Morrison Cup, SOinC's Conference, Garrison Cocktail Party, Collingwood Memorial Service and a host of other events that we administer. These commitments merely add spice to life in 11 Sig Regt while our core business remains:

'To Prepare soldiers at the Royal School of Signals for their operational role'

The following articles will show that even with 'a full diary' there is the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities while serving in Blandford. With squadron strengths topping the 500 strong mark we need the best JNCOs to fill the posts of Troop Cadre. So, if you think that you have the necessary high qualities required and want a challenging job with the bonus of adding wider experience to your career profile then get your posting preference letter to MCM Div now!

ATHLETICS – *by Cpl. Rutter*

In recent years the Royal School of Signals/11 Signal Regiment has built up a reputation as being a force to be reckoned with on the Army athletics circuit, and this season has been no different. It all began with an inter-squadron competition to reveal any hidden talent within the regiment. **Sig McSween**, the young good looking one, or so he tells us, of units attending. The 5000m was perhaps the most gripping race of the day. **FofS Docherty** battled it out with **Sig Tucker** from 21 Sig Regt, and won a very narrow victory (0.6 seconds). Meanwhile, **Cpl. Nikki Dean** destroyed the field in her 5000m race despite the 2 Sig Regt hype. **Sig McSween** won both 100 and 200m. In the 3000m-steeple chase, an amazing run from **SSgt Mick Openshaw** saw him overhaul most of the other competitors, to finally take third place. **WO1 Coffin** was a surprise contender in the triple jump. By taking second place, he reminded the Army athletics world that contrary to popular opinion, he was any thing but finished! **Sig** 'I must stretch off in front of the bandstand' **Edwards**, definitely cut the mustard in the 100m hurdles, while **Cpl** 'Sunny' **Lake** discovered she was a natural, when she was 'jiffed' for the 400m hurdles at the last minute. Winning the relay events confirmed RSS/11 Sig Regt's male and female teams as the Morrison Cup Champions for 2001. There was an extended 'competition break' between the Morrison Cup and the Semi Finals. Routine of training was broken up with a weekend training camp. There were lectures on sports psychology/physiology in Princess Mary Hall (PMH), beach volleyball and frolics on Sandbank's Beach.

The Army Semi-finals were held at Colchester and despite a slight mishap with the baton change in both the ladies and the men's relay events, both teams qualified for the army finals in Aldershot. All the top class athletes crawled out of the woodwork for the army finals, and it was undoubtedly our most challenging competition of the season. The men's 4x100m team came third with an amazing time of 44.6 seconds, which demonstrates the quality of athletes competing. The ladies team took fifth place overall, which was very creditable given the number of females competing. **Cpl Dean** won the 5000m race comfortably. **Sig Tagilala** won both the discus and shot achieving a 'personal best' in the latter. The men's team, Captained by **SSgt Dan Burdus**, took a well-deserved third position overall and came away with yet another trophy. This is an outstanding achievement when you consider that the RSS/11 Sig Regt athletics team is developed from scratch each year. All that remains is to celebrate our success in a way the army knows best?

The Morrison Cup 2001 Male and Female Team winners

convincingly dominated all the sprinting events, while **Sig Tagilala**, our superwoman in bermuda shorts, transformed the throwing events into something quite special. Similarly, **Sig Emosi** who's previous occupation as a spear fisherman explains his extraordinary ability with a javelin. It was a good day for everyone, with plenty of sunshine and bags-full of good atmosphere. A special mention to **Cpl** 'Beef' **Heath** who didn't quite make the sandpit on the triple jump, but definite thumbs up for wearing his chicken chasing suit! By the end of the competition, everyone was showing distinct sign of sunburn, with many red faces at the prize giving ceremony. **Cpl** 'Compo' **Crompton** demonstrated a few interesting drill moves as he collected his medal from the CO and just as **Cpl Heath** thought his day couldn't get any worse, he went to collect his medal for being the fifth member of the 4x400m team!

In the aftermath of the competition **Capt Black**, Master at Arms, took the athletics team firmly under his wing. There weren't many volunteers for the pole vault, but thanks to some expert coaching and much sunbathing on the crash mat, **Sig Dale Smith** is now quite handy with his pole! There was also a lack of hammer throwers in the Regiment, but we eventually persuaded **Cpl** 'Plod' **Wardle** to leave the war Hammer club and compete in the 5 Div Championships where he achieved a very commendable second. This competition was held in Blandford again, and brought with it yet more sunshine and a gold medal for the men's team. The ladies team secured a very well deserved silver medal, despite everyone doubling up on events.

Training stepped up a gear as the Morrison Cup loomed ahead, and specialist coaches from Wimbourne Athletics Club were drafted in. The sessions were often relentless and **Sig Griffiths** liked to show us what he had eaten for dinner that day! Despite the cold and wet weather, the Morrision Cup was once again a massive success, with a record number

INTERNATIONAL BIATHALON COMPETITION

by Sig Clamp, Ulster Troop 3 Sqn 11 Sig Regt

Sig Andrew Clamp was recently selected to represent Great Britain in the National Junior team for the up and coming sport of Biathlon. His first competition for the squad was held earlier this year in South Africa. An amazing achievement for a young soldier currently undergoing training here at Blandford. This multi-discipline event consists of a 1500metre run followed by a 200metre swim and finishes with another 1500metre run.

I arrived at the airport five hours early. Either I was nervous of missing the plane or I had driven too quickly with excitement! As soon as the other members of the squad arrived I introduced myself and together we went through to the Departure Lounge ready to start the adventure of a lifetime. The plane was spacious and comfortable while the food sadly fell into the 'cardboard cuisine' category. When we arrived in Port Elizabeth the weather was fantastic, a complete contrast to the grey skies of Britain we had left behind. Over the next four days we got to grips with the surf (acclimatisation and getting over jetlag). An excellent surf beach was only five minutes slow walk from the room so we had plenty of opportunity to practice turning around the buoys and beating the waves in and out. We also trained by running along the route and considered our race tactics.

Saturday and the competition arrived almost too soon and at 6.30a.m. I tried to have some breakfast but I was too nervous. I felt sick and couldn't even finish my coffee. I checked that I had everything and made my way to the beach. Everything had already started and the temperature had risen enough to be comfortable for wearing swimming trunks in the shade. At 8.20 a.m. I was on the start line. I had checked over my transition box, second yellow on the left, and I knew what I had to do.

The gun went and all the nervousness was forgotten. I was focused on catching the guy in front. The 1500metre run was very fast and in the heat I had trouble breathing, I had a good transition and hit the surf hard. The swim went well and I caught a wave to bring me right back to the shore, the final run was tough but I finished strong in eleventh place. The night that followed was simply the best booze up ever as a pint only cost 50 pence! Sunday was a rest day but Monday was an Aquathon consisting of a 2500metre run, 1000metre swim and a 2500metre run to finish. This race went even smoother as I had acclimatised and I came home in sixth place, a much happier man.

The presentation was amazing. It was held in a top casino with waiters and a painted ceiling. Now I look forward to the world championships, which are in September in Bonn, Germany, for which I have also been selected. The whole trip was fantastic and an amazing chance for me to get to grips with my sport. The people were great, the beer was cheap and the competition fierce! It was really worth the training and who knows where the next challenge could take me!

Sig Clamp and Howard Jones after the main competition

1 (OUSTON) SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. G. J. Howes** Royal Canadian Signals
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Andy Harriott**

ARMY GOLF CHAMPONSHIP 2001 - *by Sig David Lewis*

A group of nine soldiers from 1 (Ouston) Sqn volunteered to help work and marshal at Saunton Golf Club to assist with the 2001 Army Championships. It kept us busy for a week and we got to miss out on all of the block inspections back at camp (what a shame). Our SSM, **WO2 Andy Harriott** took part in the competition and we all really hoped that he would do well; because you know what they say, '*#*# runs downhill.' I was very interested in Golf before attending (sad) and found myself clutching an Army Golf Association application form in the hope that I would get to play in future championships. We stayed in Fremington Barracks and lived in the 'sheds' whilst coping with the early mornings that were worse than average. The village outside of camp was not too bad as long as you could appreciate a good game of 'shove half-penny' to pub league standard. Overall we enjoyed the week despite the SSM being present…….. with Golf Clubs instead of a pace stick.

The Proud Team
(L—R): Sigs Bain, Carter, Curtis, Watt and Lee, Cpl Hemley, Sigs Lewis, Hopwood, Carter and Smith

EXERCISE OUSTON WARRIOR – JUNE 2001

*by **Cpl Bob Lovell***

Anyone who is reading this article is all too aware of the impact that the Foot and Mouth crisis has had on our ability to conduct normal field training in order to meet annual training directives. 1 (Ouston) Squadron in Blandford was not exempt from this crisis and squadron members have not been able to carry out their standard military training exercises. Therefore, in order to achieve one of the aims of these exercises, which is to demonstrate the values and standards expected of a soldier, the Squadron deployed on Ex Ouston Warrior to Holton Lee. Holton Lee is a 650-acre retreat estate specifically dedicated for disabled persons where they can go to relax and receive appropriate health care. It is also an ideal location for organisations to conduct team-building activities. The exercise, controlled by **WO1 Bob Clubb**, took the form of civil aid and we were tasked to clear and construct a path through the forest, some 400m plus, to an Iron-age hut. In addition the exercise objectives included the construction of a parking lot.

Due to the heat and conditions this was not going to be an easy task but the Squadron, Cadre and Phase 2's alike (total strength of 76 all ranks), dug in and took to the task overlooked by **Maj Jeff Howes** and **WO2 (SSM) Andy Harriott**. With some onsite expertise provided by the Holton Lee staff, a quick lesson on how to construct a level path through thick bush was provided on the eve of the deployment. Early the next morning all hands literally dug in to try and achieve all the exercise objectives within 36 hours. This entailed moving approximately 120 tonnes (yes tonnes) of crushed M3 as foundation for the path. It wasn't long before the heavy machinery was brought out; these included rollers, and mini front-end diggers/loaders. The SSM, a DIY expert (in his own mind), ensured that he had first crack at all the big Tonka toys. It was a struggle to get 'Bob the Builder' (SSM) off this kit and we were only successful once he had managed to break each item!

That evening, after a good day of grafting, potted sports were in order and the Squadron staff took on any challengers on the volleyball court. It is with regret we report that the Team made up of expert volley-ballers from St Vincent made their mark and eliminated the staff but not without a struggle. The cadre were entertained by sketches and karaoke affair by the Phase 2s and congratulations must go to **Sigs Kirby, Price, Reveley** and **Ross** on a well thought out re-enactment of the RSA weekend. The next morning started with a field church service by the Regimental padre **Capt David Moss**, who attempted to prayer away our aches and pains from the day before. The remainder of the day was spent completing the path and parking lot and putting the finishing touches on a job well done. **SSgt Dave McCulloch's** absence was noted and his arrival on the final day was received with a good bout of Cadre banter. **Sgt** 'Twiggie' **Twigg** and **Cpl Bob Lovell** took on a managerial role and could be spotted driving around in a dune buggy for most of the weekend occasionally stopping for water breaks but rarely seen working. **Cpls Barney Rumble** and **Glen Lyon** worked tirelessly for the two days and appeared to be enjoying themselves a little too much; maybe finding their true vocation in life?

Finally, a hearty well done must go out to all members of the exercise whose efforts have made it possible for future guests to enjoy the natural beauty of Holton Lee.

The OC, Major Jeff Howes asks And how do you use this?

2 (CATTERICK) SQUADRON CHARITY FUND RAISING

Over the last year 2 (Catterick) Sqn 11 Sig Regt have been striving to raise money for the RNLI. The final effort was held on 2 August 2001, a fund-raising event in the form of a Go-Kart Grand Prix. This proved to be a great success raising £3000 on the day and taking the total to over £11000 in the year. To take part in the Go-Kart Grand Prix, each Course within the Squadron had to raise the entrance fee and then take part in the heats to qualify for the final. The order of events for the Finals Day was somewhat hampered by the weather, but the more rain meant more fun on the track. The art of driving the karts instead of crashing them was definitely required! The position after the semi finals left **Sigs Treagust, Tipping** and **Edwards** fighting for the top spot. The crowd first had to watch the celebrity race, between the OC 2 Squadron, **Maj** 'I drive a BMW' **Tomkins** and **Cpl** 'Yogi' **Welch**. The race was very close, so close that the OC pushed **Cpl Welch** off the track…cheating? OC 2 Sqn? Surely not? I'm sure that the best driver on the day won……

The Winner—Sig Turbo Tipping,
Runner Up — Sig Smile Treagust, Third Place — Sig Edwards

The final race was over 30 laps; the leading position changed hands many times as all three drivers fought against each other and the conditions (well it was July!). The weather got progressively worse, but with the safety car just about to make an appearance, **Sig Tipping** took first place. Closely followed in by **Sig Treagust** in second and finally in third place, **Sig Edwards**. Then it really started to rain!

The 2 I/C Squadron, **Capt Dave Kenyon** provided refreshments at 'McJimmys'. The BBQ and Bar were a welcome sight even though we were soaked. The RNLI stand with a Class D Lifeboat got lots of attention, mainly due to it being dry under a marquee! Thanks must go to **Cpl Welch** for organizing the day's activities that culminated in the hand over of a cheque for £11,000 to **Mr Eric Freeman**, Vice President of the RNLI.

Maj Louise Tomkins handing over the cheque for £11,000 to Mr Eric Freeman — Vice-President of the RNLI

SIGNALLER WORTHINGTON W1038915

Sig Worthington from Inverness, was awarded a 2:1 Honours Degree in Business Studies in 1998. She joined the Royal Corps of Signals on 12 January 2000, starting Phase One Training on 7 February. After completing Phase One Training, she arrived at The Royal School of Signals on 2 May, to commence Phase Two Training. Because of her educational record, she was fast tracked through the Common Technician Phase (CTP) A (Maths), joining CTPB 008 and SEPE 012 to complete the Theory phase of her course. On 8 January 2001, **Sig Worthington** started the Equipment Phase as a member of Systems Engineering Technician (Radio) Course SRBR 012, successfully finishing on 11 June. Throughout her time in Blandford she has impressed all her instructors by her maturity, intelligence and hard work, achieving an outstanding set of results in both theory and practical assessments. She is also a keen sportswoman, taking part in various events at all levels, up to and including the Army. This award of the Lightning Trophy is in recognition of her qualities as an outstanding student.

Sig Worthington with the Lightning Trophy

POTENTIAL OFFICER WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK ATR WINCHESTER – 18 – 22 JUNE 2001

During the week of 18 to 22 June 2001, **Sigs Worthington** and **Finnie** joined the Army Youth Team (AYT) in ATR Winchester to act as chaperones for 34 potential officers aged between 14 and 18. These young people had shown an interest in joining the Army and were to be provided with an opportunity to spend a week being gently introduced to the life. This gentle introduction started with a BPFA, donning of coveralls, coloured tags and 0530hrs start, culminating at the end of the week with a full locker/block inspection with clothes even being folded A4 size! The AYT is made up of volunteers from the 1st Battalion RGBW based in Chepstow and are responsible for recruiting youngsters from the south into the Army. They produce a programme of military and adventure training activities including, Navigation, Escape and Evasion, Rock-Climbing, Swimming, Assault Course and Command Tasks. These together with classroom based lessons such as current affair group discussions and Time and Space problems made up the week's timetable. The week was rounded off with a dinner at the Officers Mess providing an enjoyable insight into the social life of a young Officer.

4 (MILITARY TRAINING) SQUADRON SHQ

At long last the OC, **Maj Alan Owen**, has found 'A Real Job' (his quote) in Kosovo for three months. The Squadron will sadly miss him, well for a day or two at least. As he has only been married to **Hannah** for about a month, she may miss him a little more! The 2IC, **Capt Rod Cowan** has started to eat properly and now weighs eight stone. The SSM, **WO2 Kev Read**, has organised a reunion in Majorca for Mid-August, so by the time you read this edition of *The WIRE* you would have missed the party. Some Congratulations are in order on the promotion front. Well done to **Sgts Nick Ulley** and **Richie Ayling** on promotion to Staff Sergeant, may they enjoy their new post in 16 Sig Regt and 14 Sig Regt respectively. **Cpl Russ Heynes** and **Cpl Steve Riley** have been selected for promotion to **Sgt Gabby, Cpl Heynes'**, wife is really pleased. We say farewell to **Sgt Lee Tinsell** who leaves the Corps for a new life in the Netherlands; we wish both him and his family all the best. Congratulations to **SSgt Mark Emmerson** for passing his education course; now when it comes to counting he no longer requires his fingers and toes!

4 (MILITARY TRAINING) SQUADRON REUNION DINNER FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2001

If you have been or, in some cases, still are a member of 4 (Military Training) Sqn otherwise known to the oldies out there as NCO Leadership Wing, then…

'YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY'

There is to be a reunion of the squadron/wing at the Ibiza bar, Semaphore Arms in Blandford camp on Friday 30 November 2001.
If you are interested in attending please contact one of the following personnel for further details:

Capt Cowan	(9) 4371	Ext 2184
WO2 (SSM) K. Read		Ext 2501
SSgt Whitworth		Ext 2986/2187
Sqn Clerk		Ext 2191

If you know of any other personnel who you have stayed in contact with, it would be greatly appreciated if you could pass this information onto them. We look forward to your call!

EXERCISE CANTABRIA DRAGON
2 – 13 JULY 2001 - *Bdr Lloyd*

Due to foot and mouth putting a halt to most of the adventure training in the UK it was decided that a change of location to carry out some level 3 to 4 training was the way forward. A cave proficiency course would be run in the Cantabrian Mountains in Northern Spain, aimed at novice cavers from the Phase 2 trainees. **Cpl Tony Brown** set the wheels in motion, and after much preparation and paperwork , the expedition started to take shape and The Cantabrian Dragon was born.

Bdr Mick Lloyd and Sgt Dave Ottley entering the Calaca System

After a morale boosting over night ferry crossing everyone arrived at the base location, only miles from one of the worlds biggest concentration of caves. The next day saw us carrying out recces, checking safety gear and issuing all the paraphernalia that goes along with caving. The course started in style by entering the cathedral sized entrance of the Canuela system.

Some 'hairy' moments followed as traverses and abseils were negotiated. Snippets of conversation… 'Here is a map and compass, now see if you can get us to this place.' A few hours later…'Ok let's try here instead.' [it takes a while to understand the scale of things underground].

SSgt 'Chippy' **Pomfret** became a little concerned as **Sig** 'Florence Nightingale' **Hennis** singed abseil ropes with her naked flame caving lamp; the smell of burning rope can send your adrenal gland into overtime! Several days of 'big trips' made sure everyone had the best underground experience they could ever have with their clothes on.
The course ended in fine style by descending 'Torca de Tonio'. This was led by, **Bdr Mick Lloyd** and assisted by **Cpl** 'JR' **Whitmey**. The abseil alone was the height of two Blackpool Towers and it took nine hours to complete the whole trip. All students passed the course and several have shown an interest in improving their skills by joining the Garrison Caving club. Overall an exciting and challenging experience was enjoyed by all, successfully achieving the aims of Adventurous Training.

INSTR EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT TROOP
ROYAL SIGNAL STAFF SERGEANTS COURSE (TA) NO.1/01
by Sgt Ben Newby,
47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, 39 (Skinners) Sig Regt (V)

On the twenty first of April this year, 27 Sergeants from the TA Corps booked into Blandford for the Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course (TA) No.1/01. Each of us was to embark on the final compulsory military course of our TA careers, qualifying us to serve in the most senior NCO appointments within our squadrons. The relatively high turnout was probably due to the fact the course hadn't been run for nearly a year. In this time the staff of 4 Military Training Squadron have aligned the TA course with the current regular course, within the constraints of the existing TA Training Objectives. This review of the course is intended to illustrate the content and emphasis of the current course, and perhaps dispel some of the myths and horror stories of the past which may have discouraged some people from attending.

RSSSC(TA) No.1/01 was particularly impacted upon by the Foot and Mouth outbreak and the resulting limitations on training area availability. In common with the recruits and corporals course, we assembled at Blandford for a Saturday afternoon start. The remainder of the first day was taken up with briefings and kit issue. It was immediately apparent that the course would not be a rerun of the two junior courses, in terms of the level of 'top down' discipline imposed by the instructors. As mature, well-disciplined SNCOs with high personal standards, but the clear intention was to treat us as senior soldiers… unless we fell short of the behavior expected! The first day was rounded off by a chance to meet the instructors informally in the Mess for drinks in the evening, and certain students were even given a guided tour of Blandford's nightspots later on.

The first week was a mixture of practical and classroom work, covering a very wide range of subjects. The emphasis was always on using the limited time available giving the TA students what they would need most in their units. For instance the Internal Security exercise was based around a scenario of being duty SNCO during a major Incident, the Defence Writing package was based around the paperwork needed to support a weekend's training, and the Drill lessons were focused on running a squadron parade correctly. A new element to the course, which is carried over from the Regular Army course, is a whole day allocated to leadership training. This day started with some basic leadership theory and lessons in rope management and then moved into a series of command tasks, culminating in an inter-section command task competition over the old assault course. This was held early in the week and contributed well to getting the students working in teams, and also allowed some an early opportunity to have a go at leading. Another new experience to most was using defence stores. Half a day was spent on a Defence TEWT, filling sandbags, learning to build Sangers and constructing several types of barbed wire obstacles. Most agreed it was a lot harder work than it looked, and 'wiring' was an excellent way to shred a combat suit! Other first week subjects included Map Reading, NBC, Military Law, Sergeants' Mess Organisation, and Administration in the field. Probably the most important subject was Tactics. The main aim was to familiarise everyone with commanders battle procedure, the quick estimate and the orders process. These skills would be tested on an individual basis during the field phase in the second week, so in the first week they were built up by demonstrations, walk through talk through and group based tasks. In addition to the Defence TEWT and command tasks the other physical activities of the first week were the inevitable mid week Assault Course and the finale to the week 'Exercise Burden Retrieval'.

Following this final physical event on Friday a more enjoyable time was had during a practical lesson on 'Mess Life' held in the Corps Sergeants' Mess during 'Happy Hour'. In fact, I think we were happy for several more hours after that! The next time we reported for duty was Sunday morning, with Saturday used for personal admin and homework, as well as a little more socialising. On Sunday there was more Defence writing and an Orienteering exercise. The second week kicked off on Monday with written exams on the academic subjects and practice delivering patrol orders. Early on Tuesday we deployed to Piddle-Hinton for Exercise Shakeout, a 12hour work up exercise to revise anti ambush drills, defence, preliminary and confirmatory orders, and minor tactics. Ex Sharp Shock commenced immediately following that on Tuesday evening with a move back to the airfield training area at Blandford. Although the exercise was short (no longer than a typical TA weekend), it was very intensive. The tempo maintained can be judged from the fact that in 36 hours, 27 people went through command appointments. Not many people went to sleep during the exercise, and some didn't even get time for a meal. By the time we were cleaning our weapons on Thursday afternoon a few were dozing off in mid pull-through (painful!). There was just time for a couple of hours sleep before the end of course dinner in the Mess, a full formal dinner in Mess Kit (no cam cream behind the ears). The speeches were mercifully brief, and Red Bull was almost as popular as Port, but a good time was had by all. The two weeks ended with the issue of photos and results.

In summary, the well-kept secret is that the TA Staff Sergeant's Course is actually enjoyable. The homework is manageable, you don't have to have superhuman fitness, and with a little forward planning and effort most evenings can end with a few beers in the Mess. More importantly, no matter what your current level of experience or ability the course will develop you into a better SNCO. The course should not be seen as a hoop to jump through in order to get promotion. It is more of a stepping stone to help you improve your knowledge and professionalism. I would particularly recommend it to recently promoted Sergeants. There is a common attitude that you do the RSSSC when you are an experienced Sergeant and you consider yourself ready for promotion to Staff Sergeant. I think that this misses the point. Although it does qualify you for promotion, the main value of the course is to make you a better Sergeant. As a new Sergeant the course will boost your confidence and knowledge early, and allow you to make a better contribution to your unit.

HARROGATE DRILL COMPETITION 2001
by WO2 (SSM) Bousfield

After months of training for the Princess Royal Day Parade it was time to try and fit in just a little more drill and hold the Drill competition on Saturday 9 July 2001. The order for the competition had already been drawn and 3 Sqn were to be first on with an early start and breakfast at 0630hrs. Traditional lubrication was administered just before the competition with the hope of raising fighting sprit and instilling the will to win. Having done many competitions before, I must say that this was by far the highest standard of competition that I have had the pleasure of being involved in? During the inspection phase the squad reduced somewhat in size. Permission to march past in slow and quick time would not have been required if not for those individuals who regained themselves and allowed the squad to complete a very close fought competition. The result of the competition was that 3 Sqn were overall winners with 1 Sqn a close second and 2 Sqn in third place. The competition involved months of hard work and preparation. All over and above the trade training requirements of the participating soldiers and everyone who took part should be extremely proud of themselves and the standards that were achieved.

NEWS FROM THE BALKANS

MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE (CENTRE) HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (207)

KFOR MNB(C)

Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Roberts**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Dean** 'George Clooney' **Ewing**

PRE DEPLOYMENT TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES
by 2Lt Karen Moore

Arriving fresh from my Troop Commanders course and designated as OC Wire Notes (Can't wait till you come back Johnny Kid!) I thought it only fair that I write the opening paragraph to this edition's insert. The Squadron is TOA with 19 Mech Bde as at 27 June on Op Agricola 6 and the run up to the deployment has been far from slow. Our first challenge was Ex Rats Revelry, a two day OC's disposal which included an interest day about the local area Bergen - Hohne and an inter-squadron sports competition, the final competition of the day was the Gun Run, a great opportunity to get very muddy and carry heavy things.

Alpha Troop complete the big push at the end of the Gun Run

Our next fast ball was the visit of Commander in Chief Land, **Gen Sir Mike Jackson**, for which we were given a week to prepare. **Gen Jackson** visited the Squadron and received briefings from the Chief of Staff - **Maj Richard Williams**, SO3 O&D - **Capt Bertie Williams** and SO3 Trg - **Capt Jase Etherington**. Alpha Tp worked hard to prepare the Headquarters the previous day and subsequently, each soldier had the chance to talk to **Gen Jackson.**

Congratulations go to **WO1 (Ex RSM) Mark Stanley Tivey** who enjoyed his commissioning 'breakfast' on 28 May, he is now to be known as **Capt Markus St Jean Tivine**.

Finally, the Squadron must be congratulated on their hard efforts during the Assault Course competition of 31 May, it proved to be a little cheeky, so thanks to **Cpl** 'Jean Luke' **Pickard** and **Cpl** 'Pot YofS' **Olver** for their efforts in its organisation. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get very muddy and carry heavy things, again. As if by chance, the competition coincided with the visit of **Brig McDowell**. Having watched the competition and congratulated the guys' hard efforts, he took the time to speak freely to the Squadron on any issues of concern. The main topics included Pay 2000 and the new Royal Signals Trade Structure. Without further adieu, I will pass you on to the Troops for their news and views. See you next edition with some hot off the press Kosovo action!

Honestly Brigadier, it was this big!
The OC explains his recent fishing trip to Brig McDowell

DEPLOYMENT ON AGRICOLA 6 - *Lt Karen Moore*

Having tied up all the loose ends in Hohne and having left the Rear Party a massive list of jobs to do in our absence, the deployment to Pristina began. For ease, the troops were re-formed and are now as follows: Rover Troop (mainly operators), HQ Troop (Comms/IS gurus and techs) and Echelon/Support Troop (MT, LAD etc). The majority of the Squadron deployed on the Advance Party on 20 June and the Main Body flew to Thessaloniki in Greece the day after. As I write this, we've been in Theatre almost a month. The initial rush appears to have passed and already we've deployed the HQ in support of Task Force Viking. Currently there is a huge range of communications that we are responsible for in Theatre and plenty of cross training of operators. The R&R plot has now started - much to everyone's delight, but they tell me that Kosovo hasn't changed much since last year!

HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Johnny Nichol**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Sandy Sanderson**

THE CLEO BIT

Some things never change, it's July, we're in Kosovo and it's hot. Saying that, this year many of the techs who were in the rub shelter from hell last year, now get the pleasure of air con in the NCC on the Cleo Helpdesk. Its certainly been a baptism of fire for the Cleo team, with the FRT guys seeing more of Kosovo in four weeks than most Kosovars will ever see. The team of eight was soon down to seven when **LCpl Laura** '3 baps' **Ward** went sick with a stomach ache and was rushed to Camp Bondsteel to have her appendix out. Get well soon **Laura**. The rest of the shift are battling on with **Cpl Si** 'Jnr' **Hogg** and **Cpl Rob** 'Doughboy' **Pilsbury** up at all hours fixing faults on FRT. The joys of Helpdesk work are being embraced by **Cpl** 'Tommo' **Thomasson, LCpl** 'Finbar' **Saunders** and **LCpl** 'Son of FofSlMassive HEED' **Hamilton** and **Sgt** 'Sungod' **Clark** getting the best of both worlds, (he always seems to be on FRT when the sun is out).

In the light of our current manning issues 7ABSS are proud to present LCpl Sonof Foreman Hamilton, our first successful clone!

Sig Burrell (1ADSR) stocks up the guard-post water supplies

A big hello to the guys at the Corsham Hub doing a sterling job of explaining how to fix the kit, even though most of the faults have been at your end! It's amazing the types of calls you get at the Helpdesk.eg:

CLEO desk: 'Good afternoon, Cleo Helpdesk how can I help you?'
Intelligent Female: 'Thank you, I was wondering if you could put me in touch with someone.'
CLEO desk: 'Okay, do you have a contact number?'
Intelligent Female: 'I'm afraid not, he's a soldier based in Kosovo, do you know him, his name is **Martin Hoyle**?'
CLEO desk: 'No, I'm afraid I don't, do you have any more information?'
Intelligent Female: 'Sorry no, is that a problem?'
CLEO desk: 'Well, it's like asking if you know of Dave Smith, he works in London.'
Intelligent Female: 'Okay, so it was a bit of a silly question then.'
CLEO desk: 'Just a little bit, yes.'
Intelligent Female: 'Thank you for your help, goodbye.'
CLEO desk: 'Goodbye.'

Fingers crossed we'll have a few more 'weakest links' calling over the course of the tour, if not, we've got a few here to be getting on with.

BRAVO TROOP

Welcome to **SSgt** 'Ade' **Sims, Hilary** and **Briana, Sig** 'Stevie' **Barton** and **Sig** 'Prof' **O'Connor** to the Troop. Congratulations and goodbye to **SSgt** 'Dave' **Sloane, Loma, Martin** and **Robyn** who go to 1 (UK) Armd Div on promotion, good luck for the future. Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Jonno' **Johnston** and **Claire** on their recent marriage and welcome back to the Troop **Cpl** 'Pants' **Underwood, Cpl** 'Sam' **Margie** and **LCpl** 'Tommo' **Thompson** after having various holidays in Blandford. Having had our role on Ex Rhino Charge vastly reduced, the OC directed that a two-day period would be dedicated to an interest day and an inter-troop sports competition. The interest day consisted of an historical briefing of the Bergen-Hohne area and a visit to Belsen Gedenkstatte conducted by the then RSM, **WO1 Mark Tivey**.

Following this, the Squadron was briefed on Op Agricola 6. The inter-troop sports competition took place on April 26 and included rugby, hockey, shooting and a gun-run. Winning Troops for each event were: Rugby - Support Troop, Hockey - Bravo Troop, Shooting - Bravo Troop, Gun Run - Operations/Equipment Support Troop. Special mention should be made to **Cpl** 'Daz' **Margie** of Alpha Tp who broke his collar bone during the rugby after 106kg of **Cpl** 'My tea's a salad' **O'Mahony** landed on top of him. Despite **Cpl Margie's** valiant efforts the troop still failed to win a game.

ROVER TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Karen Moore**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Andy Buckle**

Firstly 'Welcome' to all our augmentees from 1 ADSR who have helped greatly with our manning of Theatre assets, they are: **Cpl** 'Smudger' **Smith, LCpl** 'Spec Task' **Roberts, LCpl** 'Bernie' **Burns** and **Sigs** 'Buzz' **Burrell,** 'Wes' **Doyle,** 'Sticky' **Vickers,** 'SOP' **Rigg,** 'Booty' **Booth,** 'Dodgy' **Hodgeson, Towell, Wilson, Handley, Wilkes, Sims** and **Cooper.** Also who could forget our Saturday and Sunday boys **LCpl Lawson** and **LCpl Ryan**. That'll be a crate each please! Talk about hit the ground running. No sooner had we sorted out the Tank Park, offices and stores into a neat and soldierly like fashion then it was time to deploy on Exercise. All the usual preparation was completed and we were given Orders for the Exercise the evening before deployment. Our nominated location was only about 10km's away and I'm pleased to say it was an Engr vehicle that failed to start on the move out. Armed with our porn star like issue sunglasses we rolled out the gates of Slim Lines, contributing heavily to the massive pollution around the town. Finding the location was no great drama but positioning the vehicles was a minor (ok, major) difficulty. Each small bush was hiding a fair size tree stump that usually took a few goings over with 14 tonnes of armour before it was finally beaten. Once in position the set up began. They say only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the mid-day sun, make that: mad dogs, Englishmen and 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. After five hours we were finally finished. The heat had taken its toll and our extra responsibilities, (an extra tent here, few more tables there, 30 SIGS Det here, few air conditioners there) had increased our set up time by about four hours. The next day was a demonstration day. Many visitors visited the HQ's including the local Scandinavian Battalions and the Battle Group RSV's.

The final day consisted of the HQ in its 'Emergency Response Role'. Around 45 members of the Kosovo Protection Corps visited the HQ. The main effort was to demonstrate how Command and Control is achieved in a deployed environment. The EOD, RMP and Medical Corps joined us and the demonstration went well.

The OC explains the role of the Emergency Control Centre to the KPC

ECHELON/SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Maj Jon Duckworth**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jim** 'BFBS' **Pritchard**

No 'hellos' or 'goodbyes'. On Monday 28 May, **WO1 (RSM) Mark Tivey** was Commissioned. The Squadron paraded at 0600hrs in the QM's compound for an OR's breakfast, the RSM joined in around 0630hrs.

He was given some un-ironed uniform and a 2Lt rank slide, not great for him but sheer joy for **2Lt** 'Duty Subby' **Moore**. The next phase of his commissioning, came in the form of an etiquette test which he failed miserably, not being able to identify the correct cutlery set in front of him or the drinks given to him either.

2Lt Tivey attempts to eat peas in an officer like fashion

He was given the chance to redeem himself by answering a few intellectual questions, again he failed miserably but thankfully **Sig** 'Bright Spark' **Ardley** was able to assist. At around 0730hrs his embarrassment came to an end and he was promoted to Captain but first had to open a bottle of champers with a sword, apparently it can be done but **Capt Markus St Jean Tivine** simply smashed the neck off the bottle.

He was promptly given the appointments of OC Rear Party/Families Officer and Welfare Officer and waved the Squadronn off to OPTAG, Congratulations and Good Luck from all the Squadron.

Having arrived at Pristina APOD on a dull wet Wednesday afternoon, the Support Tp Advance Party boarded the coach bound for Slim Lines TFA. The next morning heralded the start of a busy week and eventually the HOTO of MNB (C) Sig Sqn accounts was complete.

The official RSM s Handover/Takeover

Several interior design projects ensued and by the end of the second week we were all expecting Carol Smiley and the rest of the Changing Rooms Crew to make a guest appearance. The Department soon settled into some early starts and late finishes and before we knew it the Pre-LSI was upon us, cheers BOWO.

It's not all work, we have managed a visit to the American PX at Camp Bondsteel for a couple of hour's relaxation and the customary Burger King. At the time of writing we have yet to start the R&R plot although **Sig** 'Lloyd' **Holmes** has managed to get himself away on Adventure Training in Brac, no doubt he will enjoy his time away and will hopefully get chance to try his hand at 'life laff up -hill skiing!'.

To boost the local economy here in Pristina, **Sig Cheryl Smyth** has made it her task to purchase as many Paradigm phone cards as is feasibly possible and **Sig** 'Tug' **Wilson** has purchased as many CD's as the 'local store' can possibly supply him with.

We have had a new addition to the Department recently, **Sig Wilson** came into the office with a tortoise he had found on the path outside, how disappointed he was when he discovered it was not a mince pie. To cheer 'Tug' up we had a naming session for the tortoise. We finally settled on 'Ross' in honour of **Sig Ardley**, the Stores Accountant we left behind in Germany. No need to worry **Sig Ardley**, we won't expect you to keep up the work rate of 'Ross' when we get back! Finally, Vets who need practice, **Sig** 'Lloyd' **Holmes** who thought a tortoise couldn't survive if it didn't have enough water to swim in! Also there was **Sig Cheryl Smyth** who asked, 'Do they ever come out of their shell?' What would Rolf Harris say?

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

XV HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND AND 15 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col M. P. Llewellyn OBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) McNaught**

By the time you read this the Regt 2IC, **Maj Nick Caleb** will be with JACIG. We wish him every success with moving house and his new job, and owe him a big debt of thanks for the copious amounts of paperwork he managed to get through. The Adjt, **Capt Annabel Taylor,** will be unchained from the telephones and CASH terminal and starting a new life with the Civil Affairs Group, on her way to Sierra Leone to find out how the locals celebrate the rainy season. After a two year rainy season in NI only the temperature is expected to change. (To all those who have supported me during the last 12 months you have my eternal gratitude – you have kept me sane and managed to keep the gremlins at bay!). Welcome to the new 2IC, **Maj Alan Stringer**, back to his home county at last, but this time with Ulrika – good luck with the acclimatisation and congratulations on your marriage. Welcome also to the new Adjt, **Capt Katie Caie** and husband **Stuart** – I'm not sure how you will juggle horses, dogs and the in tray but best of luck! You'll need it! Not content with being congratulated for selection for promotion to Colonel in the last entry, the CO has been awarded an OBE for his previous appointment in UKSC(G). What's the next excuse for champagne? (More Sgt Techs would definitely be a good start for a celebration!). The marching season furore was louder than the riots, but the new challenge will be faced when the various parties respond to the recent proposals for the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, which will have far reaching consequences whichever way the decision falls. Who will be at Stormont by the time this goes to print? As the GOC told the juniors during his recent visit to the Regiment – the only thing we can be sure of is that the

military will cope with whatever is thrown at us. And 15 Sig Regt will also cope with anything– even the HQNI staff coming back on strength!

MORRISON CUP – FRIDAY 15 JUNE 2001

This year the Regiment sent a team of what was predominately a 'jack of all trades, masters of none' to compete in the Morrison Cup. With an early morning start, we set off to sunny Blandford (a unique Georgian town by all accounts) from Lisburn. The crossing over the Irish Sea was not too kind to us, but the bar staff were accommodating, making the long drive in the back of the minibus more bearable. In preparation for the following day's events, 15 Sig Regt forbade the resting of bodies and instead opted for frequenting with the locals from Bournemouth, with the added luxury of not having to clear pubs and remain in surreptitious little groups. The day of the Competition started with the pole vault where **Cpl Dave** 'Burnt Hands Sambuccas' **Salter** and **Cpl Ian** 'Fan' **Welsh** found the going tough and did not manage to get anywhere near the bar to jump it, but had a laugh trying. Whilst the Team were warming up for the track events, the field events were ongoing with some members doing well in their chosen events including **Sgt Mark** 'FYEO' **Hopkins** and **Cpl** 'Boz' **Litster** in the long jump and triple jump. The ladies did very well keeping the points coming in for the team. The team scored valuable points in the track events, with good runs by **Jay Lowe**, **Capt Rich Craig** and **Capt Fiona Stewart**. With the day passing quickly we watched as the other teams scores went creeping past ours, but our hopes didn't fade as **Sgt Karl Hannah** retained his title in the discus. When the competition came to a close it was not a surprise to find that 11 Sig Regt had won the Cup (again). We were happy with our day's work, coming sixth out of nine teams in the major units competition. After a few celebratory beers the team set off the following morning on the long journey back to Northern Ireland, vowing to have more success in next year's competition.

Cpl Lake receives the baton from Cpl Toner in the 400m relay, with Cpl Welsh looking on from the sidelines

EXERCISE MAIDEN FINN 15–28 JUNE 2001

Ex Maiden Finn was a 233 Sig Sqn Adventurous Training exercise held around the Coastal waters of Northern Ireland. The aim of the exercise was to introduce Novices to sailing and to reach a level capable of achieving their competent crew.

The Crew:	Skipper	**LCpl 'Mac' McFarland**	RYA Day skipper
	Mate	**Capt Lucy Thirsk**	RYA Day skipper
	Crew	**Sgt 'Nige' Cathrew**	Novice
	Crew	**Cpl 'Mini' Smith**	Novice
	Crew	**LCpl 'Stan' Stanham**	Novice

The crew all assembled in SHQ with bags packed ready to go. We eventually managed to drag the 2IC away from her in tray and headed for HMS *Caroline* in Belfast harbour, where we boarded the '*Gerona*', a 35ft Trade winds yacht which was to be our home for the next five days. After checking over the yacht's inventory and stowing away our rations and personal belongings, the skipper and first-mate gave the novice crew a guided tour of the yacht. We were taught safety procedures: how to send a MAYDAY message (a great confidence booster!), a few nautical terms; pointy bit at the front – 'Bow', left and right - 'Port and Starboard' and handy hints to help us on our Voyage – 'Don't throw up into wind'. Sailing into Belfast Lough we carried out Man over board drills. The next five days produced various weather and sea conditions which the novice crew was taught to deal with. Each crewmember took it in turns to carry out different jobs on board to maximise their experience. Each day we made our way to a different port to berth for the night, making it to Bangor, Carrickfergus, Portaferry and finally into Strangford Lough. The novice members of the crew all reached a suitable standard of knowledge to achieve their competent crew and everyone agreed that they were keen to pursue this sport. Overall it was a very challenging week but enjoyed by all.

MCKELVIE CUP SHOOTING COMPETITION - *by Sgt Wood*

On 29 June 2001 the 233 Sig Sqn Inter Troop Shooting Competition was held at Ballykinler Training Centre. The competition was divided into four shoots run on two ranges. Each Troop provided four 'expert shots' each of which had to include a JNCO for the Fire Team Assessment. The Teams were drawn off to the two ranges with TM Tp and NCC Tp going onto the Pistol range first. The shoots here comprised the Pistol APWA (CI) followed by Pistol Competition shoot No.2. The second shoot was a high scoring event, which in the end made all the difference to the results. Meanwhile India Tp and Romeo Tp went across to the Rifle range where a Rifle APWT (TS) was followed up by a Fire Team Assessment (with a reduced run). Due to the fact that only Romeo Tp had SUSAT they were penalised by 15% on their rifle scores. The weather could not have been better as the morning was warm and sunny with a quick shower just before the Fire Team Assessment run. The run was only a mile long and **Cpl Mick Partridge** ran the teams just hard enough to get a sweat up prior to donning their helmets and INIBA vests for the shoot. 25lbs of webbing was carried throughout. Surprisingly enough Romeo Tp made a clean sweep of the event even with their penalty only being beaten on the Pistol APWA by India Tp. This minor defeat may be attributed to too many computer games or the influence of a defected Romeo Trooper, **Sgt** 'Tug' **Wilson**. The winning score was 1106 points with the other Troops gaining between 833 and 911 points.

OFFICERS V SENIORS CRICKET MATCH

The annual Officers v Seniors cricket match was scheduled to coincide with Op Caste 2, a restricted leave period so that the maximum amount of Regimental personnel could be on hand to witness what was billed to be a gargantuan battle of pride and honour between the two Messes. The pre-match build up was tense, culminating in the Commanding Officer pulling out at the eleventh hour to personally attend to some pressing G6 issue (yeah!) what foresight the CO proved to have! The Seniors won the toss and elected to bat. The RSM demonstrated from the off exactly why Scotland are not leading lights in the gentleman's game, by scoring an impressive two before being bowled by **Capt** 'Quack' **Grey**. A few weekends as Orderly Officer should wipe that grin off his face Sir! The Seniors then went on to build a respectable 159 all out in their allotted 20 overs, despite the attraction of the officers secret weapon **Capt** 'Scrap-yard Challenge' **Strawbridge** and his slobbering Doberman Pincher, now affectionately known to all who played as 'Git'. Notable performances with the bat were put in by **WO2 (RQMS)** 'Look at the size of my willow' **Hartley**, **Sgt** 'Drew' **Drewitt** and **Sgt** 'I don't want to bat' **Harris**. The pick of the officers bowling were **Capt** 'Quack' **Grey** and **Capt** 'I can't bowl' **Griffiths**, the latter taking two wickets in one over. After a short break for Pimms and sarnies it was then the turn of the Officers to bat. Let's not labour the point, but after a brief spell of outstanding bowling by the Seniors the Officers found themselves in that typically English cricket situation of wobbling on the brink of total humiliation, 21 all out after 11 overs! The only notable performance was the CO's ability to foresee the outcome, whose absence no doubt saved him weeks of ribbing from the RSM. The beautiful sound of leather on willow is something the Regimental Officers can only dream about, ah well there's always next year!

OPENING OF 233 SIGNAL SQUADRON REFURBISHED LINES BY THE GOC NORTHERN IRELAND - *by Capt R. A. Hamilton*

Over the past twelve months, Building 31 has been refurbished to re-accommodate 233 Sig Sqn SHQ and TM Tp and to allow Romeo Tp to move from the secure compound into the HQNI compound. The new facility includes flood wiring to allow maximum access to IT services, an IT systems repair area, car bays for installing vehicle fits and an abundance of room for Romeo Tp to carry out their work. The building was handed across to 233 Sig Sqn in June 2001 and officially opened by the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, **Lt Gen A. S. H. Irwin CBE** on 2 August 2001. The GOC was welcomed by the CO and the RSM and received an update on 15 Sig Regt. The GOC was then escorted across to 233 Sig Sqn where he was met by personnel from SHQ before officially opening the building. A tour was conducted of the new facility with TM Tp first. There the GOC was shown a display of the new rigging equipment, visited the car fits bay and was given a demonstration by the installation techs of phone line maintenance. The GOC then went on to visit Romeo Tp where he saw some of the specialist equipment used by the Troop before being taken to the Peake Inn where he had sandwiches with junior members of all three Squadrons of 15 Sig Regt.

.and this one allows me to download pornography at 512Kbs.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj D. T. H. Wilson**

We bid a fond farewell to a host of members of HQ Sqn. The squadron would like to wish an enjoyable time at their next unit to the following:

WO1 (RSM) Balsdon (on promotion to Captain) , **WO2 (RQMS)** 'Dave' **Inman**, 2IC **Capt Howell-Walmsley**, **SSgt** 'Icky' **Gratrick**, **Sgt** 'Rocky' **Mountain**, and **Sigs** 'Nick' **Hawke**, 'Stevo' **Stevenson**, and 'Mally' **Mallinson**. All of whom will be sorely missed. A big hello goes to the new members of the squadron who will no doubt enjoy their time here in HQ Sqn. Welcome to the new RSM, **WO1 McNaught**, 2IC **Capt Dixon** and his wife **Shirley**, **WO2 (SSM)** 'Gary' **Steele**, CDA's newest member **Cpl** 'Shane' **Hepworth** and his wife **Diane**. C Troop's latest additions to the nut-house **Cpl** 'Jeff' **Ford** and **L/Cpl** 'Shacks' **Shackleton**. Last but not least, the sweetest thing to hit the QM's Dept, **Sig** 'Aimee' **Acock**. Make the most of your 2-year break from the real world and enjoy your time here with the Squadron!

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj M. J. Smith**

ECHO TROOP

Tp Comd Post Gapped

The Troop said goodbye to **Capt Fiona** 'Does my bum look big in this' **Stewart** as OC which leaves her spot vacant (no change there then) until her replacement arrives in September. On the sporting front congratulations go out to the troop members who aided in the winning of the CO's Cup Hockey. On the athletics track **Sgt Hopkins** came in second for the 100 and 200m at the Mercury Cup Competition. On a more sombre note, the Troop sends its best wishes to **Cpl Lisa Shaw** and wish her a speedy recovery. Our thoughts also go out to **LCpl Lee Buttita** who was injured in a car accident in early July.

A Watch would like to welcome **SSgt** (Supervisor Radio) **Andy Ball** fresh from his Promotion course, and back to NI for a second round. We also welcome **Sgt Berry**, **Cpl Bebbington**, **Cpl Flatman**, **Cpl Hauxwell**, **LCpl Howard**, **LCpl Stephenson** and **LCpl Walters**. Fond farewells to **SSgt** (Supvr R) **Dunn** to JSSU Digby, **SSgt** (Supvr R) **Hill** to 11 EOD Regiment, **Cpl Heather Carter**, **Cpl Jim Hobson**, **Cpl Scanlan** and **LCpl Scott**. Adios to **Cpl Cartwright** who has gone onto the QRF.

B Watch has had a substantial turn-around of personnel with the arrival of **SSgt** (Supvr R) 'Ash' **Ashworth**, **Cpl Patton**, **LCpl Fenton**, **LCpl Miller**, **LCpls Baker** and **JT Casement**. B Watch says goodbye to **Cpl** 'Dinger' **Bell** and **Cpl West** who have headed to pastures new in Civ Div.

C Watch welcomes **Cpl Kennedy** back from his upgrading course. Congratulations are in order for **Cpl Potton** who has been selected for promotion to Sergeant.

D Watch says goodbye to **Cpl Fleming** who goes back to the mainland and hello to **SSgt** (Supvr R) **Brooke**, **Cpl** 'Sniffy' **Booth** and the return of **Cpl** 'Foxy' **Fox** from his difficult upgrading course at Chicksands.

GOLF TROOP

Tech Adjt **Capt R. J. Craig**

Last month the Troop went to the Lake District to do some adventurous activities, including hill walking (which felt like mountains) climbing, abseiling and dodging wind and rain. During one of the breaks from the arduous training one of our Troop members came out of the dwarf-loving closet. **Sgt Jon** 'Snatch' **Hatch** has shown us all, with style and panache, his ability to charm and excite the smaller members of society. The Troop would like to say a sorry farewell to **Sgt** 'Snatch' **Hatch**, **Sgt** 'Linda' **Box** and **Sgt** 'It's your wife on the phone again' **Brankin**, who are all leaving us for the easy ride Foreman's course in Blandford. Additionally, goodbyes are extended to **Sgt** 'Big Boy' **Spike Milligan** who is off to his bonnie homeland of Scotland on posting and **Sgt** 'Philthy' **McLeish**, who is 'off home' to his mother squadron of 264. The Troop is pleased to welcome a few new members, **Cpl Paul** 'Caffers' **Caffrey**, **Cpl Ollie Gray** and fresh from the shady beaches of Cyprus, **Cpl** 'Pickles' **Hayward**. Last but not least a belated welcome to our two new bosses, **Foreman of Signals** 'Taff but not Welsh' **Roberts** and **Foreman of Signals** 'I didn't know that!' **Leach**, we all look forward to working for you both……

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt P. R. Griffiths**

As normal Support Tp have managed to bluff through another few months by looking busy and getting as many brownie points as physically possible. The MT is still managing to keep its fingers firmly on the Squadron's vehicle fleet although this has proved to be a hard task with Troop members like **Cpl** 'Rammer' **Deas**, using civilian cars to slow down, rather than using the brakes supplied! There have been a few arrivals and departures within the Troop. A big warm welcome goes to **LCpl Kris Blundell** who has joined us from JCU(NI) and **Sig** 'Jamesy' **James** who comes from 249 Sig Sqn and has gone straight on his Tailoresses course. Farewell to **LCpl** 'Angry' (JY 747) **Fisher** who is once again on leave, maybe sometime before you finally depart you could hand in your arrival proforma. Finally, congratulations to **Sgt Vicky** 'I don't feel pregnant' **Dumbell** and Simon, on their unexpected but very welcome news of the patter of tiny feet. May all your problems be little ones.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj A. N. Walker**

The sporting events this year for 233 Sig Sqn have definitely been something to rave about! The Squadron has outshone itself in the CO's Cup competitions. It has managed to win every event so far in the 2001 competition. Keep it up we are about half way to winning the Cup! The Squadron would like to say a fond farewell to **SSgt Rob Allen** who has moved to JCU(NI) to enable him to stay in Province to end his career. Thanks for standing in as SSM whilst **SSM Dunseith** was taken ill, and welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Tasker** and family who have arrived from Blandford. Hope you enjoy your time in the Province.

ROMEO TROOP - *by LCpl A. Jones*

Tp Comd **Capt R. A. Hamilton**

The trophy cabinet is bulging again with successes in the McKelvie Cup swimming, shooting & hockey competitions. Keep this up and we could be keeping the cup!

The Troop would like to congratulate **Cpl** 'Tony' **Davies**, for coming off the recent Sergeants' Board, and **LCpls** 'Bede' **Gladish** and 'Buster Gonad' **Brown** for finding their second tech stripes in a corn flakes box. We would also like to say hello to **LCpl Jones** from 216 Sig Sqn, and **LCpls Feldman** and **Roberts** who have arrived straight from the factory. We wish all the best to **Sgt** 'Tug' **Wilson** who couldn't hack the pace of Romeo and selected for the easy life of India Tp. Also **Cpl** 'Lestor' **Richardson** moving onward and upwards to another unit, **Cpl** 'Bede' **Gladish** taking on the challenge of JCU(NI), and **Cpls** 'Si' **Wellstead** and 'Marty' **Rudland** posted to 249 Sqn and Blandford respectively, good luck lads. A final congratulations to **LCpl Bostock** with a new addition to his ever growing family. With the fast turnover in personnel, the chance has arisen to have a couple of excellent parties including the troop summer bash organised by **Cpl Davies**. The fancy dress do lasted all night long, with all scores being settled on an inflatable gladiator duel. The boss did not seem so happy, however, with the fancy dress idea when in a subsequent inspection of the lines by CO 15 Sig Regt all the Ghostbuster packs descended on him on opening a rigging locker. June was a very busy month, with the Troop move into the HQNI compound. With only four days given between access to the new building and handing over the old building, the Troop worked particularly hard and had the equipment up and running in the minimal amount of time. Once everything was installed, attention was turned to decorating the 'rest and recuperation' room which now looks quite the part and would be ideal for having a couple of beers in (shame about the lack of a license).

The biggest drama in Romeo Tp choosing the right weapon to suit the occasion and your mood

INDIA TROOP - *by Cpl J. Medcraft*

Tp Comd **Capt T. Grey**

Tp SSgt **SSgt K. D. 'Icky' Gratrick**

The past few months have been relatively quiet for India Tp but there have been the usual hellos and goodbyes within the Troop. Firstly we must say our goodbyes. Data Entry would like to say goodbye to **LCpl Mark** 'Ogri' **Manby** who has gone to 7 Sig Regt. Let's just hope that the mighty 7 Sig Regt has enough food for you **Mark! Cpl** 'Jeffers' **Ford** and **Sgt Ross** 'Jack of all Trades' **Menzies** are moving to COMMCEN Tp. Let's just hope that you don't get sacked from there too Ross (apparently **Cpl Jason** 'Halitosis' **Nicholls** is following you)! Don't forget to remind them that you have a problem typing in PA55WORDS **Ross**! **Sgt Ian** 'Bandito' **Clark** is shortly to be posted to 14 Sig Regt, what's 14 Sigs' BFPO number **Ian**? There have been five arrivals in the Troop. **Sgt Mick** 'Software King' **Stoneman** returns to us again after an apparently lovely six months in the Falkland Islands and **SSgt John Lester** joins us from JSSU Digby – both as System Administrators. We have had two defections from the other Troops in the Squadron, namely **SSgt** 'Flo' **Jarvis** from TM Troop and **Sgt** 'Tug' **Wilson** from Romeo Tp – at least you boys know which side your bread is buttered! Last but by no means least, **SSgt** 'Icky' **Gratrick** has arrived in the Troop and is making an instant impression. The Troop has been doing a lot of socialising of late. This is primarily due to the three promotions within the Troop. Congratulations go to **Capt Tim Grey** and **Cpl** 'Toff' **Lucas**. **Cpl Justin Medcraft** (author) was also successfully selected for promotion to Sergeant upon posting. Well done to you all. **Sgts Ross** 'Super COMMCEN boy' **Menzies** and **Ian** 'Chest Poker' **Clark** have also completed and passed their Sergeants course at Blandford. Congratulations go to you as well. **Sig Phil** 'Preston' **Brocken** is about to take the big leap and defect from the block into becoming a 'Pad'. Good luck fella! Finally, well done to **Sgt Ian** '28, yeah right!' **Clark** for winning the 18-hole Stableford competition in the Troop Golf Day. He's the only person who's been able to play golf consistently in province for two years and still be playing off a handicap of 28. **Sgt** 'Tug' **Wilson** achieved the longest drive, this was only because he was the only person playing who actually hit the fairway (and it was the only one he hit all

day!). **WO2 (Supvr IS) Kev McHugh** got 'nearest to the pin' and **Sgt Jeff Thomas** managed to somehow snap a club. Congratulations must also go to **SSgt** 'Flo' **Jarvis** for winning the reddest head competition. He and **Cpl** 'Billy' **Beaumont** got the worst score ever recorded in the history of the course – and that was using a tee on every shot! The competition was organised by **Sgt** 'Schteve' **Simpson**, was a resounding success and an excellent send off for **Sgt's Ian Clark** and **Ross Menzies** who will both be missed.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt E. L. McLellan**

In time honoured tradition let's start off with the arrivals and departures. First off the arrivals and it's hello to **SSgt Dave Mudway** who has handed his spurs in to the SQMS and joined us from Romeo Tp to fill the post of Troop Staff Sergeant. Also it's hello to **LCpl Steve Adamson** and **LCpl Scott Deas** who have recently joined us from RSS Blandford after completing their Class 3 Courses. Goodbye to **Cpl Chris** 'D-O-double G' **Holt** and **Sgt Phil** 'Dolly' **Parton** who will shortly be leaving us for 'Civ Div' after they complete their resettlement courses, (good luck!). Congratulations to **SSgt Nick Goodwin, Cpl Danny Shovelton** and **Cpl Lee** 'Rocky' **Khair** on their recent promotions. Welcome back to all the people who are rejoining us after completing courses. **Sgt** 'Fred' **Farnfield** who has returned after successfully completing his Sergeants Course, (though you wouldn't think so from the amount of time he's spent in work!) and will soon be off again on his Foreman's Course. **Cpl Pherris Baldwin** came and went having received a quick posting. Also welcome back to **LCpl Steve** 'Stretch' **Hicklin** who has recently completed his class 1 Telemech course, (so doesn't that now make him an Installations technician?!). **Cpl Andy Butterfield** who has returned from his 'Detties' course and last but not least **Cpl Lee** 'Rocky' **Khair,** who has rejoined us after completing 'P Company'. Last but not least is the Troop's annual barbecue, which this year was held at the Peak Inn on Lisburn station's notorious 'strip'. Arguably the best feature of this year's barbecue was the 'Bouncy Castle' that was arranged by **Cpl Danny Shovelton**. This seemed to provide hours of endless fun for the 'kids' and the married personnel's children as well! There was no shortage of food this year either, there was enough to feed three Troops! Overall though a good time was had by all and we look forward to next year's barbecue, which will hopefully be even better still.

NETWORK CONTROL CENTRE TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt A. Haresign**

The Troop says farewell to **LCpl** 'Willy' **Wilson,** off to sunny Caterrick with 19 Mech. **Cpl** 'Taff' **Edwards** posted to 1 UK Civ Div after the best three years of his life in the NCC. We also welcome **Sig** 'Gaz' **Hitchings** from 16 Sig Regt and **LCpl** 'Murk' **Aincough** from 7 Sig Regt. They are both looking forward to the next two years. The Troop is currently looking forward to their Adventurous Training in Newquay. Originally planned as water-sports, it is now five-a-side football and BBQs on the beach if **Cpl Steve Lowery** can organise that in two months.

3 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (203)

Sqn Comd **Maj D. B. Warne R SIGNALS**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) A. M. Maxted**

COMMS TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Simon Lord**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Lee** 'Floppy' **Hopkins**

TRAILWALKER 2001- *by 2Lt Simon Lord*

Quite why I had decided to volunteer for Trailwalker again, I am not really sure. Having arrived in NI last year to be told by the 2IC I was expected, and not wishing to be out done, I graciously accepted the challenge. It all went well and **Cpl Si** 'I've done this three times already' **Hurst** and I completed the 100km ahead of our other three teams. It was actually quite enjoyable and very sociable. I could do that again, or so I thought. This year proved to be somewhat more of a challenge. Eighteen personnel made the journey from sunny Portadown to Petersfield. Twelve runners and a six-man admin party. Comms Troop 'A' consisted of **Capt Andy** 'Ritchie Cunningham' **Parfitt, 2Lt Simon** 'OIC Sport' **Lord, SSgt Lee** 'Floppy' **Hopkins** and **LCpl Chris** 'Mountain-Goat Boy' **Sankey**. The Support Troop Team consisted of **Cpl John** 'There She' **Blowes, Cpl Gaz** 'I could have finished' **Harris, Cpl Ritchie** 'Knackered Knees' **Birch** and **Sig Dave** 'Marathon Man' **Smart**. The Wombles Team consisted of **Brig** 'More Brufen' **Graham, Capt Scott** 'Do I talk a lot?' **Richardson, WO2 Mark** 'BOWO' **Lavers** and **SSgt Mark** 'Mustn't Grumble (much!) **Corner**. The day before the run was spent in Guilford soaking up the sun. I had arranged for our three teams to reside at SEME Borden and, after convincing the QM that **Brig Graham** was in fact one of the team members and it wasn't a spelling error on my part, we settled down for an early night in preparation for the 0700hrs start.

The 150 teams or so taking part came from all walks of life, both civilian and military. After registration there is an air of anticipation as the teams eye up the opposition and aim to pour as much High Five down their necks as possible. Being the only member of my team to have completed the event I advised a steady start, looking for a finishing time in the region of 14 hours. The mile circuit around Mahon Barracks is not the ideal training ground for such an event as the undulating South Downs Way soon take its toll on the knees, particularly the down hill sections. Soon we were up with the leaders at a steady 10km/hour pace; things were not going quite according to plan. By Checkpoint 4 (36 km) we were still at 10km/hour pace and I had seen **Cpl Si** 'I'm never doing this again' **Hurst**, doing it again! The other two teams were approximately 30mins behind us, taking things at a slightly more leisurely pace. The route to Checkpoint 5 is the longest leg at 12.8km with a long steady climb from Amberley to Washington. This proved to be my undoing as on the downhill section my knee seized forcing me to retire at 50km. Not happy! On arrival, I was informed by **Sgt Rob** 'Large Belt Buckle' **McCorkell** that the entire Sp Tp team had retired due to injury at Checkpoint 4, Trailwalker 2001 was taking no prisoners! As the walking wounded were ferried to SEME thinking what only could have been, the Wombles and three quarters of Comms Tp 'A' soldiered on.

The bad luck didn't end there. Surely the most unlucky person to enter Trailwalker 2001 was **SSgt Lee** 'Unlucky Hoppy' **Hopkins**. He twisted his ankle and had to retire at Checkpoint 10, with only 8.5km to go! He has also managed to catch a rather smart tan by running most of the event in a vest; he still has the sunburn to prove it. So it was left to **SSgt Mark** 'Do you fancy coming to Blackpool? **Corner** and his Womblers to show us how it should be done, finishing in a very respectable 14hrs 46mins. They even managed to overtake **Capt Andy** 'Hot Pants' **Parfitt** and **LCpl Chris** 'Sir, please don't make me do this again' **Sankey** who finished in 15hrs 7mins. As the dates for next year are 6-7 July 2002, it looks as though Drumcree will have to take precedence, though if anything changes I have a feeling we may be back for some more punishment. OK, its just me then …… lads?

PS could I say a big thank you on behalf of all members of 3Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn to **Lt Yam** and his team for organising the event, and my apologies for being weak and unmilitary like.

ROVER GROUP - *by LCpl Sluman*

After what seemed to be a short year, Drumcree silly season was upon us again, meaning it was time for the Rover Group to swing into action. Formed to provide 3 Inf Bde's Commander with protection both on foot and vehicle borne, whilst out and about on the streets of Portadown.

Everyone, bar **LCpl Bruce** 'The one that got away' **Morrison** was new to the group this year, meaning training started early in March to ensure our drills were slick. However, due to the dreaded foot and mouth outbreak, we were unable to deploy to Ballykinler as planned. Instead we were reduced to bombing around camp with weary dog walkers looking on in dismay! With Drumcree rapidly approaching we managed to grab one last training day in Ballykinler, graced by the presence of the bodyguards in order to polish off our well rehearsed drills.

Our first deployment was for the march on Saturday 26 May that proved to be quite disappointing, returning to camp after less than an hour on the ground. However, it was probably for the best as our veteran radio operator (**LCpl Morrison**) had already asked Syscon to 'contact us on landing' -over a live CNR net! The lock-in camp arrived and Rover Group was raring to go. Why then did it come as no surprise for the hurry up and wait syndrome to take affect for the first four days! How many times can you first works a snatch without moving it? Day Five saw us leap to the command of the Brigadier with deployments coming in thick and fast, averaging twice a day from an hour up to eight hours on the ground. After the first few deployments it became apparent that the Brigadier preferred to walk rather than ride which meant we would find ourselves tabbing through the streets of Portadown, keeping our patrolling skills up to scratch, and if we could, our heads down!

During our deployments we met no resistance or violence from the locals, indeed anything of interest happening always seemed to occur ten minutes after getting back to camp, much to the disappointment of **Cpl** 'Setch' **Setchfield** who was becoming very attached to his baton gun. Luckily Drumcree passed without any major incidents and life has returned to normality. Well done to all those who formed Rover Group, it was a worthwhile experience for all concerned.

ADVENTURE TRAINING PENHALE CAMP 2001 - *by LCpl Sank*

After a long and dreary ride from Portadown to Newquay by ferry and slow moving minibus, the boys of 3IBSS were all feeling rather tired and out of it. Recuperated after a few hour's kip the week's events started with rock climbing and abseiling around the cliffs of Penhale Camp. Through the week various members of the group picked up nicknames. 'Catalogue Man' (**Sig King**) picked his up in the car park before leaving Ireland through his many different poses! While rock climbing **LCpl Sankey** picked up the name 'Mountain-Goat Boy' for his rapid ascent of the rock face. Then came 'Free-fall Man' (**Pte Wilkinson**) named after his rapid descent and hitting the deck and para rolling in the sand! The day had gone well and the sun was shining brightly and did so all week. The following day the group participated in what was supposed to be a stroll round the cliff faces for about 15 miles but 'Two Tone Man' **Cpl Howard** had invented a new distance called the 'Howie mile', which resulted in the group doing close on thirty miles instead! Morale was high though because 'Random Man' **LCpl Good** was being his usual madly funny self, and the sun was beaming and everyone had good tans, except of course 'Two Tone Man' who looked rather daft with a very tanned head and legs but nothing else! After the days walking it was decided that this was to be selection week, with **Sig Squires** 'Jap Sniper, Luke the gook' giving a 'Big Brother' commentary!

Day Three saw the group participate in a spot of mountain biking! To make things more interesting on route, 'Mountain-Goat Boy' **Sankey** and 'Free-Fall Man' **Wilkinson** decided to play chicken with the oncoming fences that were only big enough to get one bike through. It led to **Sankey** clipping **Wilke's** back tyre and flying off into the fence and the whole group nearly falling off laughing! More was to come but to top the day off 'Luke the gook' lost his pedal and continued on Postman Pat style side mounted, by the end everyone had sore butts from the hardened seats! Day Four of selection had the boys in a 'You've been framed' style canoeing session, if only there had been a camcorder present! 'Catalogue Man' spent the day in circles, 'Random Man' spent most of the day in the water instead of the canoe as did **Steve** the chef, and 'Luke the gook' whilst rafted decided to break dance in his canoe whipping out three other people as he fell! At one point we thought the Merlin helicopter was coming in to help because we were all in the water!

Day Five was probably the best day as the group went horse riding with very little knowledge of the sport in the group! Comments such as, 'Where're the breaks?' and, 'Where's reverse?' were coming from the mouth of 'Taff Man' (**SSgt Drew**) and for such a big guy you've never seen him so scared! The best bit of the day though was when one of the horses got spooked and sent all the other horses into a sprinting frenzy with the lads holding on for dear life screaming profanities, then they all stopped suddenly and had a communal toilet session!

In the afternoon the group participated in a clay pigeon shoot with a small pot for the winner. 'Luke the gook' was looking odds on but 'Mountain Goat Boy' came out with a great shoot to take the winnings. However, young Squires still had the last laugh when he shouts to the boys for a catalogue pose and disappears when the mound he stands on slides down the hill! Like all good Adventure Training there has to be a do to finish the week and the boys went to Newquay to a new place called Springboks where we indulged in some good food and plenty of drink! Saturday was a free day and the lads had planned a spot of body boarding as the sea had been right for it all week except of course Saturday morning when it was flat as a pancake, but you can't win them all! All in all it was a great week with good weather, top bunch of lads and quality activities. The lads would like to say thanks to the DS for their efforts and a big thanks and goodbye to 'Taff Man' **SSgt Drew** for whom has served his time and completed his final adventure training exercise.

The Team

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (213)

Sqn Comd **Maj A. R. Knott**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. M. Lockwood**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Well done to all those members of the Squadron who took part in the preparation and the seeing to fruition of the Brigade Commander's Cockail Party at Hilsborough Castle. In particular, thank you to **WO2 (RQMS) Belam** for his hard work in the weeks and days leading up to the event. Your contribution ensured all concerned had a super evening. Congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) Lockwood** and his wife **Dawn** on the recent birth of their son **Oliver**. They led the way in a stampede of births including a baby girl, **Eryn** for **Pte Jeff Fleming** and his wife **Julie,** congratulations to you both. Congratulations also to **Cpl Paul Ryan** on his recent selection for promotion to Sergeant, we would like to wish your receiving Unit the very best of luck! Well done to the 39 Brigade Female Rounders Team who retained the trophy in the Northern Ireland Inter-Unit Rounders competition, once again defeating 15 Sig Regt in the final.

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt S. Y. Richardson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt R. Atherton**

OPERATIONS SECTION - ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Firstly a big welcome back to **Cpl Mandie Smith** who returns from her Class 1 course in time for the Marching Season, before being posted. Welcomes must also go to **LCpl Stu Welton** and **Sig Al Allardyce,** who unfortunately have been thrown in at the deep end arriving in the middle of POIP. We hope you will enjoy your time with us. Only one farewell this month, which goes to **Cpl Andy Nolan,** who leaves us for civvie street and the grand ole US of A. Some people have all the luck! Thank you for your endeavours in SYSCON and good luck to you.

SECTION NEWS

The beginning of July saw the start of the Marching Season, a busy time for the Mushrooms in SYSCON, along with the rest of the Squadron. This year proved no different and although it seems to have passed off fairly quietly, this does not mean that the reconfiguration of talk-throughs and constant telephone ringing has been any less stressful. A sense of humour has definitely been a requirement recently, especially with the apparent increase in Bergen runs. The NAAFI is rapidly running out of Radox, all thanks to **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Bevan** – don't forget, we know where you live 'Paddy'.

ROVER GROUP

The last two months have been excellent for Rover Gp with several deployments. Many involved the usual Green Move, escorting the Chancellor Downlink vehicle to its final destination, and then picking it up again. This, however, has not been without its dramas, mainly due to the lack of drivers, but also due to having two of the top cover sentries posted out of the Unit and the replacement being kept in Germany. So a belated welcome to **Pte** 'Ken' **Barlow** who arrives to us from ARRC Sp Bn. For once we must thank the Technicians for lending us spare manpower in the forms of **LCpl Rob Dilger** and **LCpl** 'Ted' **Tedby** who came out with us. But we bid a sad farewell to **Pte** 'Val' **Hardy** who leave us for a new career as a Driver Rad Op. Your, 'Why Aye Mans,'

shall be missed in the Crew Room and we wish you the very best for the future. The highlight this period has been the usage of Rover Gp by the GOC (NI) during the troubles in the Ardoyne. We had a delightful cargo of a plethora of high-ranking Officers, so we were all on our best behaviour, well done to **Pte** 'Stretch' **O'Hare** for managing to keep his comments to himself for over four hours!

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We must say goodbye to two of the more prominent members of the FRT section, **Sgt Lee Rotherforth**, who spent more time in a boat than he ever did at work, and **Cpl 'Chaz' Charnock**. The former is moving to SHAPE, where hopefully he will not relapse to his old ways with tongue piercing and dyed hair. The latter is off to terrorise recruits, look out those at ATR Bassingbourne. The whole department wishes you both well and thank you for your Fixed System endeavours. A big Tech style welcome to **LCpl Kate Anderson,** arriving on her first posting from basic training.

As per the rest of the Troop, our time has either been spent on ACFT training, (15 technicians looking as though they were part of the demonstration of the early, late and dangerous symptoms of nerve agent poisoning) or going out on any task available. The Section also has managed to go on a multitude of Adventure Training, between them either throwing themselves out of a plane, racing around in the Solent or even worse, falling into Stanford Loch. The less fortunate members have been heavily involved with the protection of the Chancellor Downlink vehicle on the Ardoyne, shielding it from paint, stones, bricks and petrol bombs, praying that the vehicle will start again to go out on just one more task. With one more month to go before the end of this year's marches, we are fighting hard, to ensure we come out the other end in one peace.

RIGGING SECTION

Welcome back to **LCpl Scott** 'Shergar' **Tomblin** from his Class 1 Installation Technician course in Blandford and a further welcome to his wife **Zoe** who now accompanies him. Congratulations to **Sig Derek Slowey** and his wife **Gillian** on the birth of their tiny 4lb baby **Kieran**. We hope he gets bigger very quickly! On the work front this month the usual jobs for marching season has been undertaken, with the Section being deployed on a regular basis. Aside from this, the Section has undertaken the biggest job in recent times in the shape of a new mast and building fit at RAF Aldergrove. This job consisted of 25 Antennae and feeders over a two-week period, involving numerous early starts and late finishes to meet the deadline set by the RAF. We would like to thank in this instance **LCpl Lyndsey** 'I'm allergic to vodka' **Byrne** who managed to fracture her skull on a rare day off, ensuring she was unable to do any of the work. Now that this job is complete we have entered a quieter period so can now look forward to **Sig Dean Roberts**, leaving us for a cosy number in Cyprus. Don't forget 'Robbo' that on duty you are required to stand – it should hold you in good stead for years to come. We wish you well for the future.

EXERCISE CELTIC AVENGER 2

The week commencing 25-29 June 2001, saw the third public order training (POT) package to be conducted in Ballykiler training village. Before the exercising troops arrived, **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Bevan** and **LCpl Chris Lord** deployed to establish reliable and robust communications. This entailed having two Ops Rooms, the first being a Bn TAC Ops and the second Bde Fwd Ops. Both were to have VH and UHF Cougarnet capabilities, facsimile and the Chancellor portable ground station, all simulating live operations. The set up was going well until **LCpl** 'Arc Welder' **Lord** mistook his cricket bat soldering iron for a precision tool. Don't worry 'Lordy', you won't be a baby Tech forever. Many thanks to **Sgt Paul Faizey** who ensured the job was completed. For the duration of the exercise, an operator was required to assist in Bde Fwd Ops, which just happened to be the best viewpoint on the training area. As comms were good **Sig Ian Walker** found time to relax and enjoy the spectacular view. The night sky over Ballykinler village shone brightly with the sight of burning cars, petrol bomb fireworks and the added volume of the rioters chants, added a realistic touch. In all a very successful week for all involved.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt G. Maddison** RLC
WOIC **WO2 (RQMS) Belam**

RQMS DEPARTMENT - ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

As the Marching Season gets into full swing, the Department breaths a sigh of relief as reinforcements arrive to bolster our recently depleted staff. We welcome **Cpl Jase Hawksworth** who has just arrived from 4 Bde. Congratulations on your recent selection for promotion to Sergeant, you will be staying. Welcome also to **LCpl** 'Deaks' **Deakin**, newly promoted from 16 Sig Regt. Unfortunately arrivals mean departures, as we bid a sad farewell to **Cpl Rick Sherriff** (www.ricksherriff.co.uk) who leaves us for a plum posting to AFNORTH. The loss of **Ricks'** unique approach to customer service will be noticeable. God help AFNORTH. **WO2 (RQMS) Belam** has just returned from the Queen's Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. He informed the Squadron that Her Majesty's marquees are much larger and more difficult to erect than the Bde Comd's. He also commented that we should count ourselves lucky that we only cater for 200 at the Cocktail party as opposed to 2000+ at the Royal Garden Parties.

ROYAL SIGNALS SEAVIEW REGATTA (ISLE OF WIGHT)

SSgt Terry McIntyre, Sgt Lee Rotherforth, and **Cpl Ian Burgon** were the 39 Bde representatives for the Corps Regatta in June, managing to take time off during a very busy period. On arriving quayside, after the initial brief from the race officials, it was discovered that one of the crews was a man short. So in stepped our very own OC, **Maj Andy Knott,** who took some time out from his own leave to come down and give the team some much needed support on the first day. After a shaky start we finished the first day with a well-deserved third place. We undertook a hard nights training in some of Rydes public establishments, before carrying on the following day where we left off the previous night, with another third place. The actual day of the Regatta found the team with everything to prove. After a very close finish to the regatta, we narrowly defeated 63 Sig Sqn to lift the cup. The helm of the crew **SSgt Terry McIntyre** also won a Silver Salver for the highest scoring helmsman.

Due to the tremendous effort put in by the crew, we were asked to return the following week to compete in the Glover Cup, a two-day regatta in which teams from the Royal Signals, Royal Artillery, and the Royal Engineers take part. After a 500-mile journey from Stranraer we were greeted with the worst accommodation in Ryde. So after a couple of hours in the local pub we decided to move to a new hotel, but not before **Sgt Lee Rotherforth** handed out a few points on hotel cleanliness. On our return to Seaview Yacht Club we found ourselves teamed with **Maj Fred Calvert**, a salty Seaview veteran having sailed in these events for the last 30 years. As a crew we were quite strong, winning two of the four races in which we competed, but due to some absences the team didn't have the strength in depth needed to win the regatta. After the two days we had a nights rest before the long journey back to Northern Ireland. The crew would like to extend their thanks to The Royal Signals Yacht Club and Seaview Yacht Club for organising such an enjoyable event.

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE DINGHY CHALLENGE

Several representatives from both Brigade and Signal Squadron undertook a long sailing course led by **SSgt Terry** 'Sea Dog' **McIntyre**. A Royal Yacht Association (RYA) Level 2 dinghy sailing qualification would allow them to helm a dinghy under no supervision, providing they completed the course. It was designed to test their hand eye co ordination to the very maximum, for some it would be too much, but all boldly embarked on the course with a joyful sea shanty in their throats and fear in their minds. The first day brought much theory work and all involved were anxious to get on the water. When the moment finally came **LCpl** 'Musto' **Ireson** showed us his skill by falling in before he was even off the jetty.

Three intrepid sailors took to the water, as three more watched on from the relative safety of the powerboat; time to unfurl the sail; in goes **Cpl** 'Half a job' **Beedon**. The look on his face was one to be remembered. That water must have been cold. The first day ended, after another plunge by **Cpl Neil Beedon,** to the delight of the rest of us who managed to stay dry. Day Two was a relatively dry day for all as we were introduced to racing and the fine nuances of the upwind beat. All was to be won or lost there, some got the hang of it quickly, others did not as **LCpl** 'Monty' **Montieth** slowly faded into the distance. Day Three incorporated a great lesson on sailing in light winds, as we all struggled to undertake even the shortest of racecourses. The highlight of the day was the dry capsize practice, although why you would want to purposefully capsize only the gods will know. Day Four, the day we had all been waiting for, the forecast was gale force winds; the enthusiasm was high. Under the advice of the instructor we headed out of the marina with our sails reefed but as soon as we reached open water they were unfurled in a flash. With our sails tight in and the boat leaning right over, to the point where the sail was skimming the water, we leaned out in an attempt to overtake the boats in front of us. There were a few minor altercations one in particular when **LCpl Tony Morancie** and **LCpl** 'Tedders' **Tedby,** where the former almost out tacked the latter, resulting in one person in the water and the majority of a sail covering the cockpit of the other boat.

Nothing could have really topped that day, apart from discovering that **LCpl** 'Monty' **Montieth** had knocked himself out during a gybe turn. We finished the day in Daft Eddy's and stories of **SSgt Terry McIntyre's** greatness were abounding. Friday was a washout as the winds were too strong for our level of experience, so the assessment was carried out in the classroom. All in all though it was a good course and I can encourage anybody to have a go.

EXERCISE FALLING FINN

As the name suggests this exercise was an introduction to Parachuting at the Services Parachuting Centre in Ballykelly. The initial training was essential, form filling in (to relieve the centre of any responsibility should you die), videos and slide shows of what to do when all goes well and when it does not. The girls in the group, who are apparently immortal, decided to fall asleep during the apparently irrelevant life saving malfunction drills lesson. After the lessons, it was off to the simulation room to jump out of a wooden box, apparently a full size copy of a Cesna plane. Amazingly for a bunch of supposedly intelligent people, it was incredible to see how many struggled to count to four before checking their canopy. Then followed the harness and landing drills. **WO2 (YofS) Nick Wood** gave the landings demonstration en route to gaining the 'Teachers Pet' award. Unfortunately due to bad weather we were unable to jump that day.

On Day Two, spirits were high with people looking forward to their first jump. However, once kitted up a few nerves were starting to show. The first four up were **Cpl Bruce** 'Once is enough' **Noble, LCpl Tony Murphy, Sig Gordon Wallace** and **WO2 (YofS) Nick Wood.** Once they managed to prize **Bruce's** hand away from the handle they all exited at 3,500 ft.

The one and only time the group smiled before throwing themselves out of a plane

The second run consisted of **LCpl Donna** 'Lara Croft' **Chivers, Cpl Paul Ryan** (exped organiser), **LCpl Tony Lewis** and **LCpl Alexander** 'Sick Note' **Gardner**. Once again all exited and landed safely despite a couple of twists in their line. The second jump separated the men from the boys with **LCpl Sarah Howell, Cpl Bruce Noble** and **LCpl Zander Gardner** all feigning excuses to not leave the plane. The rest of the group managed three or four jumps that day, progressing to Dummy Pulls, in preparation for free fall. The final day was again a wash out with only **LCpl Donna Chivers** managing to exit the plane into a grey abyss and then priding herself on being the only one brave (stupid) enough for this act of heroism. Many thanks from the group to **Cpl Paul Ryan** who was the mastermind behind this project, for his endeavours, we are now waiting for the centre to reopen, so we can progress to free fall and jump from even greater heights – the skies are not safe.

PUBLISH IT IN THE WIRE
The Editor is always pleased to receive interesting articles and action packed photos

8 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (218)

Sqn Comd **Maj F. E. R. Whichelo**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) P. Fleming**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS/TRAINING WING

A warm welcome is extended to the new 2 IC, **Capt** 'Mogs' **Southern** who has replaced **Capt Gareth Lamb**. Welcome to **SSgt** 'Knobby' **Clarke** and family all the way from Lisburn. Farewell to **WO2 Dave Palmer** on promotion he goes to the Bde HQ. Congratulations to **Sgt Dave Forest** on being awarded his LS&GC Medal. The presentation was made by the Dept Comd of 8 Inf Bde HQ. Congratulations to **Mrs Heather Fleming** on the award of the GOC'S commendation for her outstanding contributions to the welfare support given to the families in Londonderry. A huge well done to **Pte Stef Hart** on the award of her Combined Service Colours for Judo in her first year of Army Service. She also achieved Combined Service Champion Individual and Team Event Winner of the Welsh Open, Winner of the Navy Open, Second place in the American/Canadian Open, and selection to represent Scotland in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester next year.

TRAINING WING

SNCO IC **Sgt Paul Hounsell**

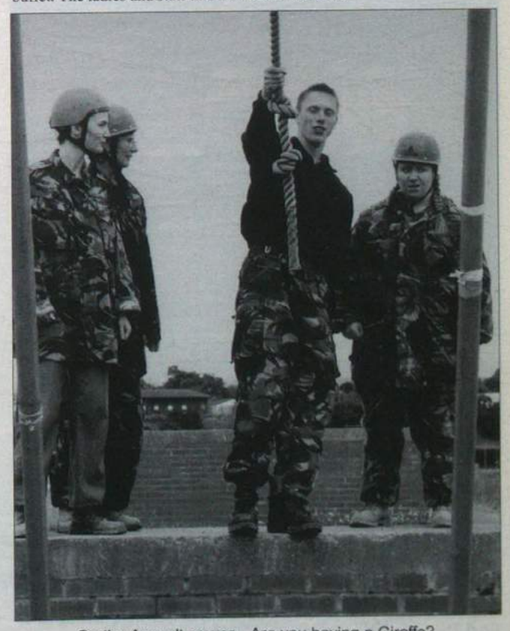
Farewell to **Sgt** 'Dunk' **Windsor** on posting to Bassingbourne, we wish Dunk and the family all the best. Congratulations to **Sgt Paul Hounsell** on his recent promotion to Sergeant and his move to Trg Wing. As ever Trg Wing is at its busiest with Ranges, ITD(A) Trg for the Bde HQ Staff and a joint RUC/Army Range Day and yet another Ex Lady Warrior. The planning is relentless for the next ITD (A) Camp and the Sqn Battle Camp at Warcop in November 2001.

EXERCISE LADY WARRIOR 21 - 22 JULY 01

It was a glorious morning and the sun was shining for a change, it was 0830hrs and Ballykelly was woken to the sound of marching feet. The sound was being generated by the ladies of 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, 1 Coldstream Guards and a Fijian contingent of 1 Royal Scots. Under the watchful eye of **Sgt Paul Walledge** the ladies exacted a myriad of movements.

This was by all accounts more professional than the Guards could have performed. Then it was off on a round robin of stands starting with the SAT, then onto live firing under the supervision of **Lt Ian Lowther** and **SSgt Bob Watson**, the girls had the opportunity to fire SA80, Pistol 9mm, LSW, MP5 and HK53. Stand 3 awaited them with **LCpl Mark Lund** and **Sig** 'Bissy' **Bishop** testing there skills at Driving and Commanding Armoured Saxon Fighting Vehicles. Stand 4 and time for the ladies Driving Skills to be put to the test in the Skid Car. Now that their lunch had been brought back up, off to the Assault Course they went, with signed indemnity forms in hand and a safety brief, **Sgt** 'Dunk' **Windsor** put them through their paces.

Now time was getting on and it was time to head off to Fort Bragg at Magilligan Training Centre. This was to be home for the night, here the ladies carried out Section Battle Drills with a Left Flanking Attack on the enemy position with devastating effect. After a well earned shower it was time to relax and have some refreshments and some self provided entertainment, such as **Pte** 'Elvis' **Quarry, Sgt** 'Rugby Songs' **Walledge** and the contingent of Fijians entertained us with traditional songs and dances. Sunday was on us and time for the ladies to be shown the Art of Self Defence by **Sgt** 'Watch my pecks' **Windsor**. To round the morning off it was time for them to try their hand at Clay Pigeon shooting with the RSM. After lots of cartridges and lots of Clays, it was time to head for the Beeches club and meet with the families for a well-earned drink and buffet. The ladies and staff had a fantastic weekend.



On the Assault course, Are you having a Giraffe?

OFFICERS/SNCO V JUNIORS RUGBY

On 1 August 2001 a clash of titanic proportions took place upon a rugby pitch in Londonderry. The Officers and SNCOs' had laid down the gauntlet for a 10's rugby match. Who would win? The old, bold and overweight or the youthful, eager and inexperienced. The day turned out to be warm and muggy, ideal for running rugby, if someone could be found willing to run. With zimmer frames firmly in place the senior's team kicked off. The juniors exerted early pressure as they strove to put the fossils in their place. The old stretch-marked defence held and two breakaway tries by the Brigade Chief of Staff, **Maj Kemp** and **Capt Chris Chudley** rocked the confidence of the junior team. They rallied well with tries either side of half time by **Cpl Dunc Gourley** and **Sig Idris Davies**. The game was now finely balanced at 12-12. This, however, was the final score for the juniors and tries by **WO2 (FofS) Bob Vowles, Sgt Dunc Windsor** and a second for **Capt Chudley,** sealed their fate. The final score was 34-12, a convincing win for the Officers and Seniors. The day was well finished with a good third half, which was enjoyed by all. Thanks go to the newly promoted **Sgt Paul Hounsell** who finally worked out where his bread was buttered. This match said farewell from the Squadron Rugby Team, to a number of players. They will all be sadly missed as the new season rears its head.

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After the match both teams bask in the Londonderry sunshine

Sig Idris Davies tries unsuccessfully
to evade Sgt Eddie Porter and Capt Chris Chudley

SENIOR RANKS V JUNIOR RANKS CRICKET

Thursday 28 June 2001, a date etched in the minds of many a cricket fan. Not since the bodyline tour was such devastation realised. The juniors took to the field with a look of trepidation led by **Cpl Steve Binks** after **Sig 'SJ' Sherrin-Jones** had lost the appetite for a battle. The Seniors, fielding an all-star team led by **WO2 (YofS) Bill Barnes** soon ripped in to the juniors' top order and eventually reduced the team to tears finishing on 35 all out (yes, thirty five!). The seniors started well and within five overs had overtaken the opposing score. At the end of the afternoon, after letting the juniors bat for a second innings, humiliation was complete. Many fine performances were evident from the Seniors, including **Sgt Dave Forrest** (RLC) and **WO2 (FofS) Bob Vowles**, batting out their allotted overs. The juniors had neglected the training sessions on offer from **Cpl Lee Goldsmith** and that eventually told, however, they did all achieve a decent suntan as they were fielding for so long! The rematch is programmed, so watch this space.

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP - *by S Sgt Steve Mayell*

Tp Comd **2Lt** 'Whippet' **Wilson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Steve Mayell**

The Troop has once again come through another marching season unscathed (probably more by luck than anything else!). Now the work is over, the shift workers can once again lay back and enjoy MTV as normal - some people have no consideration. We've even found time for a party or two in between thunderstorms! Firstly a few sad farewells. Our outgoing Tp OC (and Squadron Recruiting Officer!), **Lt Ian** 'Loopy' **Lowther,** is leaving us and the Corps to join the Royal Anglians, oops, I mean the Coldstream Guards, or anyone else who will offer him something better before he has signed the line! Best of luck and enjoy the Brecon Beacons! **Sgt Karl** 'Cadburys' **Overton** is also on his way with family and kitchen sink to Herford as Provo Sergeant to paint rocks or clamp cars or something! This is a temporary appointment though as his Crown is in the bag - very well done for that. **Sgt Tony Caulfield** has also 'done one', again with promotion, to Blandford with wife and a new baby. Enjoy the new job and the 'challenges' it may/will bring! Welcome to **2Lt Wilson** who, before he leaves in 2003, has vowed to beat the OC Sqn on a BPFA - keep taking the pills boss! Also welcome to **Sgt Paul Walledge** and family including the new addition, to **Sgt** 'Flanders' **Flanighan** from Romeo Tp and to **Sgt Adi Duplock** on their arrival to the Troop.

ENGINEERING SECTION

The date was set (again!), the venue was booked, and finally on 20 July 2001, the dreaded Engineering Section Training Day happened. All were given a 20min lecture to prepare and present - some lucky enough to have the Brigade Commander and OC Sqn present. The announcement was greeted with cries of, 'What, stand up, talk, what in front of people, you're joking right' - wrong! Some took it in their stride, some were quietly apprehensive, other more so! The day was a real success, organised to introduce the new members of the Troop to different areas of the job that they might encounter day to day - like erecting a zip mast with your trousers round your ankles!

OPERATOR SECTION

On 25 July 2001, Operator Section organised the Squadron Pub Games Night between the Seniors and Juniors held in the Waterside Inn. This will now be an annual event as **Cpl Mick** 'Fix it' **Breydin** from Syscon produced a stunning Gun Carriage Trophy that the Seniors thought would look great sat in the Foyle View Club. Unfortunately they had not anticipated the levels of skill, accuracy and just good old fashion cheating that the Juniors team would produce on the night. **Sig Rob** 'Shaky' **Vaughan** had some very worrying moments on the Giant Jenga and **Pte** 'Quazi' **Quarry** produced some great wins for his team on the table football by definitely not spinning! Eventually, the challenge from the Seniors crumbled and waned as the excess levels of alcohol took hold and normal bodily movement became impaired. This was so graphically demonstrated by **Capt Southern's** dismal performance on the crazy golf! 'We romped home to a landslide victory, tough luck oldies - you've had your day!' as **LCpl Ian Tranter** so nicely put it! We were gracious in defeat though and never once was the threat of extras or dirty jobs ever mentioned to the victorious Juniors - wait till the next duties conference!

COMMCEN - *by Cpl Kenny Irwin*

Another exciting stint in the COMMCEN that is slowly being taken over by Tele Op Radio's - what's the world coming too! The new AMSCERP message system has lessened the workload considerably, mainly due to it not working - at least the office has had a new coat of paint! **Sig Stu** 'Bad Boy' **Plant** is keeping us all amused with his off duty antics, **Sig Angie Graham** has found a new training partner who gives her a good work out in the gym! **Cpl Craig Law** is moving next door to the murky world of Crypto and anoraks so it's all change at the moment. **LCpl Chris Howell's** off to civ div and **Sig Lee Davison** will be leaving us for the drier weather of Catterick. Hello to **LCpls Andy Morgan, Tel Bacon** and **Chris Anderton** who, by the way, after three months is still waiting far his MVO and a clean supply of underpants to arrive! Welcome to **LCpl** 'The Colonel' **Calvert** on his long move from Syscon (if he ever shows up in the office - we're beginning to think that he may be with **LCpl Anderton's** MFO!).

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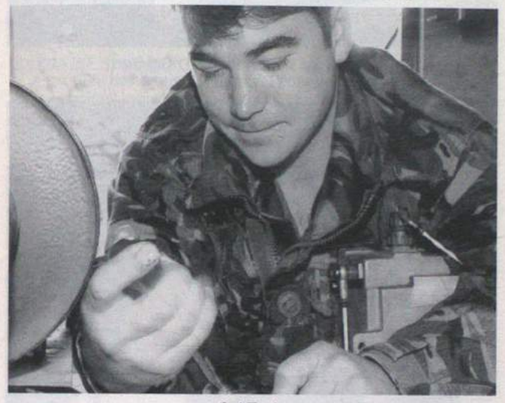
NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

1st (UNITED KINGDOM) ARMOURED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

EXERCISE RAPID ENDEAVOUR

Ex Rapid Endeavour was a week long Exercise based at Sennelager Training Camp involving all four Squadrons from the Regiment and Divisional Staff and elements of 4 Armd Bde. It succeeded in highlighting any areas of concern before the forthcoming deployment to Oman for Ex Saif Serea.



Cpl Teale
of 211 Sig Sqn adds his delicate touch to solve the power problem

SSgt Robinson laughs
as SSgt Cox of 211 Sig Sqn, tries to disentangle his fork from his moustache after his third breakfast of the day

OC 211 Sig Sqn and the Divl Staff listen intently as the Tech Adjt tries to explain what is wrong with the black community subsets

Sig Kibble of 211 Sig Sqn is deservedly proud as he receives a GOC 1 (UK) ADSR commendation for his courageous and timely First Aid to a fellow soldier

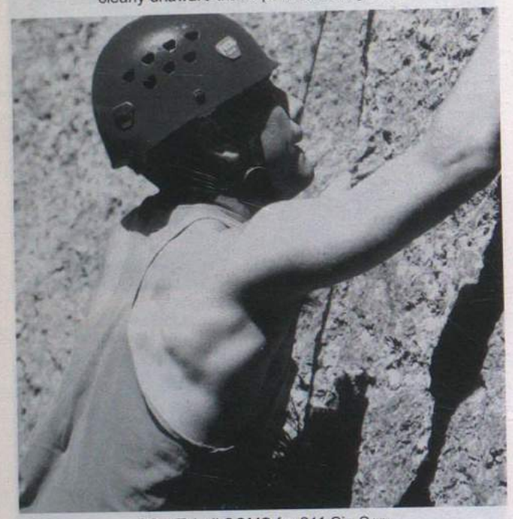
Cpl Band Camp Moore from 211 Sig Sqn draws on his 12 months of training and experience to change a fuse

SQUADRON SUMMER ADVENTURE TRAINING

June saw 201, 211, 212 and HQ Sqns deploy to various parts of Bavaria, to conduct their annual summer adventure training. Activities were based around climbing, trekking, canoeing and some white water rafting thrown in at the end. The weather was better for some than for others and some good qualifications were gained.

Cpl Mac Phearson of 211 Sig Sqn ponders which way now, clearly unaware that a photo is being taken

LCpl Jocky Wilson from 211 Sig Sqn demonstrating his skill with a paddle



SSgt Tobell SQMS for 211 Sig Sqn lives out one of his Spiderman fantasies

Sig Chambers and other members of 211 Sig Sqn on the way to the top

Beautiful day, beautiful scenery, beautiful members of 211 Signal Squadron pose for the photo

3 (UNITED KINGDOM) HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col Phil Davies**
RSM **WO1 Chris Kidd**

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AND OPERATIONS TEAM

The Regiment is proud to announce to the Corps that we are the new holders of the Birtwistle Sporting Pennant. Of course angling is a sport! With leave now upon us the Regiment is deserted apart from essential personnel and the Quartermaster (Technical) **Capt Dave Stachini** working his normal extended August hours in those famous tracksuit bottoms. With the Troops all sunning it up and going large (Adjt please explain this expression to the CO and 2IC) in Ibiza, Mansfield and Coventry it is left to this lonely author to give a round up of an enormously busy Regimental Summer.

EXERCISE SPRING FORAY

Apart from the safe return of the Palatine and Agricola personnel the most significant event of the summer was Ex Spring Foray. Significant in that it was the first time that many of the younger soldiers had deployed for a two-week period and secondly that it is the only time that anyone can remember the Ops Officer, **Capt Lloyd Golley,** putting two working days back to back. The exercise was successful in spite of every effort of sabotage by 202 Sqn under the guidance of Stand in Sqn Comd, **Capt** 'Shaky by name and Shaky by nature' **Shakespeare.** This is a good time to say farewell to the real Sqn Comd of 202 Sqn, **Maj Al** 'Mine's a Cheeseburger' **Long,** who leaves us to start Staff College. He will be sadly missed ……especially by Tam and Sandes! The success of the exercise was largely due to the hard work of the Ops pairing of **Capt Al Patterson** and **Capt Pete Lowe.** Both disappear from the Regiment soon, **Al** to Wilton, and **Pete** to seek his fortune out of combat 95. The good news is that they will leave behind their prize possessions for the good of those remaining. ……**Pete** gives us his Equipment Care Policy, and **Al's** wife **Sue** will continue to do discipline(nice thought!) in RHQ . Now who's got the better deal ? …..

Ex Spring Foray ends with 202 Sqn making an Armoured Assault on the Unit Training Warrant Officer WO2 Paddy Happy Days Morrow ..And who can blame them!

SPORTS ROUND UP

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt has yet another international athlete in its midst. **SSgt Paula** 'Queen of the OSC' **Matheson** already Runner Up in the Army Triathlon and the team captain of the victorious 3 Div Ladies Divisional Biathlon (swim/run) team recently qualified to represent her age group in the World Duathlon (run/bike/run) Champs in Rimini in September 2001. ……..Just reward for spending the whole of this years sports grant on Gucci tops and shorts…..Congratulations!

What all those cups for little old me
2Lt Alisa Labram (Ladies Athletics Captain) collects the Army Ladies Inter Unit Runners Up Cup with the cheesiest of girlie grins

SSgt Matheson also helped our female athletics team to Runners Up spot in the Army Finals where special mention must also go to **Cpl Sophie** 'I can beat the 2IC' **Morris** for outstanding displays over 400 and 800m.**Cpl Morris** was also the Ladies Combined Services Individual Champion at 800 and 1500m. The men were never going to win in the face of some quality opposition that had not spent the previous two weeks on an armoured package deal on Salisbury Plain. They did well to make the final and were just 15 points short of RSME in seventh place (There were only seven!) Pride of place must go to our established distance runners with **LCpl** 'Even the RSM doesn't know me' **Smith** coming second in the A String Steeplechase.

Cpl Morris might be able to run but she hasn t got tatts like these LCpl Real Men don t train with girls Smith Runner Up in the Steeplechase in the Army Inter Unit Finals

The younger and the older generation combined forces to enter a team (The first in Regimental Corporate memory) in the Trailwalker 100km race along the Southdowns. No mean feat by anyone's standards. The old were **WO2 Strudwick** 'Congrats on the promotion' and **SSgt Turner,** and the young were two Signallers from the now out of use OOU section in HQ Squadron. A total of 19 hours later who fared the best ?…..Now that would be telling!

REGIMENTAL HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Just when we thought we knew what we were supposed to be doing! Starting from the top, or so he would have you believe! **Capt** 'Taff' **Watts** scored a double whammy on the promotion and staff college lottery and cashes in his bonus ball with a posting to HQ LAND for a year. Still it could have been worse he could have been going to 202 Sqn. Congratulations also to **WO2** 'Paddy' **Morrow** who joins SSM HQ Sqn on the reserve promotion list and is posted to the TA sometime in the Autumn. According to the understated UTWO, never has a promotion been more deserved. 202 Sqn welcomes **WO2 (SSM) Wakeling** and eagerly awaits the arrival of **Maj Roy Freeman.** Inkerman Tp has now completed the move from 206 Sqn and in a slight reshuffle of Troop Comds **2Lt Becky Jacques** has left for her Troop Commanders Course leaving **Lt Sean Lumley** as the lone subaltern. In the meantime **Capt Shakespeare** continues to wear a thousand hats but still found time to become engaged earlier in the year. She must be mad! Congratulations. 206 Sqn also find a boy in a man's job as **Maj Bill Adsett** leaves for another month in the Falklands. **Maj James Langley** takes over in theatre leaving **Capt Gareth Kemp** holding the baby. **Gareth** is, however, a man who hides his light under a bushel and has recently been found to excel at both cricket and the pole vault (much to the 2IC's delight!). Other Officers in 206 Sqn used to be a rarity but are now actually extinct with the loss of **2Lt Emms Metcalfe** temporarily to Blandford. 222 Sqn are managing to hold on to their OC Sqn **Maj Bert Appleton** until November when he swaps his full time military employment and his part time work as a National Triathlon Coach ……..or is it the other way around! He is a man of many talents not least as a second hand car salesman. He will be sorely missed by the Squadron, the Regiment and indeed the Army. 2IC **Capt Nicky James** has also moved on to the Royal School of Signals, and continuity in the Squadron is provided by **2Lts Simon Smith** and **Alisa Labram** with of course a little help from **WO2 (SSM) Matt** 'The Fosbury Flop' **Nuttall. 2Lt Steve** 'Closet Athlete' **Knight** has also temporarily departed for his sailing ….opps sorry Troop Commanders course. See you in six months.

202 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Al Long**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Comyns**

202 Sqn faced a busy month largely developing their soldiering skills. It all began with a three day Regimental patrol competition, involving

many camouflaged Signallers tabbing around camp, being led to war by the illustrious leaders of the likes of **Lt Lumley** and **Lt Irwin**. Foot and Mouth restrictions meant the competition was held within the wire but despite this an excellent package was put together, ranging from NBC and RTA scenarios to bayonet fighting. The latter proved a 'beasting' and **SSgt McGrail** reached new thresholds of physical endurance. Despite the obligatory gripes, **Sig Hydes** affirmed this was one of his best weeks here.

Shortly after, the Squadron deployed to Hythe and Lydd for their annual battle camp consisting of a weeklong range package, under the direction of RA commando **Sgt Blanchette**. Again pre- deployment training had been curtailed due to foot and mouth, thus unfortunately the APWT was conducted on the first day. The ability of **Sig Duffy** and **LCpl Cloughton** to single-handedly expend the Unit's ammunition quota for the year on their nth attempt at the APWT went unsurpassed. Six fortunate individuals were chosen to be the GPMG gunners although **Sgt Garner** quickly realised a photo opportunity. The increased confidence in weapon handling and the opportunity to undertake more advanced shoots proved of significant value to all. An Inter-Section competition stormed by **Cpl Newcombe's** Section finished off the military training, followed by a well-deserved Squadron barbeque.

Finally congratulations to **Capt Shakespeare** on his promotion and hello and goodbye to **SSM Comyns**.

206 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Bill Adsett**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Buckley**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

The Squadron said farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Tom Smith** and his family and welcomed the new SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Paul Buckley** from 4 Armd Bde in Osnabruck. **Tom** and his family have moved to 1 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt in Herford and we wish **Tom** well in his new appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major.

INKERMAN TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt Mick Angove**
Tp Sgt **Sgt** 'Smudge' **Smith**

It has been another busy month for the 'fighting Elite' but we must start by saying congratulations to **SSgt Mick (Angry) Angove** on his selection to WO2, and not forgetting **Cpl Kev** 'Old Man Rivers' **Conlon** on receiving his LS&GC (15 years without getting caught). We welcome the return of **LCpl Julie** 'The Welsh Dragon' **Cornfield** on passing her Class 1 at Blandford. The month started with 1st lines and everyone stuck outside in the arctic spring weather due to the contractors that were refitting the garages with a heating system just in time for the summer. Everything was geared towards HRH's visit at the end of March. All was going to plan until **Sig Mick** 'One on One with the great one' **Davis** was tasked to guard it for a full 60 minutes. During this time disaster struck. An SOS call was sent and when rescue team arrived **Sig Davis** was found with the cam net around his ears and roaring with laughter. The day of the visit arrived and a full blown active net was up and running with colourful voice procedure and everyone in pristine kit, courtesy of **SSgt Angove's** inspection (Name tags and Tricorns all present Staff). Finally Inkerman Tp would like to welcome **WO2 (SSM) Buckley** to the Squadron and although sideburns are an on going issue, we hope he enjoys his stay with the Squadron.

MONS TROOP - *by Sig Mawer*

Tp Comd **2Lt Emmalean Metcalfe**
Tp Sgt **Sgt John Batts**

The Troop would like to welcome **2Lt Metcalfe** from Sandhurst, **Sig Hanratty** and **Sig Morgan** both posted in from the School. The tears were flowing when we said farewell to **Sig Harris** on his way to Civ Div. We missed him when he wasn't AWOL.

EXERCISE IRON DANCE – ITD WEEK

The new arrival a **Sig Morgan** really impressed **Cpl Fraser** on drill, **Sig Morgan** showed everyone how to slow-march by moving his arms shoulder high at the same time, this surely deserves a crate? Ex Iron Dance was a chance for the Squadron to Complete 11 subjects of ITD's in one week. On the last evening their was a BBQ and a quiz washed down with a couple of drinks. Inkerman Tp won the Quiz, and we are informed that within their team was a ringer however it was nice to see that **Cpl Shaun Thomas** was in the same dress as the rest of the squadron for once.

CAMBRAI TROOP - *by Cpl Jenks Jenkinson*

Tp Comd **SSgt Chris Laughlin**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Phil Cooper**

ITD week started on the Monday with the advance party leaving to take over Rollerstone Camp some nine miles from Bulford. Lunch out of the way and training started. **Sgt Smith** carried out weapon handling test and we were blessed with a medic from the medical centre to carry out Health training. The second day started, as did the third and fourth day, that is **Cpl Gaz Lane** and his round of PT. **SSgt Mick Angove** started the second day with drugs and alcohol abuse and **Cpl Fraser** used the spare time and early evenings to prepare a team for the Drill Competition, only to find that this will now take place in September. Wednesday and Thursday were the days that everyone had been looking forward to, NBC and First aid with **SSgt Mick Angove** and **Sgt John Batts,** the most notable bit was when **Sig Oliver's** mobile phone rang prior to entering the Gas chamber.

INTER SQUADRON SWIMMING GALA - *Cpl Sophie Morris*

A morning away from the garages you would think that everyone would jump at the chance, well not here. Volunteers were slow to come forward and we had to resort to pressure from the new SSM. A great morning was had by all and everyone put in outstanding performances. It just happened that the other Squadrons had the better swimmers in their teams. Of course you always have the ones that stand out and 206 Sqn certainly did. **Sig Bungle Morgan** kept everyone in his race on their toes with his hairy chest and false started on every occasion. One of the Squadrons had to come last, and we are not ashamed that it was us. Please remember it's not the winning but the taking part that counts.

222 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Bert Appleton**
SSM **WO2 Matt Nuttall**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Nicky James**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paula Matheson**

The faces continue to change in SHQ Tp with the arrival of **SSgt (FofS) Allen** from Blandford, **LCpls Clancy** from 216 Sig Sqn, **Brownsword, Graham, Robson** and **Southall** straight from the factory at Blandford. Leaving SHQ Tp are **SSgt (Yof S) Rouse** to Northern Ireland, **LCpl Vasey** who is working in the gym prior to his PTI Class 3 course and finally goodbye to **Sig Yates** who is now a civilian. Congratulations to **LCpls French, Perrin, Taylor, Whitehead** and **Young** on their recent promotion to Corporal. Congratulations are also in order for **LCpl Graham** on selection to goalkeeper for the Corps Football Team and **SSgt Matheson** who has been selected to represent Great Britain at Duathlon. The Troop performed very well in Inter Squadron Athletics and swimming competitions. Special congratulations to the SSM, **WO2 Nuttall** who revisited his youthful prowess on the high jump by coming second.

ADEN TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Steve Knight**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Shaun Littlefield**

With Foot and Mouth sweeping the country over the last few months we have been fairly restricted in our activities. However the Troop are extremely grateful to **Sgt Pickering** for organising the aptly named Ex Naval Taste, a trip to HMS *Collingwood* in Portsmouth.

EXERCISE NAVAL TASTE

On day one we arrived in Portsmouth and the first port of call was HMS *Victory*. Upon entering the Flagship the all too familiar sound of a mobile phone in **Sig Washer's** pocket was heard. It was his better half finding out how many females were on the trip with him! During the tour we were shown where Admiral Lord Nelson was injured and later died. Some of the methods of punishment used were fairly harsh – we shall definitely be adopting the cat'o'nine tails as a standard tool within the Troop. The afternoon was spent at HMS *Collingwood* learning about Naval communications. Day two was spent being shown around HMS *Invincible* and HMS *Grafton*. The day was most enjoyable, especially when we realised that **Sigs Sharp**, **McKelvie** and **Greener** had been left behind on HMS *Invincible*. As with the previous evening we reflected on the events of the day over a few drinks in a selection of the local pubs and bars. The final morning was spent on the submarine HMS *Alliance* with a Captain Birdseye look-alike giving an interesting tour. A cracking visit and a relieving break from work in the garages. Congratulations to **LCpls Martin** and **Melia** on gaining their first stripes and to **Sig Copland** for gaining his first child. A warm welcome to the new arrivals in the Troop, namely **2Lt Knight** who is shortly departing to Blandford for his Troop Commander's course, **Sig Littlewood**, **Sig Husband** and **LCpl Fairbairn**. Also we say farewell to **Sgt Cook** and **Cpl Fearns** who are now gainfully employed as civilians and **SSgt Littlefield** who is posted – watch out 7 Sig Regt!

SHARJAH TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Simon Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Bru Baker**

The recent out break of foot and mouth may have put a stop to the usual round of exercise and training but Sharjah Tp have been as busy as ever. April saw the Troop beavering away for the visit by the **Colonel in Chief HRH Princess Anne**. This was followed by the first of the years big exercises, however, instead of being the usual comms exercise, the emphasis was on military skills with various stands including first aid, MT and a march and shoot in which members of the Troop threw themselves into with excellent results. The Troop's strong sports persons were in full effect too with **LCpl** 'Ginge' **Davis, Sigs Taylor, Hinson** and **Wildes** all doing outstanding in the Regimental Boxing helping bring the trophy to 222 SQN. **LCpl Davis** was in action again this time with **Cpl Mace** as they took part in the Corps sailing doing very well. The past few months the Troop has said goodbye to **Cpl Jack Hawkins** and **Sig Matt Salmon** who are off to seek their fortune as civilians and **LCpl Steve Vose** on his posting to Blandford Sys/Ex. While welcoming **Sig Pheasy** into the Troop.

OMAN TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Alisa Labram**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Daph Clash**

Things have been very hectic for the Troop over the last few months, mainly with a radical shuffling of characters leaving for pastures new and the arrivals of new people from various places. So firstly a warm welcome to **Sig's Brown**, 'Elvis' **Costello** and how could we ever forget our illustrious leader **2Lt Labram** who is now fully in the hot seat after completing her Troop Commanders' Course at sunny Blandford. A fond farewell was given to four main men of the Troop all together. **Cpl Necrews** kindly arranged his own leaving do at the local legion, which greatly benefited, **LCpls Brady** and **Webster** who were also moving on. The two major events were the CAST Exercise in Warminster with 12 Mech Bde and the Princess Royal visit on the 30 March 2001. This included **HRH Princess Anne** having a guided tour around the Regiment, where she was fortunate enough to meet members from the best Troop in the Army - Oman. Those members of the Troop whose photographs were published in the local newspapers have paid 'Royally' for their sins! The Troop also welcome back **SSgt Daph Clash** - (still in one piece), who has been away training with the British Winter Olympic Team in Innsbruck, at her chosen event, the single skeleton. Finally, the Troop did itself proud by showing off some excellent personal performances in the inter-Squadron Athletics Competition. **Sig Steed** was discreetly told that if he won the 800 metres his extras might be wavered (which he has had constantly for the last six months). He promptly destroyed the field, which was a credible performance, not to mention his 400 metres in the 4 x 400m relay. Also to **2Lt Labram** who proved to everyone that she certainly is the good all rounder. Not only a hurdler but also winning the sprint too! We all move on now to RSIT, after saying goodbye to **Cpl Stu Manaton**, who leaves us to be a civilian, and **Sig Steve Leach**, who moves to 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt.

MASAIRAH TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Ben Norton**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Smith**

The SCRA (C) Troop is soon to be officially formed (to be Masirah Tp) on the 26 June 2001 (Masirah Day). May the Troop be successful in everything it does! The departures from Masirah Troop include **Cpl Jack Hawkins** leaving the army for good, best of luck to **Jack** and his wife **Natalie** for the future. Also **LCpl Cornfield** on his way to 7 Sig Regt as we speak, all the best to him and his wife **Julie**. Arrivals to the Troop include **Sig Mullet** from 7 Sig Regt, Germany.

Exercise Red Tricorn 1 Bayonet Stand
Sgt Shilton encourages LCpl Cornfield
(The one with the head) to fight back

RED TRICORN I - *by LCpl Connell*

On 2 May 2001 the senior members of 3 (UK) DSR set out to put each of their teams through a rigorous competition. The aim of this competition was to test teamwork, leadership skills, mental and physical agility, and some basic soldiering skills. Each of the four squadrons (202, 206, 222 and HQ) split their 'volunteers' into three teams. Each team had to pull together to score as many points as they could to out-do the opposition teams from the other squadrons. As the participating teams were soon to find out, pain and suffering were to become the shadow lurking behind every team member. Here follows the list of activities undertaken:

Basic Survival Skills - This consisted of plucking, preparing and cooking dead chickens and erecting a shelter.

Driving - Most of the participants did not seem able to drive a remote control car, let alone negotiate a landrover around the large orange cones in the middle of the road! But I must admit the ladies did quite well, discounting the four cones hit while adjusting their hair of course!

Command Tasks - Do I need to say any more?

NBC - Every soldier's nightmare, '9 seconds?'

Bayonet Training - The PTI's that thought that they got everyone aggressive before the performance. They actually completely wore us out so that a 12 year old could beat you up and steal your beer money!

Trailer Run - This consisted of a 600m track over which to run a fl trailer, 600 m's you say? Ha, a trifle. Well try adding cam net tunnels, ammo boxes, barrels and the world's largest mutant molehills into the equation, and if you are not aching by the end, then Metropolis is missing a superhero!

First Aid - The teams had to attend to a very realistic and nasty car accident that. Needless to say the families of the fake victims would have sued for every penny!

Kit Inspection - This was to ensure the participants weren't tabbing around with polystyrene in their bergans.

Mental Agility - A mixture of general knowledge, history, geography, English, math, memory, and computer games.

On the final day there was a 6-mile tab followed by a 25m clay plate shoot. It was a very hot day but amongst the sweat and the energetic screams of the young officers, each soldier had an impressive urge to win. Ex Red Tricorn I was a good platform to exercise those long forgotten skills and give the newer soldiers a chance to take command of a team. It was a thoroughly enjoyable, but hard working exercise and all the teams were delighted to collapse in the bar for a few beers after the presentation and CO's speech.

NEWS FROM THE BALKANS

BRITISH FORCES SIGNAL TROOP

OPERATION PALATINE

Tp Comd **Capt B. H. Bryan**
TSM **WO2 (TSM) K. P. Greenwood**

THE VIEW FROM HERE

The British Forces Signal Troop (Britfor Sig Tp) was handed over from 16 Sig Regt to a composite Troop from 3 (UK) DSR at the beginning of March. The advance party left RAF Lyneham on a dark Sunday morning in sub-zero temperatures, and clambered onto the Hercules clad in fleeces, down jackets and gloves and braced ourselves for the Balkan winter that we would no doubt find 3000 miles South. Wrong! As the tailgate was lowered in Banja Luka we were greeted by a blue sky and a hot sun, and temperatures in the 20's. After a quick change into shirtsleeve order, we made our way to Banja Luka Metal Factory, home of HQ BRITFOR and the Signal Troop.

Since the hand over of the signals assets to the Dutch Signal Battalion last year, the number of Royal Signals Personnel in theatre has been reduced to around 60, with an decrepit fleet of GS Rovers, (which were all overdue servicing when we took over, and VORd the day that 16 Sig Regt left theatre – Thanks). **LCpl Tara Kenny** was too embarrassed to be the MT rep for them and so we are happy to announce that our justification for white fleet has been approved (probably due to being the only Signals unit in theatre not to have totalled a wagon yet). So we are looking forward, with the anticipation of parents to be, to the delivery of our shiny new Land Cruisers. (No, CIPIT you are not borrowing them, not even once, apparently they are not amphibious). All the departments are now well and truly into their work routines, with some steep learning curves involved.

The warm weather has spurred some of the troop into frantic activity, and the patch of grass and mud that we inherited at the rear of the troop lines is slowly being turned into something that Alan Titchmarsh would be proud of. In true 'I'll scratch your back' style, we ensured the Engineers had cable TV installed in their new Co-Ri-Mecs as a priority, and they have reciprocated the favour by building us some decking, between the barbecue area and the water feature. It's not all work here though. The Troop have entered every sporting competition that has been run and the 5-a-side team enjoyed thrashing the Staff Officers from HQ Britfor in a game resembling a playground scrap. Bruised shins and fat lips now recovering.

RED NOSE DAY - *by LCpl Stevie Lawrence*

Friday 16 March was Red Nose Day for Comic Relief and very few people out here in this multi-national camp knew that, as it is only well known back in the UK. So I went on a one-man mission with my red nose and 'special' beret, with a Corps blazer badge the size of the Eiffel Tower, to collect as much money as I could during the day. At first there were a lot of strange looks (and salutes) from passing foreign troops, but news soon got around about what I was doing, and all nationalities gave what they could. Within one hour, I collected over DM350 (£120) and by the end of the day had managed to collect DM1,088 (£350) which was phoned into Comic Relief to help the total raised reach over £10 Million. (I even managed to sell my red nose to an Australian for DM20). I would like to thank everyone in HQ BRITFOR for their support and all those in Banja Luka Metal Factory who kindly donated to this worthwhile cause.

LCpl Lawrence complete with Red Nose and dosh

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt takes over as BRITFOR Signal Troop March 2001

7 SIGNAL REGIMENT

ROYAL SIGNALS INTER CORPS TUG OF WAR

Lt Col Richardson and Capt Hymas
at the official forming of the Regimental Tug-of-War Team

At 0800hrs 2 July 2001 several members of 7 Sig Regt Male and Female Tug O War Teams and two members of 1 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt, departed for Blandford to meet up with the rest of the Corps Tug O War Squad for a two-week intensive training camp led by **Capt Chris Hymas** and **SSgt** 'Jock' **Reid,** who this time actually remembered his boots!

We arrived in Blandford and our first training session started on the Monday morning with a jog around the famous sites and landmarks of Blandford Garrison. This was not, however, a sight seeing tour organised by the coach, but a fat burning run which was to be completed most mornings. After the run it was our own time until the first rope session of the day, which started at 1200hrs daily. This was a two-hour session, which usually left **Cpl** 'Hitch' **Aitchison** crying on the rope! The Female Team was heard to say that there was no way they were going to get the concrete barrel up the gantry but by the time they left, they managed it no problem. Our next session on the rope started at 1700hrs where our squad was greatly increased by the lads and lass's of 11 Sig Regt. Another two-hour beasting on the rope and as usual **Cpl Aitchison** was left in tatters after **Capt Hymas** took it easy on us. Training was hard all week but it was necessary as we were told that on Sunday we would be going to St Mayben in Cornwall for a competition. However, we did manage to have a few beers on a night time just to wind down after some hard rope work. Sunday came and we set off for St Mayben not knowing what to expect, as some of us had never experienced civilian competition.

We gave a good account of ourselves in the male competitions notably winning the 600kg event and the girls did well coming third in the female competition. The coach was happy but did inform us that training started at 1200hrs the next day as we were preparing for the Inter Corps tournament, taking place in Chatham on the Wednesday. The day of the Inter Corps came and we arrived at Chatham early to weigh in, we made all the weights even putting in B Teams for the 600kg and 640kg. We were competing against the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers and the RLC. The girl's team did exceptionally well coming second in the Inter Corps, but the Artillery proved too strong in the male competitions and won the 2001 Inter Corps Championship. All in all, everyone enjoyed taking part in the Corps Training Camp and many new friends were made, it was hard work but worthwhile. Hopefully next year will be our year to take the Inter Corps title if we keep training hard.

REGIMENTAL SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO

by WOI (FofS) Jenkins

Once again the Swimming and Waterpolo season was fast approaching. We had attempted to train in the local facilities but without much success and were reduced to early morning sessions in the open-air swimming pool on camp. The teams were a good mixture of youth and experience, and we were hoping to achieve encouraging results. Unfortunately due to a lack of entrants the Zone Championships did not take place and all of those teams that entered met in Hohne on 12-13 June for the BA(G) Swimming and Waterpolo Championships. Again the entry list was disappointing with only three male swimming teams entered and two water-polo teams. However, the competition for the female swimming was much stronger with eight teams entered.

2Lt Vanessa Galloway (Female Team Captain)
being presented with the Championship Cup

Due to the numbers involved it was decided to hold all of the competitions on the first day. After the completion of the individual events of both team swimming competitions the men's and women's teams were both in first place with notable male performances from, **Sig Reddy** 100mtrs Backstroke, **Sig Musgrave** 50mtrs Butterfly, **WOI (FofS) Jenkins** 100mtrs Freestyle and **Cpl Simons** 200mtrs Individual Medley. Notable female performances came from **Sig Hardy** 50mtrs Backstroke and **2Lt Galloway** 200mtrs Individual Medley. Strength in depth proved to be the deciding factor, the Women's team continued in the vein in which they had started and ran out worthy winners, whilst the male team was narrowly defeated by 16 Sig Regt who had superior, and younger, strength in the relays.

British Army (Germany) Women's Team Swimming Champions
Back Row (L-R): Lt Hebblethwaite, Sig Hutton, LCpl Schafer
Front Row (L-R): Sig Hardy, 2Lt Galloway, Sgt Lees

The Waterpolo Final was contested between 7 Sig Regt and 16 Sig Regt being the only two teams to enter. A hard fought and competitive game saw 7 Sig Regt run out victors with a 4-2 score line. 16 Sig Regt will claim we had an unfair advantage, but they chose to have a female goalkeeper and leave half of their starting seven in Rheindahlen. Better luck next year lads! This meant that all of our teams had qualified for the Army Championships in Aldershot, but due to exercise commitments we were unable to take our places. However, the above results and in particular the women's team victory ensured an enjoyable and rewarding season.

Men's Waterpolo Champions
Back Row (L-R): WO1 (YofS) Ewart, Cpl Turner, Sig Scott,
Cpl Scullion, Cpl Hine, Cpl Scarcliffe, Sig Reddy, Sig Musgrave,
Capt Coatsworth
Front Row (L-R): SSgt Mason, WO1 (FofS) Jenkins, Cpl Simons

NIJMEGAN MARCHES 17 - 21 JULY 2001

Nijmegen Marches has arrived yet again. An event in which 40,000 civilians, 16 different Armed Forces including 1,270 members of the British Forces and 13 members of 7 Sig Regt took part. Each competitor was required to carry 25lbs around 100 miles of Nijmegen's finest cobbled roads over four days. We all arrived early Sunday morning ready for a week of hard graft. After finally removing **Sig** 'Muzzy' **Musgrave's** feet from the beer tent, **Sgt** 'Dangerous Brian' **Sheard** gave the Team a 'Do's and Don'ts' brief. Having woken up from that, **WO2 (SSM)** 'Taff' **Burdge** insisted we have no less than 50lbs in our bergans as he was going back to the UK next week and needed some spending money! Monday was a recovery and admin day. We had our feet strapped and taped, the medics doing a great job and the feet-strapping wasn't bad either. Scoff was fantastic too, apparently, so our team must have been going to the wrong cookhouse. Oh and the weather! A sore point for **Cpl** 'Taff' **Simons** (PTI) who turned up with a large bag of cosmetics and suntan cream, only to find July is Monsoon season in Holland. Once settled in, the mighty 7 Sig Regt were ready for action.

7 Signal Regiment's Nijmegan Marching Team

Day One, 100 miles to go. 'Don't worry lads, it'll just be a bimble,' we were told. Yeah cheers! The game plan was simple, a slow start and if we were still feeling good on Day Three we'd speed it up slightly. **WO2 (SSM) Burdge** had different ideas though. No way was 3 Para going to beat the mighty '7'. The first day was a shock, twenty-five miles couldn't be this long, could it? We beat the Paras after upping our pace. Marching twenty-five miles in seven hours is an excellent time. The civilians were loving the fantastic atmosphere around Nijmegen on the first day of the marches, not to mention the amount of stickers and autographs we were handing out.

Day Two, 75 miles to go. Now were raring to go, bring it on. **LCpl** 'Beedie, Beedie' **Beedie** and **Sig Jim Alderman** shuffled to the start point like two little old ladies. Aches and pains were already starting to show. The team pushed around Day Two in style though a little slower than the previous day, nine hours was our eventual completion time. The cobbled streets of Holland just don't have the same appeal any more.

Day Three, 50 miles to go. More little old ladies hobbled to the start point. Day Three was the hardest for a lot of the lads, and a day too far for two of our team. **Cfn Steve Asquith** and **LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** volunteered for the admin job but have vowed that Nijmegen 2002 is the year for them.

Day Four, 25 miles to go. Friday was the last day of the marches, a day of mental robustness and physical endurance. **LCpl Jim Brown** and **LCpl Jimmy Edgell** (two potential driver lineman in the making) leading the way. The crowds came out in full force to cheer us in. Spirits were lifted and morale was high. We were all informed by **Sgt Brian Sheard**, the Finish is only 1.5km from the railway line, (although did I forget to mention the railway line was 5km away!). The march itself is still a blur to a lot of us but we got a medal and a few blisters for our efforts.

Although a massive success, never again will the same team compete in the Nijmegen Marches so special mentions go to: **Sig Musgrave** for finishing, despite being in severe pain on Day Two with shin splints, he completed the remaining 75 miles. **LCpl** 'Laney' **Lane** for running in circles around the Team taking photos and **Sig Howe** for flying the flag in style.

EXERCISE MURCURIAL MARITIME DIAMOND

Ex Murcurial Maritime Diamond was the Royal Corps of Signals' Annual Sailing Regatta, racing from Keil in Germany around the Danish coast. The Regatta was held over 15 -26 July 2001. The winning 7 Sig Regt Team consisted of

Cpl Shillito	229 Signal Squadron
LCpl Rodmell	229 Signal Squadron
LCpl Stevens	229 Signal Squadron
LCpl Turner	229 Signal Squadron
Sig Walters	229 Signal Squadron .
Cfn Pyott	LAD

The majority of the crew had been sailing once or twice before and saw this as a good opportunity to delve deeper into the sport and to come away with recognised qualifications. The ten-day course began from the moment they took over the yacht, for the 7 Sig Regt team a 35ft yacht called *Petrel*. There were seven yachts altogether with crews from 1 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, 7 Amd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, 30 Sig Regt, 11 Sig Regt, 2 Sig Regt and 1(UK)ADSR. The first few days were spent getting some hands-on experience of what was required. The racing started soon after and 7 Sig Regt's boat *Petrel*, under skipper **Mick Pattern** performed well in perfect conditions, too perfect on some occasions as the wind was replaced by warm Baltic sunshine (yes it does exist). The crews weren't complaining as it provided a chance for them to practice their knots and sail craft as well as top up on their tans! The first race was around the cans at Arhus which 7 Sig Regt won convincingly although two other yachts, *Gannet* and *Pintail*, throughout the week provided them with some close calls. The combined expertise gave the crew a resounding victory at the end of the course with everyone gaining their Competent Crew qualification, even **Cfn** 'Smarty' **Pyott** who showed great enthusiasm and determination to succeed. **Cpl** 'Nelly' **Shillito** was the entertainment's officer as he was familiar with the course contents and route. **LCpl** 'loony 'ten marks' **Rodmell**, the ship's cook, did a great job of making the ship's cat last the whole ten days, rustling up a variety of tasty dishes. The Regatta not only gave the crew the opportunity to compete in a sporting event but also the opportunity to

experience the culture of Denmark and the joys of offshore sailing. They all look forward to defending the title next year!

ARMY FOOTBALL ASOCIATION TOUR OF BRAZIL 2001
by LCpl Moffat

The Squad assembled at Clayton Barracks before heading off for Heathrow Airport. From there the team flew to Rio de Janeiro stopping off at San Paolo on the way. On arriving in Rio we checked into our accommodation where we would be staying in for the duration of the tour, and received a security brief about the problems that are in and around Rio today. The first training consisted of the Team going down to Copacabana Beach to have an acclimatisation training session. Our first game was against the Ex-Pats, and the weather was something the Team would certainly have to get used to. The game was played in a very sporting manner with the Army winning 11-1. The Team then got to experience the real Brazilian style of football by going to the Brazilian equivalent of the FA Cup with Flamengo facing Vasco de Gama. These two teams are the greatest of rivals, with each team's fans singing and dancing for the whole 90mins. Flamengo were the winners at the end of the 90mins making them winners for the third time in a row. After the game the streets were full of people singing and dancing about Flamengo's triumphant win.

LCpl Allan Moffat sitting in the Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro

Our first major game came against the Brazilian Navy. The Team was all really up for this game. Both teams battled it out throughout, but the Army found it hard to adapt to their style of football, as we seemed to play a more physical type of game. In the end the Navy came out on top with a late winner although the Army put up a good fight. The final score, 2-1. We had another game the following day against the Viva Rio Champions. This was a team from around Rio that came out winners in a recent tournament. They were all people that lived in the slums of Rio so were not well equipped for the game at all, so we presented them with a strip before the game. The match proceeded well with plenty of skill and teamwork coming from both sides, but the Army was to be victorious this time, winning 4-1. After the game we were invited up to the shanty town areas for a BBQ. When we arrived there was plenty of food laid out on the table and plenty of their supporters there to enjoy it also. After we had some food and said our farewells, the team took a walk down through the area that they lived in. It was hard to imagine how these people could live in such conditions day in day out.

The Team earned on with regular training at Fortaleza de Sao Joao Army Barracks, which is the PT training school in Rio. The Team then came up against the Botafogo junior team. These were the players that were hoping to make it to the top of Brazilian football so our team was aware that they would be quick and skilful. The game didn't seem to go the way we had wished for as the junior team played exceptionally well with the Army doing a lot of chasing. Although the Army didn't give up and got very close to winning the game, the Botafogo lads came out lucky and got the winning goal on the last kick of the game making the final score 2-1.

The Team still had two games to go so there wasn't much time for relaxing with the biggest game of the tour coming up. First though was the match against the Air Force that we were expecting to be a bit harder than the Navy game. We were right, the Force seemed to be more organised but the Army was just as good if not better. The game was quick and exciting with both teams scoring and coming close on many occasions but the game was to finish 2-2, which seemed a fair result but the Army were still slightly down as we felt we should have won. It was then time for some relaxation before our next match, so we got together and travelled up to see one of the seven wonders of the world, the Jesus statue on the mountain top. It was an amazing sight, as it was so high you could see the whole of Rio. After that everyone was free to go shopping for gifts for family and friends back home. Then it was back to training the next morning for our last but most important game, the Brazilian Army.

There was a big build up to the game with many spectators including a two star General, from the Brazilian Army. The teams lined up before the game to shake hands before kick-off, exchanging gifts as they passed. The game kicked off and both teams got straight into it. It wasn't long before the first goal, which came from the Brazilians but the Army weren't that long to follow with the equaliser. Both teams kept battling it out but the Brazilian Army had too much pace and skill and ran away with the match, winning 5-1. The British Army played very well throughout the whole game but it just wasn't our day. Afterwards both teams exchanged shirts as a momento and gathered as a whole for a final BBQ. There was plenty of fun and laughter with both sides trying to out play each other with their own style of music, which I think the Brits won! The tour was a thoroughly enjoyable time for all involved and they gained valuable experience in a different environment. The British Army played exceptionally well throughout, putting a good name around Brazil for ourselves.

BRADBURY FAYRE - ***by Capt R. Francis***

7 Sig Regt held its last annual Bradbury Fayre in Krefeld on 14 July. The event had been organised and run by 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn, with a lot of help from the other departments within the Regiment. The day was a huge success despite the best efforts of the weather - it is unlikely that we will see heavier rain all year. Planning had begun in earnest months before with **Maj Dan Webster**, OC of 229 Sig Sqn at the helm. His remit was clear, make it the biggest and best ever - a task that he took to heart, immediately planning an open day of RASS proportions, except on West Park. The final product saw no fewer than four bouncy castles, dozens of exhibitors, vehicle displays, beat the goalie type stands, electric cars for the kids and enough food to feed an Army.

There was more tentage than even the biggest scout jamboree and enough beer to sink a battleship, all that we needed was a nice sunny day. Well, it rained . . . and rained yet despite the weather, in the region of 2000 people came through the gates determined to make a go of it. The kids couldn't have been happier bouncing on the four 'bouncy swimming pools' that had been created and the battery operated cars on the MT stand were particularly popular.

SPLAT! Sumo Wrestling at The Bradbury Fayre

BFBS brought their Roadshow along with a couple of DJs who entertained the crowd, and in the centre ring the three of the squadrons fought it out in the Tug of War and two Radio Relay crews from 229 Sig Sqn competed in the radio relay race. HQ Sqn won the Tug of War, looking by far the most professional team in their matching outfits.

231 Signal Squadron Tug-of-War Team

231 Sqn came second having given HQ Sqn a run for their money in the final with by far the best looking team, 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn coming a very credible third (out of three).

229 Signal Squadron Tug-of-War Team

232 Sig Sqn chose not to compete. The Radio Relay Race was won by **Cpl** 'Eyeball Paul' **Nuttley** and his crew but both teams put in tremendous effort in difficult conditions. Overall, despite the weather, the day could be described as a major success. Not only did the members of the Regiment and their families have an interesting if damp day out but so too did many members of the local German community who ventured into the camp to join in the fun. It was the last time that the open day will be held in Krefeld with the move to Bruggen early next year and as such was an important landmark in the Regiment's history.

229 (BERLIN) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj D. L. Webster** RA Signals
SSM **WO2 (SSM)** 'Taff' **Burdge**

The last two months have been a particularly busy period in 229 Sig Sqn (available for functions, fetes, weddings ....) We finally managed to get the Squadron on exercise to practice our primary role, and even had the bonus of getting comets in ... eventually. The Squadron has been involved in a multitude of regimental taskings over the last few months, most recently the organization of the regimental open day 'The Bradbury Fayre' which despite the best efforts of the weather, was an amazing success. The Sqn Comd is now seriously considering a career in function management when he returns to Australia at Christmas. The Squadron has also had a number of notable sporting successes; The SQMS, **SSgt** 'Competitive Dad' **Reid** took the Regimental Tug of War Team back to the Morrison Cup UK with great results before managing the Corps training camp at Blandford. **Cpl Neil** 'Nelly' **Shilito** took a team to the Corps Regatta up at Kiel that came back with all the trophies available both team and individual - congratulations chaps but no you can't take anymore time off to go sailing. Congratulations also go to the SSM for trudging around the Nijmegen Marches with the Regimental Marching Team, an excellent effort at his age.

CHARLIE TROOP
Tp Comd Lt Chris Dixon
Tp SSgt SSgt Littlefield

CHARLIE TROOP DAY OUT

After a hard couple of months in the garages, on exercise and preparing for Bradbury Fayre, the OC, **Lt** 'Chris' **Dixon** decided that a reward for all the effort was needed and a trip was arranged by **Cpl Tony** 'It's true' **Booth**. Kern Wasserland, a converted nuclear Power Station close to the border that has funfairs, restaurants and theme bars all-inclusive for a small fee seemed the ides location and the idea was quickly sold to the Troop. The day of the trip arrived and was made all the more exciting by the arrival of the CDT team. After a mad dash for the gates, which ended in us returning to the gym, we were eventually all processed even **Sig** 'But I just can't go!' **Dunn**. On arrival at Kern Wasserland it was time to check in and then explore. The restaurant was soon found and after being refreshed by the food and drink it was time for the real fun to begin. The quad bikes were an instant hit with **SSgt Littlefield** and **Sgt Cumberland**, who raced until the latter's superior riding skills saw him lose by falling off Elsewhere on the course **Sig Cox** was having trouble finding the accelerator. The fun fair also provided entertainment until rain stopped play. It was then time to retire inside to enjoy the free arcades and bowling with impressive scores by **Sig** 'Ming' **Leeming** and **Sig** 'I'll have a coke' **Rees**. After a quick shower and change it was to the western theme bar where the events of the day were retold over a few beers. A night spent in the inclusive three star accommodation allowed us all to return to Krefeld much refreshed!

WHISKEY TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Liz Williams**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Willie Scoots**

WHISKEY TROOP DAY OUT - ***by Cpl Nat Turney***

Early on in June I was tasked with organising a Troop day out with the aim of rallying the Troops morale after a particularly busy period of RSIT and exercise. So with that in mind I decided to take the Troop away skiing and snowboarding in the middle of summer! Early on the morning of the 5 July the troops were up and eager to get going. We left camp in a long convoy of civvi cars and went up to Bottrop-boy. On arrival we had the rigmarole of paying and getting everyone kitted out with their respective equipment. Thanks to **Sig Duckworth** for speaking his best German and getting every one the right size kit. Once the rules had been laid down for the day, everyone went and got into their respective outfits and promptly started to sweat buckets! Once on the slopes the snowboarders came with me and the skiers went off and did their best at trying to kill themselves and any one else daft enough to take to the slopes when 20 squaddies are on it. We then spent the first half an hour laughing at **Sgt Jase Wood's** impression of a really bad snow boarder who managed to take out a good thirty meters of the slalom course, well done **Jase**! After everyone had been warned about the unique system at the Alpine Centre for getting you back to the top of the slope, I took great pleasure in watching the lads trying to get on a conveyer belt lift system. At the top of the slopes it was time for a bit of entertainment, as we took ten, or was it thirty minutes to sit and watch **Sig** 'Earth Worm Jim' **Spotswood** and **LCpl John Matthews** getting up and falling straight back down, bruising various parts of their bodies. After several runs, all of the lads were getting down to business and were hurtling dawn the slopes at a decent pace with the usual soldier mentality! After a rather long lunch it was back to business and out on to the jumps. A special mention goes to **Sig Richies** for his amazing impression of a pro-boarder with years of experience of jumping. He sat at the top of the jump with all the civilian boarders, watched one go over the jump and thought he would give it a go. Needless to say he didn't appear quite so professional, careering into the path of a German, who promptly poked him with a ski pole and told him to get out of the way. After lots of runs and time spent watching potential 'Franz Clammers' the lads decided to call it a day and head back to Krefeld. Every one agreed that it had been a worthwhile experience for the middle of summer and would definitely be up for it again, minus the bruises of course! So will all of Whiskey Tp be in the Army Skiing and Snow Boarding Teams this coming winter season? Perhaps not! But well done to the lads for making it a day to, remember.

M TROOP
Tp SSgt Position vacant applicants welcome!

The Troop are now leaderless with both SSgt Tams **Davies** and **SSgt** 'Bacon butties on the nightshift' **Evans** abandoning ship to return to the UK. Congratulations go to **Sgt Adam Wright McCarthy** on the birth of his twins. The tech workshop has now successfully re-ruled as PA specialists - providers of sound systems and projection for any and all Regimental events and are still recovering from actually having to do physical labour setting up the Bradbury Fair although their 'wiggly wire' stand was surprisingly successful.

EXERCISE NEMESIS BACKSTOP
232 SIGNAL SQUADRON ADVENTURE TRAINING

During July, members of 232 Sig Sqn deployed on the annual summer adventure training programme. The first week saw half of the Squadron setting up tents on the American campsite in Garmisch Partenkirchen in order to carry out a number of activities including trekking, kayaking and climbing. It became evident during the week that the weather was, to put it mildly a complete wash out! With the campsite soon resembling the Somme battlefield, the Squadron continued to train in the rain and many personnel gained qualifications in various activities. One of the highlights of the week was undoubtedly **Pte Burnett's** (from ARRC Support Battalion) cooking who was released from The Savoy in order to provide the Squadron with sumptuous feasts every night. As soon as the transport left for camp on the changeover day the sun came out and continued to shine down for the whole of the second week. We had now relocated to Drei Muhlen Lodge in Bavaria due to one or two of the instructors having developed trench-foot and water-logging of the brain. Having dried them out, the second week proved to be just as fruitful as the first. Many thanks to the instructors especially **Cpl** 'Vince' **Carling** from ITC at Catterick for his kyaking instruction, which came in especially useful around the campsite, and **2Lt Graeme Endean's** inspirational trekking instruction!

THE 232 SIGNAL SQUADRON SUMMER BALL

13 June came around, as usual, a lot more quickly than those organising the event had given credit for. Final numbers were still being settled that morning (nothing changes there then!), decorations had been bought and now there was just the task of jazzing the place up (and making it soldier proof). A team made up of the SNCOs and Officers from the Squadron spent the best part of a day filling helium balloons and trying to make the venue resemble the theme of James Bond. By about three o'clock it was done and to be honest it was a job well done. The troops began arriving at six thirty - keen to take advantage of the free pre-dinner drinks. It's quite amazing how well everyone scrubs up, some people were hardly recognisable out of uniform. Following a Squadron photograph on the grandstand, everyone filtered into the restaurant for the night's entertainment. Throughout dinner there was entertainment by table magicians, a sorcerer complete with snakes and the main attraction was 'Girl Talk' an all girl band who wore very little and sang loudly. Needless to say they went down a treat with the lads, even blagging a plush meal at McDonalds from some lucky fellow! The night went extremely well with dancing until five. A big thank you is necessary to the Squadron 2IC, **Capt Michele Hanlon**, who organised most of the event and **Sgt Geoff Overend** who spent the best part of a week running round like a man possessed to get money out of all of the troops.

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj I. N. Hunter**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) K. Weaver**

EXERCISE WOODLAND FLIGHT

Ex Woodland Flight went well despite the injuries sustained by the willing volunteers for the Red Devils who couldn't help training from the roofs of the squadron vehicles; and **Sig** 'It was contaminated fuel'

Jackson needing a bit of a refresher on the 1500w gene! A little advice from the master driver to **LCpl Paul Hayes**, when you carry out a first works parade on the vehicle don't forget that you must check the trailer aswell. To **Sgt** 'Sleepy' **Asquith**, too bad on missing out on the prize of The Golden Blanket and one last bit of advice goes out to **LCpl** 'Where's my cam net gone?' **Lane**. Need I say more...? Congratulations on a good exercise with a few laughs.

RADIO TROOP'S DAY OUT

Radio Tp has had a busy couple of months with inspections, exercise, Bradbury Fayre, preparing for Ex Saif Sarreea II and so decided that Kernwasser wonderland would be the setting for the 'team building' exercise. The day and night included bowling, wine tasting (don't worry lads you'll get the hang of the cheese board soon!) and other cultural activities. **Sigs** 'Smudge' **Smith** and 'Shacks' **Shackleton** decided racing the plastic sphinx was a good idea, to which **Sgt Nesbitt** replied, 'Behave yourselves,' before zig zagging off to the wrong hotel! We would like to wish **LCpl** 'Watch I can bend my leg in fifty different directions' **Marlbourgh** a speedy recovery.

OSCAR TROOP'S PAINTBALL DAY

by Sig Proudman

Following an enormously heavy workload, it was starting to become apparent that Oscar Tp was in dire need of a morale day. The Troop therefore decided to go paintballing at Dike Farm in Maasbree Netherlands. **LCpl Andy Cornfield**, a new member of the Troop, arranged the day. So we headed off to the sunny Netherlands. Arriving there we waited for the SSM and a few others who were leaving it a bit late but once they had finally arrived we headed inside where everyone began talking tactics. We had our brief then everyone got kitted up ready for action! The teams were (cheating) reds versus blues, the SSM (**WO2 Karl** 'Trapper' **Weaver**) and **Lt Harriet Hebblethwaite** picked the teams. However, it turned out the SSM wanted all the radio operators, so it was Oscar Tp (blue) v Radio Tp (red) again. We had decided to have a laugh and just attack Radio Tp but the SSM had other plans. The first game was elimination, one hit and you're out. The second was getting the other team's flag and putting it in your base. Once again we decided to attack, but the SSM had further plans, deciding to do a full on section attack, which was completely unexpected. Blue men after blue men were constantly shouting 'hit' as the reds came from everywhere. As the game progressed it became clear the SSM was clearly shooting people when they were walking out, and not going out when he was supposed to, as were a few others. However the SSM was hit cleanly right on the head by **Mrs (LCpl) Jenkinson**, but wiped of the paint and earned on until the umpire sent him away in disgrace as was **Sig Bibby** who was following the SSM's ways. At the end of a great day out everyone compared hideous bruises, and we can't forget the two ND's in the 'safe area' by **Lt Hebblethwaite** and female **LCpl** 'Competitive' **Cornfield**.

ARMY FLY FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

by WO2 (SSM) Karl Weaver

Over a three-day period in June, three members of 231 Sig Sqn took part in the Army Fly Fishing Championships held at Rutland Water in the UK. The Team consisted of **WO2 (SSM) Karl Weaver, Sgt Nick Asquith** and **Sig Steve Barber**. With only the SSM having fished at competitive level before, it was a big learning curve for the other two team members, and a lot of information to take on board. With a field of over seventy individuals and 16 three-man teams, this was a bit of a tall order, but with team tactics and the right flies, all went well over the three days. At the presentations on the final day, **Jack Charlton** the famous footballer, himself a keen angler was there to present the prizes. The team from 7 Sig Regt won the Army Team Championships and **WO2 (SSM) Weaver** was placed third individually.

WO2 (SSM) Karl Weaver (and rods) showing off
the achievements of a lifetime s dedication to fly fishing
(Not shown - A lifetime s dedication to poaching!)

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Tp Comd **WO1(FofS) Jenkins**

As with all departments within the Regiment, the past three months has been an extremely busy period for TM Tp. We have conducted a Troop reorganisation to streamline maintenance activities and ensure continuity of work and training for all Troop personnel deployed on Ex Woodland Flight; and simultaneously hosted RSIT, ECI and EST(A) inspections. On the social front it has also been hectic, with HQ Sqn BBQ, and Troop leaving functions as well as providing the PA and power facilities for the Bradbury Fair. On the sports field various Troop members have been involved in Regimental Swimming and Waterpolo, Tug of War, and **LCpl Moffat** and **Sig Rizza** took part in the Army Football Tour to Brazil! We have had a couple of new arrivals, **LCpl Sheehan** and **Nicola**, and **LCpl Shirley** posted in from 232 Sig Sqn, welcome. Departures include **Cpl Steve Turner** and **Cpl Dan Hire** who depart for their T 1 course, and finally **Cpl** 'Dusty' **Hoffman** who has seen the greener grass and is leaving the service. We wish all of them the best of luck for the future.

QUARTERMASTER(A) DEPARTMENT - *by Cpl Jo Quinn*

QM(T) **Capt Neil Coatsworth**

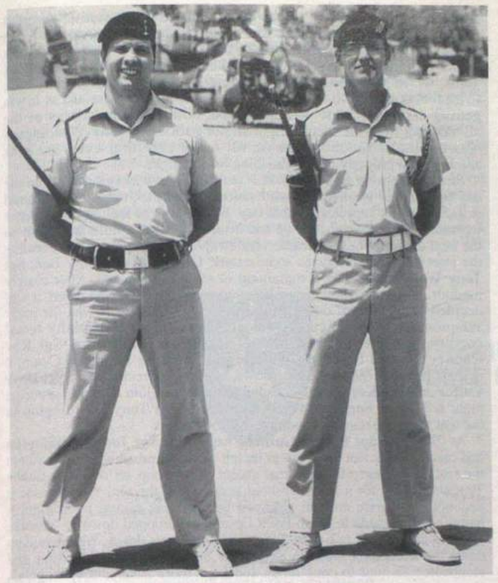
The Department has been through a major change over the last few weeks, with various key personnel leaving and arriving. Firstly a fond farewell from all the department to QM(A), **Maj Pete Doherty**, who has left us to take up his new job as 2 IC 16 Sig Regt in JHQ. Also, RQMS(A) **WO2 Neil James** has left after completing 22 years service to join the transport police back in the U.K. The occasion was marked with a leaving lunch and drinks in the chefs' bar, which continued into the squadron bar. It was noted that **Sig Mark** '2 pints' **Bradbury** couldn't stand the pace and retired to his bed, even before one of our civilians! A big friendly QM(A) welcome to **Maj (QM) Bob** 'Call me dynamic' **Taylor** who has joined us from 16 Sig Regt, and **WO2 (RQMS)** 'Ginge' **Morgan** who has joined us from the hectic world of SHAPE. Let's hope that they can handle their new appointments, as the Regiment begins to prepare for the move to Bruggen. No pressure! Welcome back to **Cpl Des** 'Queen Mum' **Lang**, who came back to work voluntarily even though he was still on sick leave. Rumour has it he's after his MBE. Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Dusty' **Miller** and family, after the arrival of their baby daughter **Larissa Sarah**. Another new arrival to mention has travelled all the way from SQMS 232 Sig Sqn to join our happy little family. **Sig Danny Carter** - the unstoppable has landed, and has spent his first few weeks trying to impress us by constantly using his initiative. This has been worrying the Department, which was so used to **Sig Bradbury**, who has left us to join SQMS HQ. Only joking Brads, you and your stories from the weekends will be missed.

JOINT SERVICE SIGNAL UNIT (AYIOS NIKOLAOS)

CO **Lt Col R. A. Sharp MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Richardson**

COMMAND GROUP

As the summer temperatures reached boiling point the Unit prepared for a flying visit from the Secretary of State for Defence, **Mr Geoff Hoon**. Accompanied by the Commander British Forces Cyprus, **Air Vice Marshall T. W. Rimmer OBE MA**, the Secretary of State received an update on Unit procedures and current issues. Fortunately it was also the hottest day of the year so the air-conditioning issue carried a lot of credibility. Overseeing this visit, and for the last of numerous previous VIP visits was the Provost Corporal, **Cpl Pete Woods**. He has been selected for promotion and due to return to the Pioneer Corps, RLC Training Depot. **Cpl Woods** was also kept busy right up to his last working day as the Unit Detention Centre also had a visitor. As he said, 'it was the perfect way to finish his tour'.



The Provost team - Laurel and Hardy
Sgt Caprio (L) and Cpl Woods (R)

SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj M. G. P. Bohanan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. Buxton**

HELLOS/GOOD-BYES/CONGRATULATIONS

All ranks would like to welcome the following to the Squadron, the new Second in Command **Flt Lt John Harris,** (RAF Regt) the new Families officer **Capt Roy Zaman** (QLR) (Retd), **WO2 (RQMS) Andy Dick, SSgt Gair Sorley, Sgt Paul Grundy, LCpl Connaire** and finally **SAC (Baldrick) Dougherty.** We wish them and their families an enjoyable tour. There are still a number of posts waiting to be filled to replace past members but the QM's Department have assured us that cardboard replacements will be available once the part number is received. We bid a fond farewell to the following, **WO2 (UAOWO) Rick** 'Mr Bean' **Mills** (Can't wait to see the photo in the Kilt), **SSgt Gaz Steel** and **Sgt Dave Churchward** who both leave on promotion. **SSgt Scott Cain, Sgt Tony Waddington, Cpl Tiny Adams** and finally to **LCpl's Willie Williams** and **Dave Collins** who also leave on promotion. We wish you and your families the best for the future. Congratulations go to **Cpl's Tiny Adams, John Freeman** and **Pete Woods** on their recent selection for Promotion to Sergeant, and to **Sgt Tony Caprio** and wife **Jackie** on the birth of their daughter **India Grace**, and to **LCpl Andy Kinnaird** and wife **Emma** on the birth of their son **Ethan**.

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS

Sgt Ian Williams (AGC-SPS) led the squadron to victory by a clear majority in the Inter Squadron Competition. The male 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 teams finished the race and were back having tea and biscuits before the others were in sight. The female team won the majority of the events with individual efforts coming from **SSgt Tracy Staddon** winning the Shot Putt and Long Jump, and **LCpl Julie Wright,** for winning the 100m hurdles, high jump, 3000m and 4x400 relay. Thanks must go to the attached arms and wives for their participation on the day.

SUMMER CRUISE

The Squadron Summer function this year was a buffet meal followed by a cruise from Ayia Napa harbour to Cape Greco then onto Famagusta point. The day was a roaring success and thanks should go to **Cpls John Freeman, Neil Fraser, Steve Seaby** and **SAC Spence Spencer** for all their hard work.

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED,
COPY FOR THE DECEMBER
ISSUE MUST REACH THIS
OFFICE BY
15 OCTOBER 2001

SSgt Jennings (R) showing new boy WO2 (RQMS) Dick (L) how to drink Keo

CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

Mr Steve Gibson Chairman of Middlesborough FC brought a select XI to play a charity football match against JSSU(AN). The event was in support of the charity *Wireless for the Blind*. The first half team consisted of Support Sqn FC players. The Team Manager **SSgt Gaz Steel** (now SSM at 15 Sig Regt) utilised the event as build-up training prior to a cup final match, later that month. Excellent team play and goals scored by **Sgt Steve Hills** (RAF Regt) and **Cpl Tony Cover** (RLC), gave the first half side a 2-1 lead. The second half side made up from 234 and 840 Sqn players continued to be as exciting with two goals from **LCpl Paul Ridgeway** (234) in the last ten minutes, making the final score 4 – 1 to the home side. The event itself was a complete success, which managed to raise over £500 for the charity.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

The Squadron are now into their second month of one-day adventure training packages. The day consists of Sea Kayaking, Dingy Sailing, Water Skiing and the Powerboat inflatable called ' The Screamer'. The water sports are held in the morning at the Tunnel Beach Water Sports Club, Episkopi. The OC, **Maj Bohanan**, is leading the way on the water skiing, showing that there's nothing to it however, some individuals just don't seem to realise that when you fall you must let go of the rope. **(Pte Chadwick). Sgt Sean Paddison** (RLC) now realises how the 'Screamer' got its name, as he joined **Cpl Andrea Shaw** (RAF) for a go. Ear defenders are recommended. **Lcpl Julie Wright** (AGC) took things a little bit far when cries from the shore shouted, 'Get them off'; they actually meant the passengers from the 'screamer'. The afternoon's Adventure is a 6-mile walk in the Troodos Mountains following the trails, which cut into the mountains. Whilst the route is all down hill it brings in some excellent viewpoints and gives those taking part a chance to chat with the OC on a casual note. The route is planned so that it finishes at a Taverna where all can have a well-earned drink and something to eat, whilst discussing the day's activities.

BULGARIA RUGBY TRIP 2001 - *by Cpl 'Boris' Wade*

After nine months of planning the JSSU(AN) rugby team 'The Stags' kicked off their 2001 Bulgarian Rugby Tour. The team of 21 comprised players from all three Services although the Royal Signals representation of 33% was due to them being the better players! The flight to Bulgaria had a slight hitch as we had to go via the Czech Republic with an added 18-hour wait for a connection flight. This meant however that the team was able to take in the picturesque city of Prague and it was here in Prague Castle that **Sgt Kev** 'Pee Pot Pete' **Cooney** actually found a house for which even he was too big to get in. We then passed over the Charles Bridge, the backdrop to many films including 'Mission Impossible'. After an excellent meal of traditional Goulash and Dumplings (and of-course a quick sing-song) we passed through Wenceslas Square to catch our transport. A flight to Sophia saw some outstanding displays of power kipping , particularly by **Cpl Paul** 'Pickles' **Hayward** which meant though that when we arrived we could all dump our bags in our hotel rooms and retire for a nightcap. Our warm-up game was against the National Sports Academy Student XVs. This proved to be a harder match than was initially thought and there were slight! differences in the understanding of the rules. Infringements were common and constant offside play at the ruck area prevented the game flowing. A trend followed on tour were there were obvious differences between the refereeing standards of UK and Bulgaria referees. Notable performances though came from our center's, **Sig** 'Wacko' **Jackson** and **Cpl Al** 'I never sleep' **Gaw** for some superb running. After the match it was into the third half with tour hats on and songbooks out. We succeeded in winning this half convincingly. Presentations were made to the local side and to who we thought was Man of the match; this went to the man with the black eye. (He won't want to mix it so quickly next time)!

Onto our last match which was against the current Premiership Champions. Preparations for this had not gone to plan with many players suffering from the change of diet. Our game suffered from a lack of energy, our opponents, the NSA were by far a faster side and their quick moves saw our downfall. A hard fought period of pressure though applied by the Stags just before half time saw little reward. Similar pressure in the second half also failed to trouble the score-keeper although **Cpl** 'Boris' **Wade** was transformed into a crash ball specialist and on several times ran headfirst through numerous Bulgarians. He

came out battered and bruised, but then after recent goings-on that was nothing new. **Cpl Andy** 'Angry' **Johnson** also showed some of his recent excellent form, which got him into the Cyprus Army team but took out one of our own players by accident. A defeat by 48 – 0 and it was off to make the presentations. Thanks to all the lads from the NSA who were perfect hosts and demonstrated that although we spoke different languages, we began to understand each other better as the night went on.

Thursday 26 April and the real reason we had gone to Bulgaria. We were off to the Orphan Home for Children with Learning Disabilities in the Mihaltsi village. Here we gave them the clothes, toys and other items for which charity work over the past nine months had provided. The Unit sportathlon had raised a considerable amount, but money had also been raised by a charity auction organized by the 840 Sqn Charities Committee. Support was also received from as far away as the USA and England. Our visit gained a lot of publicity within the capital Sophia and the Orphan Care group who sponsor the orphanage. As a result of this we had a few extra Bulgarian celebrities travelling with us to record and document the event for both national TV and radio. It was an emotional day for all the team and no-one left without a lump in his throat.

Saturday 28 April was the day of the Bulgarian 7's tournament. A group of ten teams from Bulgaria attended the event which was run within the grounds of the NSA. From the start it was clear Lady Luck was not to look upon us that day as our first match was drawn against the NSA and after a 'not too humiliating' defeat we played games against teams more our level. This included our first win thanks to **Sgt Phil** 'I'm the new Tiny' **Ellwood**. His huge height prevented a wild ball from passing over his head and enabling the Bulgarians to score in the dying seconds. This final game which resulted in a win, was the culmination of an excellent tour to Bulgaria. Thanks must go out to all the people at JSSU(AN) who helped raise money for the tour and the orphan charity. Finally a big thank you to **CPO** 'Taff 'drop the shoulder' **Thomas** (Royal Navy Club Chairman) and to **Flt Sgt Ben** 'I drop to the floor' **Court** (RAF and Tour Manager) for their efforts in making it all happen.

EXERCISE UHURU PEAK

Ex Uhuru Peak was a three-week high altitude trekking expedition to Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro from 5-26 March 2001 lead by **Capt Forbes Guthrie.** Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya are the highest and second highest mountains in Africa respectively. Both mountains can be climbed by walkers, as opposed to climbers, and therefore offered an excellent opportunity for relatively inexperienced walkers to gain experience of high altitude conditions. The expedition was eight strong, all being volunteers from JSSU(AN). The team comprised of the following Army and Royal Air Force personnel:

Capt Forbes Guthrie R SIGNALS
SSgt (FofS) Dave Coffey R SIGNALS
Sgt Kev Cooney R SIGNALS
Sgt Tony Wadington R SIGNALS
Sgt Tony Hubbold RAF
Cpl Jon Olphert RAF
Cpl Leah Steward R SIGNALS
LCpl Pat Abel AGC

Monday afternoon and a group of eight assembled at MT to embark on Ex Uhuru Peak. We arrived at Larnaca Airport in good time and watched carefully to make sure our baggage made it through the weigh-in. Our flight to Dubai was very comfortable, arriving in the small hours. After whiling away seven hours in Dubai Airport we were jetting off again to Nairobi. On arrival, a driver from BATLSK (British Army Training Liaison Staff Kenya) met us. The journey took us straight to BATLSK Camp where we quickly signed over our accommodation and drew out the necessary stores (i.e. Mosquito nets). That afternoon was spent sorting out our equipment and liaising with the BATLSK staff. A driver from the MT took us into Nairobi so that we could stock up on all the food we would need for Mount Kenya. After spending a couple of hours filling several shopping trolleys we paid for the food, eventually in Kenyan Shillings, and headed back to camp. **SSgt Dave Coffey** and **Capt Forbes Guthrie** lead the group through the rudimentaries of some basic rope-work techniques before we all packed our kit ready for an early start the next day. We left BATLSK in the back of a four-tonne truck for the long journey to the start of our ascent of Mount Kenya - Chogoria. We arrived at the Transit Motel where we had arranged to meet our local mountain guide, **Mr John Wachira**. After waiting over an hour for the guide to show, **Capt Forbes Guthrie** decided to press on without him. It was now too late to attempt any part of the gentle walk through the jungle track, so the BATLSK driver was directed to take us all the way up to the park gates. At the gates, **Capt Forbes Guthrie** paid the park and camping fees and **SSgt Dave Coffey** found a suitable site to pitch the tents. Just before dark, as everyone was preparing to settle down, our guide **John** turned up. He was disappointed to be told that he would not be paid for that day, but everyone was pleased that he did eventually make it.

The group awoke to discover that what had seemed like a good camp site was in fact a water buffalo track! This was to be an 'acclimatisation day', to help everyone to get used to the higher altitudes. We set off from the Park Gates to Lake Ellis where we all stopped for lunch. After some food and the chance to replenish our drinking water we headed up to the top of Mugi Hill where we could look down onto the Giant's Billiard Table Mountain. We walked back down to the Park Gates where we camped for the night again. Everyone got up early, packed their tents and set off on the track. After a couple of hours we reached the Roadhead, where we stopped and **John,** the guide, showed us a beautiful waterfall just a short distance from the track. It was another hour before the group headed off, as the group needed to filter more water from the stream before we left. The next leg was a hard climb up to our campsite at Hall Tarns, which we expected to take about four hours. It eventually took twice the, time we had hoped and we reached the campsite just as it was getting dark. Everyone was exhausted, both from the effects of the altitude and from the sheer weight on our backs. **Sgt Tony Waddington** was feeling it the most but we all made sure that everyone was administered properly before finishing for the night.

Sunday morning was a slow start, as the group was still tired from the day before, and we had to spend several hours making sure we filtered sufficient water supplies for that day. Everyone was feeling much better by lunchtime and we packed up and headed off. It was not a long walk to the next campsite but it became very steep and most people were feeling the effects of the altitude to some extent. On arrival at Simba Tam, **Sgt Tony Waddington** was complaining of strong headaches. After closely monitoring him for another two hours to see if the condition eased, it was decided to move him down from the altitude in case it was the early symptoms of AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness - a potentially lethal condition). **Capt Forbes Guthrie, SSgt Dave Coffey** and **Sgt Kev Cooney** assisted **Sgt Tony Waddington** down to Shipton's Camp, a descent of about 600mtrs. Once down, a tent was erected and **SSgt Dave Coffey** and **Sgt Kev Cooney** headed back up to rejoin the main group as night fell. **Capt Forbes Guthrie** stayed with **Sgt Tony Waddington** in the tent to ensure that his condition did not worsen.

At 0200hrs **Capt Forbes Guthrie,** happy that **Sgt Tony Waddington** had made a sufficient recovery to be left alone, climbed back up to rejoin the rest of the party for the final ascent. The group set off from Simba Tam at 0400hrs for a hard two-hour scramble to the top. We all made it just before sunrise and sat slumped on the peak taking photographs, happy to have made it. From Point Lenana we dropped down to Austrian Hut and back round to Simba Tarn to take the tents down. We pressed on down the steep scree slope to Shipton's Camp as quickly as possible and stoppedfor an hour to cook lunch and filter more water. From Shipton's Camp it was decided to make for Old Moses Camp that afternoon as the prospect of a real bed and a porcelain lavatory outweighed the 14km walk. Everyone arrived at Old Moses Camp in good spirits despite being exhausted and having blistered feet.

The transport was booked to collect the group, and eventually three Land Rovers picked us up three o'clock in the afternoon. We made it back to BATLSK at 2000hrs and after getting into our rooms and eating our late tea we all enjoyed a well-deserved 'Tusker' beer. Wednesday was an admin day for the party. A chance to unpack, clean and repack all of the equipment ready for Mount Kilimanjaro. Our guide from Mount Kenya helped us arrange transport and the mandatory guides for the trek on Mount Kilimanjaro. At 0700hrs a mini-bus collected us and took us to our connecting bus in Nairobi. From there the journey was south to the border and on to Arusha where we meet our chief guide for Mount Kilimanjaro, **Mr Hussein Mbua**. The transport was late in arriving and unfortunately we were unable to start the trek that afternoon as we had planned. The Guide took us to the Iibrou Safari Lodge Hotel for the night and we discussed the revised plan. **Hussein** and his team collected us on Friday morning and moved round to the Park Gates dropping some of our baggage off in the near-by Capricorn Hotel. Once through the Park Gates we set off for Mandara Hut, which was our camp for the night. The route was a gentle three-hour walk through the rain forest. After arriving at the hut and taking a short break, we walked up to Maundi Crater to help acclimatise, and were fortunate to see several monkeys in their natural habitat on the way back down.

The next stage up to Horombo Hut was an 11km trek up a fairly gradual ascent. Everyone took care to climb as slowly as possible to reduce fatigue and help get use to the altitude. After a two -hour break at the Huts we walked further on to 'Zebra' Rock, so called, as it had naturally been striped black and white. From Horombu Hut we all set off for Kibo Hut, which lies at 4,700m, just lower than the height of Mount Kenya. It was a slow pace across the arid saddle and everyone was very aware of the altitude. Eventually everyone made it to Kibo Hut tired but glad to be there. **Cpl Leah Steward** by this time had begun to suffer from a very strong headache. After only 45 minutes, she could bear it no longer and **SSgt Dave Coffey, Sgt Kev Cooney** and an assistant guide helped her down a couple of hundred metres. After an hour rest at that height, the symptoms were not easing and she was given one Diamox tablet (a drug used to help alleviate the symptoms of AMS), and with the help of **Flo** an assistant guide, descended to Horombu Hut. We were up at midnight with our head-torches ready for the final ascent to the top of Africa's highest mountain. This last stage, although only 2km in distance, was absolutely exhausting. It took the group about five hours before making it onto the crater edge at Gillman's Point. It was still dark and well below freezing, so everyone was keen to carry on around the rim's edge to Uhuru Peak. It was only another 200 metres of ascend over a gradual slope, so we set off feeling elated that we had made it up the gruelling scree slope and could now see the top. Working our way round the path we were confronted by the edge of Rebmann Glacier which had crossed over the path. **SSgt Dave Coffey** stopped the group and as the most qualified mountain leader had to decide on the best course of action. He had little choice but to stop the group and not allow them to go any further. The group was not qualified nor experienced enough to tackle something so hazardous and so we had to turn back. It was an immense disappointment for all concerned to have reached the tip of the world's highest free standing mountain, only to have to stop metres from the very top. However, everyone understood why the decision was made, agreed that nothing could be done, and supported **SSgt Dave Coffey** on a very hard call. Before setting off, we all took the chance to take photographs as the sun was rising, and then made our way back down to Kibo Hut. At Kibo Hut we stopped and rested for a couple of hours before setting off down to Horombo Hut where we ate lunch. After lunch we continued on down to Mandara Hut which was our campsite for the night.

The final morning on Mount Kilimanjaro and we set off down to the Park Gates at a leisurely pace. At the gates we all receive certificates for reaching Gillman's Point and then proceed to buy 'been to the top' T-shirts. A bus came to collect us and dropped in at the Capricorn Hotel for our bags. We wave good-bye to our guides and set-off for Mombassa. Once through the border we get to Voi where the vehicle decides to breakdown for a couple of hours. Once some foil from **Sgt Kev Cooney's** cigarette packet is applied to the vehicles failing electrics we were off We got to Mombassa after dark and discovered why people recommend that you don't drive at night in Kenya. We checked into the 'Sun n' Sand Hotel' for two nights and were briefed as to how the all-inclusive resort was run. All the members of Expedition take full advantage of the hotel's facilities, relaxing and try to get their physically wreked bodies back to life. There was an early start on Thursday morning to take off to Shimba Hills, two-hours South of Mombassa for a guided Safari of the park. Unfortunately, no one actually saw any Elephants, Rhinos, Giraffe, Zebra or Hippos. The best we saw we some rather tired looking Gazelle. Back at the accommodation that evening, we challenged a group of hotel staff to a football match and taught them how the game is played and won. After leaving the hotel we headed into Mombassa to buy our souvenirs before boarding the overnight train to Nairobi. We spent the next day unpacking everything and stubbing down all of the stores equipment before we started our journey back home to Cyprus.

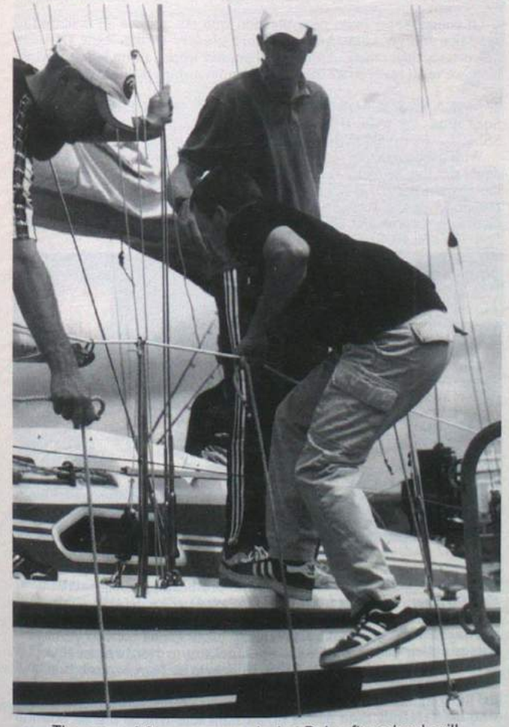
14 SIGNAL REGIMENT (ELECTRONIC WAREFARE)

CO **Lt Col N. J. Borrill**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. L. Palmer**

OFFSHORE SAILING (EXERCISE MERCURY SAIL) *-by Sig Keen*

Skipper Sgt 'Stop breaking my boat' **Kendall**
Mate Maj 'Best breakfast in NATO ever' **Bradshaw**
Crew LCpl 'Ouch my b***** head' **Strange**
Sig 'Is there such a thing as a MacDonalds Sail Through?' **Keen**
Sig 'I don't get sea sick honest mum' **Hall**
Sig 'I can do a handbrake turn in a boat without even trying' **Morrison**

It started off as two skippers, two lads who have sailed a few times before and two lads two who have never sailed before and one Corps yacht named *Skywave*. We arrived at Gosport at lunchtime quickly moved into the boat, prepared, went shopping, had a brew and then left port. The first leg was a night sail to Brixham, so we split into two shifts and cracked on.



The crew of *Skywave* on arrival at Dale after a hard sail!

This was an interesting part of the exercise as the majority of us hadn't had much night sailing experience. The next day we went from Brixham to Plymouth Yacht Haven. This was far more interesting as we had the first bouts of sea-sickness. There were a few different shades of green faces in the cockpit that day!! Funnily enough, the only ones who suffered were those who had gone out the night before. Could that be down to coincidence? Nah! I don't think so. The next leg was from Plymouth to St Mary's on the Scilly Isles. During this leg, *Skywave* made its fastest passage of the entire trip. Something to do with the wind! (And the crew of course!). We stayed off the Scilly Isles for two days, enjoying the area and seeing the sights. (Bars, beaches, sea etc. - lovely). **LCpl Strange** won't forget the place in a while. He managed to make contact with the same low beam 4 times! It was good entertainment for all those watching. The last leg of the trip was from St Mary's to Dale, in time to meet up with everybody else taking part in Ex Mercury Sail. It was a thirty-hour trip so we split back into our shift (watch) routine. We were accompanied during this part of the trip by a school of dolphins. They unfortunately left as we got close to Pembrokeshire.

During the trip we covered 448 nautical miles over eight days of sailing. Everyone on the crew enjoyed the trip, and will all sail again. Apart from the fact that the skipper will not let us go with him because we kept breaking his boat (well I suppose it belongs to the Royal Signals)!

EXERCISE MERCURY SAIL 2001

Sun, sea, wind and enthusiasm - all that were required for the Royal Corps of Signals Annual Sailing Event, Ex Mercury Sail 2001, hosted by 14 Sig Regt (EW) at Dale near Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire. Sea, we had plenty of it, Dale is a perfect location in the Pembrokeshire National Park at which to conduct sail training and for the more advanced to put their skills to the test. Sun we certainly had (for the first three days). Wind, well we had enough to train for the first three days, and more than enough for the final two days on which the regatta was held. As for enthusiasm, all those personnel who entered had a fantastic time, not only during the sail training, but also on the full social programme.

The idea for the event was hatched last year when the Royal Signals Yacht Club held a meeting at Blandford to discuss the scope of a sail training event for Corps members, and where it was to be held. The aim stated by the Admiral of the RSYC (The SOinC(A)) was that where possible, personnel who attended the sail training week would leave with some sort of sailing qualification. The event was to consist of all three sailing disciplines of Dinghy Sailing, Windsurfing and Offshore Sailing. To that end, *Skywave*, the Corps Dehler 35 foot yacht was made available for the duration of the event and a Level 3 adventurous training exercise (Ex Maritime Dragon) was arranged for personnel from 14 Sig Regt (EW) to travel from Gosport to Dale and then return on conclusion of the sail training during Ex Mercury Sail. The Windsurfing element would consist of Novice sail training followed by the Royal Signals Windsurfing Championships. Finally, the Dinghy sailing element would be split into two parts, Novice Sail Training followed by a Novice Regatta and the advanced sail training (racing, asymmetric sailing and advanced techniques) followed by the Royal Signals Dinghy Regatta.

Dates were finally arranged for the 11-15 June 2001 and units informed of the event. Equipment was begged, borrowed and acquired, new equipment was collected, telephone calls were made and much preparation followed. Personnel assembled in Brawdy Lanes Bowling Alley from as far afield as SHAPE, Krefeld, Bulford, Hereford, NI and Blandford on 10 June 2001 and the event was officially declared open by the 14 Sig Regt (EW) Sailing Officer, **Maj Jonathan Gillespie**. The Monday Morning dawned with glorious sunshine and after a brief introductory tour of Dale, Sail Training started. Below are some of the personal accounts of the event from the perspective of those taking part.

NOVICE SAILING COURSE - *by SSgt Ted Whichelo*

Ahoy there me hearties! Listen in to these tales of daring-do, of the eleven students who gathered for a sailing extravaganza at Dale, Pembrokeshire for Ex Mercury Sail 2001. Personnel from all over the globe (well a little bit of Europe) and of all colours (including RAF) gathered. **JTs Ruth Copley, Jolene Cochrane** and **Mary Fegan** steeled themselves for what they thought would be a week sunning themselves on a large yacht, surrounded by eunuchs(!) and drinking Spice Rum somewhere in the Bermuda Triangle. But, no, all we had to sail in were bath tubs equipped with metal poles and handkerchiefs, most of which have now been destroyed as unseaworthy... Yes, you've guessed it - Toppers were our floating chariots. Meanwhile, the PICO's remained on display pristine and sparkling in their packaging. However, this was not to put off our intrepid sailors, even though we had a flat calm for two days. The instructors: **WO1 (YofS) 'Taff' Owens -** instructing in a racing position from his 470, **Cpl Andy Anderton** and **Mr Jerry** 'Quiet Man' **Roberts** took great pleasure in introducing us all to the pleasures of capsize drills and self and crew rescues in both the Toppers and later the Bosuns.

By Day Two all of us had gained our sea legs, apart from **Sig James Bain,** who managed to be sea sick on the bus ride to Dale. Wednesday morning dawned with a gentle breeze, and by lunch time we had to reef the sails to prevent the JT's being swept off to the Bermuda of their dreams. Meanwhile, **Lt Elizabeth McLellan** vied (or was it vowed) to run down as many windsurfers as possible. **Cpl Andy Andertons'** game of man overboard proved to be the highlight of the day. The objective being to pick up as many buoys as possible. As honourable cavaliers and with equal opportunities in mind the rest of the course members managed to run down **JT Jo Cochrane** after she had capsized. Needless to say, the buoys **Jo** had originally picked up were soon re-distributed amongst the fleet. Thursday developed into a windy day (top end of a Force 2?), where the more hardy students managed to make use of the weather to hone their skills for rage day, although **Sig Dave Thompson** tried to re-arrange the shape of a boom with his head. This meant that he had to assist on the committee boat for the final days racing.

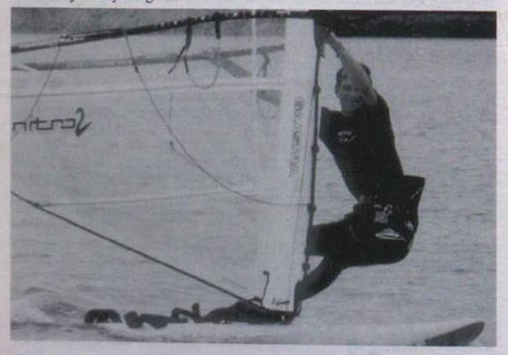
Friday arrived, and Dale had never seen anything like it before, as Toppers, Bosuns and even the windsurfers readied themselves for a whole day of racing. Miraculously, no collision occurred. The novices were looking forward to testing their new skills and eagerly watched the intermediate/advanced course busying themselves with their triangle and sausages (courses that is). The races themselves were a mixture of excitement and panic at the start line, as racers found themselves heading into wind, capsizing and even one sinking. Manoeuvring through the maelstrom and mayhem was **SSgt Ted** 'How did I get here?' **Whichelo** who managed to win the first three races outright. However, the competition soon hotted up, with **Sigs Richard Clayton, David** 'Tommo' **Thompson, Gary Polhill** and **Rob Beddows** all putting up fine performances on a day when the novices completed six races in all. The final results were:

1st place **SSgt Ted Whichelo**
2nd place **Sig James Bain**
3rd place **Sig Richard Clayton**

On behalf of all those on the novice course, we had an excellent week, both on and off the water, and the sport of sailing cannot be too highly recommended. See you all on the water!

ROYAL SIGNALS WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS
by Cpl 'H' Clarke AGC

For the first time the Royal Signals aimed to bring all three sailing disciplines together offshore, dinghy and windsurfing - to one single location at Dale, a beautiful sheltered bay in Pembrokeshire. So 9 o'clock Monday morning saw a gathering of windsurfers. But the hard-core 'professional' element were to be disappointed - there was virtually no wind. While these busied themselves putting their rigs together, tearing them apart, discussing them (all of which took three days until the wind picked up) the amateurs of the party were introduced to **SSgt Norm Finnegan**, our instructor for the Level 1/2 course. The course was held over the first two days and while in theory it all seems straightforward, the reality is anything but.



Maj Peter Bowles
Look I've invented a new way to sail!

Once we had become accustomed to the physical agony associated with learning to windsurf we were ready to race and the team event was held on Wednesday. This was the lull before the storm, before this point the winds had been very light (Force 1 - 2). So the novices were ill prepared for Thursday/Friday when the winds picked up on shore to add insult to injury causing extremely rough water, making it nigh on impossible to even stand on the board, let alone sail it!

...Em...HELP!

Of course, sheer brute determination won out and we all managed to race the course, some keeping more closely to the Race Officers instructions than others. All in all a fantastic week - tiring but satisfying. Now we're all ready to hit the Army Championships in July.

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
Sqn Comd **Maj Drinkall**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Mitchell**

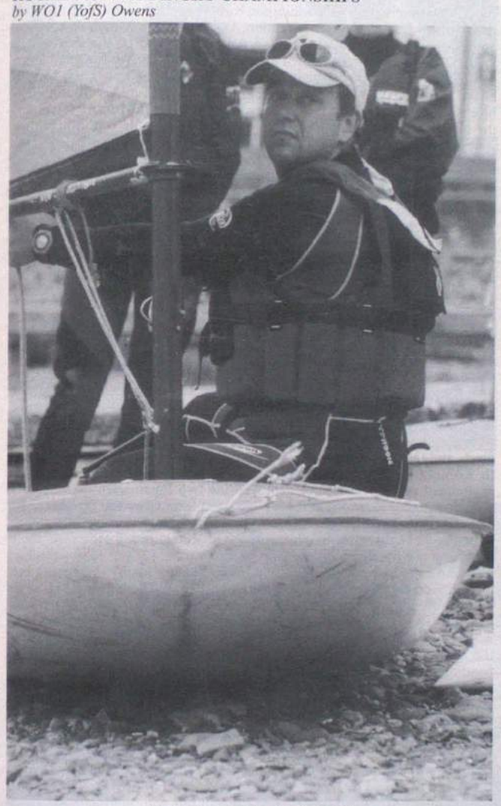
With the completion of the Squadron's first deployment to Kosovo (no doubt the first of many!!) and of course Op Peninsular deployments this has been a particularly busy period. Squadron commitments for the remainder of the year involve exercises on Salisbury Plain, Catterick, Germany, Cyprus and also providing manpower in support of 245 Sig Sqn (EW) for Ex Saif Sareea II in Oman.

It s all in a day s work!

Fond farewells go to the many who are heading for pastures new: **Capt** 'Tigger' **Coleman** to civvy street (a lawyer no doubt!), **Capt** 'Cuff man' **Waddell** to 21 Sig Regt (also best wishes on your forthcoming marriage), **WO2 (YofS) Thomas** finally off to Oman for two years (few strings pulled there then!) **SSgt Sue Jackson** to Northern Ireland, **Sgt** 'Taff' **Willumsen** to JSSU, **LCpl Hancock** to 16 Air Asslt Bde, and finally **Sig** 'Junior' **Ludditt** (after only three years decided this was not the life for him, all the best junior!). Warmest of welcomes to all the RAF who have recently been posted in, all I am sure will be a great boost to our linguistic capability. **LCpl's Rice, Burgoyne, Stedman** and **Sig Churcher** to Tango Tp, **Cpl Narey** to Victor Tp and last but not least **LCpls Russell** and **Williams** to SHQ. Best wishes go to **Cpl** 'Tommy' **Tucker** and **Sig** 'Pea size' **Parry** on their forthcoming marriage in August. Adventure training this year was organised by **Cpl** 'Tommy' **Tucker** in Anglesey. Apparently a super two days was had by all. A special thank you has to go to **LCpl** 'Disco' **Driscoll** for his entertaining display of acrobatics into the river.

With the formation of the Regimental Recruiting Team, the Squadron has been 'persuaded' to part with some of its manpower. The OC Sqn has taken on the appointment of Regimental Recruiting Officer with the Team itself being headed up by **WO2 (Supvr R) Tony Watters**. Things are progressing on schedule and the Team will be open for business in the very near future!! The length and breadth of the UK is at the Team's mercy so it won't be long before the miles start to pile up.

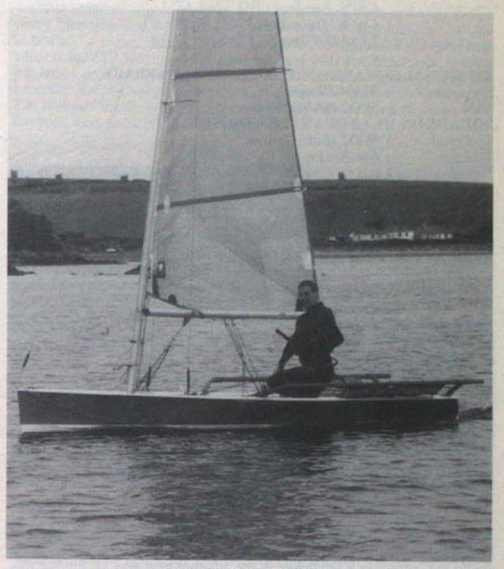
ROYAL SIGNALS DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS
by WO1 (YofS) Owens



Er, isn t something missing?

For the intermediate/advanced dinghy course, this was the culmination of Ex Mercury Sail. The previous three days had been a mixture of advanced and racing skills, including spinnaker work, asymmetric sailing skills in Laser 2000 and Laser Stratos, starts, racing courses and rounding the windward mark (or chaos corner according to **Maj Les Plumb**).

Five crews were available on a day where the wind was gusting at 29 knots (or the 'top end of a 2' according to **Cpl** 'Windy' **Gale)** and the Race Officer, **Maj (TOT) Dave Ellis** ably assisted by **Sgt Martin Kendall**, prepared himself on *Skywave* (the committee boat) to start the first race. Just before the start, **Cpl** 'Windy' **Gale** had a bit of a nightmare as his Jib gave way, and some pretty quick repairs were necessary. Meanwhile the start sequence was underway with 'starboard' being yelled across the water (who said **W02 (FofS) Alex Groves** couldn't shout?), although I think **Majs Alf Thomas** and **Jonathan Gillespie** chose to ignore him! All of a sudden the race was underway, with the usual melee at the start, the first boat around the windward mark was helmed by **WO1 (YofS) Owens** and crewed by **Pte** 'Willy' **Williams** (who should have been in the navy the way he repeated all instructions!!) and closely followed by **Cpl** 'Windy' **Gale. Maj Les Plumb** and **Sig Russ Mowatt** gave quite an impressive, if somewhat unusual demonstration of how to round the gybe mark, and their faces were a picture! Three laps of this followed, and unfortunately **Cpl** 'Windy' **Gale** had a further breakage which put the end to his race for the day. The winners of the first race were 'Taff' **Owens** and 'Willy' **Williams,** however due to the increasing wind conditions, further racing was cancelled until the following day. Friday dawned with perfect sailing conditions, not only were the advanced course on the starting line, but a further eight Toppers from the novice course. Starting all of a sudden took on a whole new perspective as the Bosun fleet weaved in and out of the Topper fleet trying not to run them down.



Maj Jonathon Gillespie
Look at me , I haven t fallen out of my boat...yet!

Notable crews on the Friday morning were **Sig Russ Mowatt/Maj Les Plumb** and **Cpl Windy Gale/Sig Katy Allen.** All the prowess that the first boat of the previous day must have blown away with the wind, and the competition was wide open, with 'Windy' and **Katy** winning both of the morning races. Lunch time came and crews were busy rectifying problems and trying to sort out skills etc. Things were now neck and neck between 'Windy'/**Katy** and 'Taff'/'Willy' and competition was tight. However, as 'Windy' approached the finish line on the 4th and final race of the day, 'Taff' managed to force him up to windward, thereby stalling him. This resulted in **Windy** getting a third place behind **Sig Russ Mowatt** and **Maj Les Plumb** in 2nd and 'Taff'/'Willy' in first. This final result meant that **WO1 (YofS)** 'Taff' **Owens** and **Pte** 'Willy' **Williams** won the event by one point! Final placings were:

1st **WO 1 (YofS)** 'Taff' **Owens/Pte** 'Willy' **Williams**
2nd **Cpl** 'Windy' **Gale/Sig Katy Allen**
3rd **Sig Russ Mowatt/Maj Les Plumb**
4th **Maj Alf Thomas/Jonathan Gillespie** and **W02 (FofS) Groves/SSgt Stu Taylor.**

The entire week proved to be a great success, not only on the water, but also off it during the social events. Everybody who took part, whether novice, advanced, wind-surfer or offshore said that they had enjoyed it and all are looking forward to participating in more events. It is expected that a further Royal Corps of Signals Sailing Event will be held in 2002 and all members of the Royal Signals are welcome, watch out for further details. Details of further training courses available can be found in the relevant DCI/JSP. Sailing is a worthwhile exhilarating sport (you try hanging off a trapeze wire of a 470 in a Force 5, or tying to keep an asymmetric Laser 2000 from capsizing, or lining up with 30 other boats on the start line) and what is more, the Army provides many opportunities for sailing. Further details can be found in Unit Training Wings. Go on try it out, you never know you may enjoy it!

ARMY INTER UNIT GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

After qualifying as regional champions of Wales, the 14 Sig Regt (EW) Army Golf Association (AGA) Golf Team competed in the Army Inter Unit Finals over the period 3-6 July 2001. This competition is played off scratch and attracts the top golfers from the Army. The first day was a pre-qualifier, 14 Sig Regt (EW) won through as one of the top eight teams in the Army with, 11 Sig Regt, AGA Centre, 8 Tpt Regt RLC, 3 (UK) ADSR, 1LI, 7 R Irish and 12 Regt RA last years Army Champions. 14 Sig Regt (EW) drew 12 Regt RA in the quarter finals, the match ended in a draw at 2-2. **LCpl Gibson** (TM Tp) had been pre-selected for the sudden death play off. After three nail biting holes 14 Sig Regt (EW) was beaten by one putt. **LCpl Gibson** played outstanding golf under intense pressure and was beaten by a ruling that went against him rather than his opponent. 7 R Irish beat 12 RA in the final. Congratulations to all the team members who competed as part of the Regiment's AGA Golf Team in the qualifiers and in the finals. Outstanding performances warrant individual congratulations to **Cpl**

Sanders who won all his matches in the qualifiers and the finals and to **LCpl Gibson** who had the best individual score on the first day and the second best individual score on the last day. The team consisted of:

WOI (FofS) A. H. Phillips - HQ Sqn Regt Ops
Sgt D. Evenden - HQ Sqn URS(T)
Cpl S. Sanders - HQ Sqn LAD
Cpl K. Dacosta -237 Sig Sqn (EW)
LCpl D. Gibson - HQ Sqn TM Tp

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
Sqn Comd **Maj Gillespie**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Watson**
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 (FofS) Amies**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Kinsey**

June was an exciting time for SHQ Tp as we embarked to Lancashire for our yearly Adventure Training. The Troop's planned adventure training trip to Bavaria was cancelled, however we were allowed to travel to the Lake District. This was the first time that the Troop was able to get together for several months due to other commitments and a good time was had by one and all. The Troop is poised ready to accept gratuitous thanks from the two EW Troops for preparing their vehicles and equipment for trips to sunnier climes (which we haven't even been invited on!). Hello to **LCpl Chris Cook** who arrived from 1 (UK) ADSR and was immediately drafted into the Regimental Football Team as a substantial reinforcement to the defence. Farewell to our erstwhile Sqn Clerk, **Pte** 'Jimmy' **Williams,** who is of to have fun with 9 Para Sqn RE. Finally a big welcome back to **LCpl Drew Connor** after his six month tour of Headley Court.

ACF CAMP – *by Sgt Archie Gemmell*

A team of five personnel from the Sqn led by **Sgt Archie Gemmell** with **Cpls Gaz Moore, Scott Rose, Dave Briscoe** and **Sig Owen Jones** descended upon Leak Training Camp to support 160 Bde for the annual Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Summer Camp. We were to make a great impact on the camp by setting up a Brigade style HQ and establishing our claim to half the camp area for our mast erecting and cam and concealment areas. With **Cpl Rose** teaching rebroadcasting and VHF communications in the blistering heat of 32 degrees the cadets soon found that sitting in a landrover in the summer heat was no fun but this was soon resolved when they got to the next stand dealing in 12 Meter mast erecting with **Cpl Gaz Moore**. During this lesson cadets found out how the safety measures they have to take when erecting 12 metre masts. Also what a long stand stood for when they were sent to visit **Cpl Dave Briscoe** and **Sig Owen Jones** at the Cam and concealment stand. Apologies go to 640 Troop for all the scratches on the landrover that we borrowed, but over 300 cadets cammed it up during the two weeks. I'm sure that all the CCF Cadets and Instructors in 160 Bde area are now competent in the use of the PRC 320 and the use of STICICS, as taught by **Sgt Archie Gemmell**, it's amazing what a 320 will tune to (lend me your glasses young man!). A big thanks goes to all the team from **Sgt Gemmell** for being highly professional in their approach to the Cadets and Staff during the two weeks of the camp.

ROMEO TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Jones**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Murray**

Another frantically busy couple of months for the Troop (I know we always say its busy, but we really mean it this time!!), more about that later though. Firstly lets get the arrivals done, after a glut of newcomers last time we only have two new bods to introduce. A big welcome to **Sgt Steve Bottomley**, coming to us from **JSSU Oakley**. **Steve's** wife (the other **Sgt Bottomley**) has also come to 226 Sig Sqn (EW) but is working on the dark side (640 Sig Tp). Returning to the Romeo Tp fold is **SSgt (Supvr R) Steve Moffet**. **Steve** comes to us from Digby and will be filling the role of Tp IntWO, a big welcome to him and his wife **Pauline**.

We must, however, bid a fond farewell to a number of Troop stalwarts. Taken from us in his prime was **SSgt (now WO2) Mark Wilson**. **Mark** has taken a quick trip over the water to work with 225 Sig Sqn. **Cpl Stu Latham** is doing crab impressions and has moved sideways to a position of immense power, that is to say he is now working in the SQMS dept. For the last few days he has been heard wandering around the garage practising the phrase, 'Sorry mate, but stores are for storing ain't they?' Adios also to **Sig** 'Johnno' **Johnson**, posted out to JCUNI with a nice new shiny tape waiting for him on arrival in the province. Best wishes 'Johnno', from all in Romeo Tp. The man at Kellogs cereals must have been in particularly good spirits this month. Not only **did Sig Johnson** come up trumps but **Sig Clive Clayton** was also on the receiving end of a promotion. Each year 14 Sig Regt (EW) hold a cadre course, the reward for top student being a much coveted first stripe. A big well done to **Sig (now LCpl) Clayton** for coming top. Now what is it that we have been so busy with for the last couple of months. Traditionally, Romeo Tp visit the Air Warfare Centre at Waddington each year. This visit coincides with the Airshow held at the same location. Due to Foot & Mouth restrictions around the country, the Waddington Airshow was to be the first of the year and as such was guaranteed to attract big crowds. We travelled up in slow time on Tuesday, no major incidents ensured that we all managed to arrive in one piece. Wednesday morning saw the DISI trades embroiled in briefs on the role of the AWC. Meanwhile **SSgt Geoff Murray** organised the non DISI's and convinced them to go for a six mile run. Sometimes it's good to be DISI....

Now for the main event of the day, the annual AWC vs Romeo Tp football match. Normally the result of this match is a foregone conclusion with the AWC coming out on top. First impressions for this year would seem to confirm this, the AWC team were parading about during the warm up in their matching tops all looking very professional. Meanwhile Romeo Tp looked like they were sponsored by Steptoe & Son. Once the whistle blew however, things started to go very wrong for the AWC. Romeo Tp stunned everyone (ourselves included) by knocking in two top class goals before halftime. These were courtesy of **Sig Dave Ward** and **SSgt Geoff Murray** (there's life in the old dog yet!). AWC had a bit of a team talk at halftime and came out fighting. The score line see-sawed like a see-saw thing. From 2-0 to 2-1, then 3-1 (the golden boot of **Sig Dave Ward** again) until AWC struck a couple of killer blows and levelled the score at 3-3. With only a minute or so of play left the honours were equal and AWC seemed happy to escape at that. However, **Sig Dave Ward** (you know what's coming don't you) had other ideas. A blistering run down route one saw him cutting through the AWC defence like they weren't there and burying the ball in the back of the net. AWC hung their heads and the crowd went wild (both of them). A resounding 4-3 victory to Romeo Tp, lets see if we can do it again next year. After the excitement of Wednesday we deployed the two Pinemarten detachments to their exercise locations at RAF Digby and RAF Cranwell on Thursday. The Pinemarten crews were able to conduct some very useful training over the next three days while the NCC detachment practised their analytical and command roles.

We seem to be blowing the Troop trumpet rather loudly this month but to be honest there has been a great deal going on. The letters RSIT have often caused brave men to blanch and many a knee to tremble. Such was the case when it was announced that the Royal Signals Inspection Team was to pay their annual visit to 14 Sig Regt (EW). The weeks preceding the inspection saw all members of the Troop pitching in and lending a hand to get the chosen detachments up to scratch. Everyone's hard work seems to have been rewarded by the results of the RSIT which made very pleasing reading. Another event fast approaching is Ex Saif Sareea II. This very large scale exercise is being held in Oman starting around the beginning of September and going on for about two months. It has mainly been 245 Sig Sqn (EW) heading up the deployment, however a request was made for Non Comms ELINT support and a Jamming capability which only 226 Sig Sqn (EW) are able to provide. As anyone who is involved with Ex Saif Sareea II will tell you, getting ready for a desert trip is a long process. This coupled with the RSIT inspection and Waddington trip has made for an interesting (if frantic) time.

16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col A. Morphet**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) N. Fisher**

The last couple of months have seen a great deal of activity around Krefeld Lines as the Regiment took the opportunity to exploit a gap in the exercise programme to catch up on more domestic items.

Ex Green Gambit, the Regimental Battle Camp, took place in June at Volgelsang Training Area and proved to be a popular and rewarding experience for all. The Belgium run range complex in the Ardennes region of Germany offered plenty of scope to both sharpen existing skills and develop new ones.

The FIBUA range in particular gave a number of the younger personnel a first glimpse into operating in this type of environment and a busy and persistent enemy provided plenty of realism. Other activities in the programme included firing the GPMG, the Tank Roll Over and the Tank Killing Range, which gave the students an opportunity to throw some petrol bombs, an activity that appealed to the more destructive. Of course no battle camp would be complete without the traditional assault course competition and this one was no different. The sections were put through their paces through the notorious Volgelsang obstacle course which proved challenging to say the least.

The final address was given at this stand just after the students witnessed the DS team launch their effort around the course, to the encouragement of all, of course. July also saw a number of high profile visits that included the CinC Land, the Bishop to the Armed Forces and the Mayor of Leicester.

The Bishop to the Forces
offers SSM Rob Hood of 230 Sqn some spiritual guidance

Sgt Hempstead of H Troop gives the CinC, Gen Jackson an insight into fibre optics

Members of the successful Regimental Swimming Squad display some of the silverware

There was the usual bout of activity on the sports and worth particular comment was the achievements of the Regimental Swimming Squad who, for the second year running, enjoyed a great deal of success. In the BA(G) Finals at Hohne the men won the Major Unit Swimming competition with notable performances by **Sigs Ayres** and **Peart,** they were also runners-up in the water polo final. In the ladies swimming competition strong performances by **Lcpl Thornton** and **Sigs Gros** and **Parsons** saw the team finish as runners-up. Both teams then returned to Aldershot for the Army Championships.

The competition in UK was particularly strong this year with the RMAS the dominant factor in both the male and female swimming competitions. Stirling performances from all the girls and, in particular **LCpl Beveridge** and **Sig Parsons**, saw them finish a creditable fourth of the eight teams competing. The men's water polo team made the final and was a close second to the strong SEAE Team from Bordon. The icing on the cake was the selection of **Cpl Barr, LCpl Thornton** and **Sigs Peart** and **Parsons** for the army squad. An excellent season and richly deserved for all the hard work and effort put in during training.

Other external successes have included a respectable showing at this year's Morrison Cup, semi-finalists in the BA(G) Rugby League Cup and in boxing, a recent win against the Support Battalion ARRC (see next edition for full story). On the domestic front, the Leicester Trophy Athletics produced some excellent results as did final event in the Leicester Trophy sports competition the obstacle course/ forced march. The honours for the overall Leicester Trophy Competition that runs over the year, went to SCPR Troop 252 Squadron.

WSig Howie of SCP(R) collects the Leicester Trophy
from the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Cllr John Allen

The Regiment goes into suspended animation for several weeks(with the exception of course of 252 Sqn as they correctly point out in their *WIRE* notes) in August and re-charges its batteries for what will be a testing time to come. The bulk of 230 Squadron plus other elements disappear off to the Oman on Ex Saif Seria until November whilst the remainder channel their energies towards the ARRC exercises this coming September and of course the imminent move to Bruggen in early 2002.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj A. J. G. Richards**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. Baird**

HQ Squadron the Supporting element within the Regiment have been working hard and buzzing as the summer comes to an end, whether fixing vehicles in the LAD with **Capt Reynolds** and **WO1 (ASM)** 'Stu' **Simpson** leading, or bending back all the bust Communication kit in TM Troop under the guidance of **WO1 (FofS) Lewendon**, then we have the always Strapped QM's Department with **Maj Scotty Handibode** and **Capt Paul Horton** ably assisted by **WO2 (RQMS(A)) Mark Giles** and **WO2 (RQMS(T)) Coleman**, having to find and issue the new equipment when they can't be fixed. How do we get anywhere? The MT run by 'I live for rugby' **WO2 (MTWO)** 'The Mayor Of Leicester gave me my

Warrant' **Stewart,** of course they are worked off their feet as **Sgt Andy Hayler** is in The Trg Wing. All these Support Elements have been working to max and I'm sure all the Field Squadrons appreciate them.

GOODBYES AND HELLO'S

Firstly we say a fond farewell to **Maj Bob Taylor** posted to QM's in 7 Sig Regt, thank you for all the work you did as OC Sqn, and bye to **WO2 (RQMS(A)) Giles** off to train some Cadets somewhere. Hello to **WO2 (SSM)** 'Angry' **Mick Angrove** posted in as Training Wing SSM, and hi to our new SSM soon to be **WO2 (SSM)** 'I love SCPR' **Leigh** Crossing, for a note our present SSM is going to be RQMS(A).

230 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj I. Lawrence**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. Hood**

TRUNK NODE 015

Tp Comd **Lt R. Knightly Brown**
Tp SSgt **SSgt J. McNeill**

Farewells go out to **LCpl Gav Denham** who is going to be the brigadier's driver (slave) and congratulations on his promotion. Welcomes to **Sigs Wood** and **Scott**, we hope it isn't too much of an ordeal coming straight from Blandford.

EXERCISE WHITE JAVLIN – *by Sig Irwin*

Congratulations on a successful exercise that wasn't without its hiccups. However, every thing went well, and valuable training was gained in preparation for Ex Saif Sareea 2 when the Squadron will deploy to Oman. Special thanks will go out to **Cpl** 'Jump Out Of Any Moving Vehicle' **Hall** for not injuring himself and lasting the full exercise. It is hoped that it provided a small taste of what it is like to work in the heat ready for Oman, however not nearly as hot! I would like to add that **Lt Knightly Brown** would have loved to have been there, however she was torn away to do much needed training in the sun, no not military but that of the water variety and plenty of sunning.

LEICESTER TROPHY ATHLETICS

The Troop also did very well in this year's athletics, despite the lack of personnel in the Troop who was able to compete in the competition, so a big thank-you to all involved. Especially **Sig** 'Massive' **Baron** and his huge throw from the javelin of two meters, which was certainly enough to launch the troop in to sixth place in the competition. The heroic effort from **LCpl Merrick**, who gained three stone from the water jump to take him up to seven stone good effort. The speed merchants who came third in the 100m relay were **Sigs Baron, Irwin, Doherty** and also **LCpl Willie Filson** so congratulations to all those involved. Finally a big thank-you goes to **Lord Bedford** for yet another well organised Squadron function, which was highly successful and enjoyed by every one. Especially some of the women who experienced the mechanical bull for the first time in their lives, I'm sure it won't be their last.

EXERCISE COMBINED ENDEAVOUR

Exercise Combined Endeavour is a joint interoperability exercise run in the spirit of Partnership for Peace. 1 Sig Bde took representatives from 7 and 16 Sig Regts to enjoy the hospitality of the Americans. This was an opportunity for us to test our civilian switches, Promina and HiCom with other nations. The evenings were spent improving the Human Interoperability side of things with barbeques, trips down the Rhine and theme nights. **Cpl Birkbeck** was awarded the 'coin' for most valued member of the delegation. Other valuable members of the tea, included **WO2 (F of S)** 'American Liason' **Edge**, **Sgt** 'BBQ King' **Spruce** and **Cpl** 'Admin' **Tait**. The exercise was a success communications wise and also socially, definitely recommended to anyone who is available next year. The highlight could be running with the US marines at 0500….and beating them!

TRUNK NODE 016

Tp Comd **Lt Sarah Pittaway**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Russ Shield**

This has been a busy couple of months for the Troop as we have been involved all sorts of exciting things such as Regimental Battle Camp (Ex Green Gambit) the Morrison Cup athletics and a plethora of other inordinately pleasurable events. Since we have been able to deploy on exercise now that it has been confirmed that none of us have foot and mouth disease we have been out and about. Ex Green Gambit and Ex White Javelin were separated by only one week, which was just long enough our kit and vehicles turned around. Ex White Javelin saw us preparing for Ex SSII, as temperatures soared. Despite the heat, ticks and **SSgt** 'Boss Hog' **Shield's** rancid cigar smoke we managed to communicate and hold the Squadron's comms together. Congratulations go to **SSgt** and **Mrs Shield** for the birth of their third child. Welcome too to **Sig Matthews** who joins us from the factory at Blandford, we have sent him off to SCRA Troop to deploy on SSII. Looking forward we have a boxing night, assault course competition and families day before taking leave prior to our deployment to Oman in September. We will clearly continue to be busy which is how we like it!

TRUNK NODE 017 - *by LCpl Kneale*

Tp Comd **2Lt L. Clark**
Tp SSgt **SSgt A. Lewis**

The past two months has seen a whole host of changes for the newly formed Trunk Node 017. Previously Support Tp, we were set the unenviable task of forming an effective Trunk Node in limited time with limited resources for Ex Saif Sareea II. Whether this has been achieved remains to be seen, but at the moment we are quietly confident (?). The first two weeks of June saw The Regiment deploying to Vogelsang for our Regimental battlecamp. After a couple of weeks in camp, we were back out again for Ex White Javelin to face a week in the blistering heat, trying to get comms. Not a great distance to travel, for the newly formed TN 017, in fact just a ten-minute drive to Ayrshire Barracks. For the next couple of days much to our delight and to that of the local takeaways courtesy of **Sig** 'Clutch' **McCulloch** we stayed put, while the rest of the trunk nodes moved locations. We knew it had to come eventually and on Thursday, with a slight detour around Germany we arrived at the disused Bracht Fire station, thanks to **SSgt** 'DAD' **Lewis's** excellent map reading skills. Quite what the holiday-makers in the adjoining campsite made of us we don't know but at least the roller bladers gave the guard something to look at. Finally, Endex arrived on the Friday and the Wall and Willow was opened for the Squadron's entertainment. Next stop the place that all of the 'Gingers' (**Sig Harris, Cpl Callander**) have been fearing, Oman. The list of hello's for Trunk Node 017 is quite lengthy due to most of the Troop coming from 255 Sqn. The only goodbye is for **Sig Maskell** who leaves on promotion to 7 Bde after a whopping three weeks with the Troop.

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Brian Jeffery**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Dean Royle**

Radio Tp has just been formed from members of 255 Sig Sqn, 16 Sig Regt and 231 Sig Sqn, 7 Sig Regt for the deployment to Ex Saif Sareea 2 in September under 230 Sig Sqn (+). The Troop will be supplying HF communications initially on the MSR for the move of assets for the exercise. During June the Troop began the first part of its training in the revision and practise of the use of Kipling, a two-day package took place was put together and taught by **LCpl Jock Mee**. The following week was a training week prior to Ex White Javelin, the first (and last) chance to work on exercise as a troop prior to deployment. The week included a PACEX around the JHQ area and testing of the equipment to FMS Bampton in the UK. The Troop also had the delights of trying to learn some basic Arabic from **Sgt Rob Kirk**, who also had the far more difficult task of trying to teach it. Fortunately **Sig Lightly** has just completed his Arabic course so at least there will be somebody in the Troop who can speak the language by the time we deploy! On Sunday 1 July the Troop deployed on Ex White Javelin; the exercise was based around the local area and kind permission was given to use real estate in Sennelager, Hohne and Herford. RADEX Troop provided assistance in testing our communications to an exercise that they were running in Cornwall. The exercise was a great chance to let the new troop prove that HF communications are far better than trunk! But it was tiring being the only troop to maintain communications all week. Problems did arise though when **Sig Wilkie** realised that the view of a couple in the woods behind his detachment was far more interesting than the exercise. **Cpl Osmond** and **Sig Jamie Buyers** decided to test the LAD when a trailer tyre blew up on the route 61, making their trip to Hohne last even longer. All in all the exercise was a good chance to practise the skills and drills of the Troop and respective detachments - Next stop Oman.

EXERCISE GREEN GAMBIT 2001 - *by Cpl Ruckledge*

Ex Green Gambit this year was at the Vogelsang training camp on the Belgian border and was a run through of the defence of a comms site. 252 Sqn were tasked with playing the role of bad guys (enemy), and were commanded by **2Lt** 'Baby Face' **Swift** and the infantry hero **SSM Baird.**

The first two days were taken up with revision of basic infantry skills, which included occupying a harbour area, observation positions and patrolling. The next four days were used to put the skills into practice by disrupting the friendly forces in their task of setting up and maintaining a communications site. Even though confronted by a vastly numerically superior force the 'bad guys' caused significant disruption to the 'good guys' and successfully evaded capture (with a few notable exceptions) until the final day, when in a brilliant tactical move the CO ordered them to surrender. Then followed the usual humiliation handed out to captured personnel. The tactics of sandbags and zip ties, along with mental abuse handed out during the interrogation procedure (ever heard of the Geneva convention?) proved unsuccessful, as even **Sgt Nick Campbell** remained closed mouthed and the 'good guys' gained no useful information through their 'torture tactics'.

Who needs MILAN?
A member of one of the Sections on the tank killing range with his trusty cocktail

The exercise was rounded up with a chance to shoot things, set fire to things and blow things up, where they took part in a GPMG range and even got run over by a tank, this was an enjoyable way of rounding up a successful exercise. The evening of the last day was enjoyed by all as many senior ranks were made fun of in performances carried out by the four troops. These included a 'Blind Date' sketch and a 'Jim'll Fix It' sketch where the RSM was presented with a Jim'll Fix It' badge, which was well received as he was rejected three times as a child (by Jimmy Saville that is). Some of the baddest members of the enemy included **Sig Dave** 'I'm injured' **Dean, Sig Sarah** 'God I'm indispensable' **Howie, LCpl Al** 'Unflappable' **Berry, LCpl Wayne** 'No Pain' **Addison** and **Sig Danni** 'Having A Blonde Day' **Foster**. As a footnote it should be noted that the most notable attack from the 'bad guys' was a suicidal attack on a FIBUA village where a number of casualties were sustained, mainly due to the 'inspired' leadership of **2Lt** 'Friendly Fire' **Swift**. A tip for the future, remember where those persons giving covering fire are located, it is useful in any given combat situation.

2Lt Laura Clark about to be run over by a 50 ton Leopard

255 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Capt Kevin Barker**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Al Ironside**

The Squadron has bid a hearty and sad goodbye to the OC, **Maj Tony Burgin**, who leaves us to travel 'up the road' to join G6 UKSC(G) having handed over to the new OC, **Capt Kevin Barker**. All of us at 255 wish **Maj Burgin, Cathy, Gemma** and **Daniel** all the very best for the future. As you have now left I am sure you will be glad to know that the Yeoman has now ceased to be censored however you can be reassured that no mention of 'Winnie the Pooh' or 'Anton'will be made (oops). On behalf of all the members of 255 Sqn we would like to wish you the very best for the future for both you and the **Burgin** clan and to thank you for steering the Squadron so well. Also moving is **WO2 (FofS) Matt** 'My Diagrams g In The Tait' **Duff**. Again a big thank you and goodbye to **Matt, Emma and Sam** who are escaping to Cheltenham. Moving across to take his place is **SSgt (FofS) Campbell** who has transferred over from SCP(R). Thank you to **Matt** for all you've done for the Sqn and for your influence in the sale of Visio and other assorted software packages. The Foreman has been an invaluable asset to ARRC MAIN deployments not least because he often doubles up as the Tropo det on account of his ears. Also departing SHQ is **SSgt Rocky Hudson** who has swapped with **SSgt Jayne Lawrence** from 252 Sig Sqn (hello). Again, a big goodbye to **Rocky** and thanks for all your support over the last four years. The Squadron has gone through some other big changes with our numbers swelling considerably as everyone rushes to be 255 Sig Sqn! We have now taken on all CIS responsibilities for all ARRC sites on deployment as CIS Tp transfers from 252 Sig Sqn. Hot-footing it behind them came Bruggen Tp (formerly H Tp) as they also became part of the ever-increasing gang which now stands at a little short of 200 members. For all the new faces a big welcome to 255 Sig Sqn. The Squadron can face a bright and interesting future which see us not only growing but taking on a greater number and more varied roles.

MAN TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Brian Jeffery**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Fred Fensom**

Hello to **LCpl Phillips** joining the Troop from 7 Sig Regt and **Sig Green** straight from the factory, a sad farewell goes to **Cpl Kev Parkes** as he leaves to re-badge to the AGC. **Kev** will be sadly missed within the Troop and we all wish **Kev, Vicky and family** all the best for the future. Congratulations to **Sig Douglas** on his recent marriage to **Louise**, they are now awaiting the birth a child later this year. Congratulations also go to **Sig Ashley Beardsley** on getting married and to **2Lt Brian Jeffery** on his recent engagement. It is an end to an era for MAN Tp as we have now passed the commitment for ARRC main back to 7 Sig Regt, to enjoy the role of Rear Support Command (RSC) instead. The last few weeks have been involved in the build up to Ex Saif Sareea in the Oman that many members of the Troop will be deployed on. In the sporting side **Sig Julie Steele** has recently just returned from boxing in Herford. After a very close match Julie just lost to her opponent but our praise goes out to her for putting in a top effort with the assistance of her coaches **WO2 (QMSI)** 'Sideshow Bob' **Price, Sgt Rob Kirk** and **Cpl** 'Goerdie' **Appleby**. Although the thought of exercise isn't always the most appealing a few members of MAN troop are resorting to some desperate measures. In the duration of one week **LCpl Steve Carroll** broke his ankle and underwent major surgery, **LCpl Evo Boothby** broke his arm and **Sig Jamie Buyers** has also been under the knife after breaking his hand. The sad fact is **LCpl Carroll** and **Sig Buyers** were playing football for the recently founded Stella 'well-hard' football team. This has now been re-named the shandy 'Well-soft' football team.

BRUGGEN TROOP

Tp OC **Lt Lee Rickman** (New boy in the chair)
Tp SSgt **SSgt Gaz Tinsley** (Old man of the Troop)

LIFE AT BRUGGEN

Well for the third time in two years H Troop or Bruggen Troops as we are now known have been transferred, in a deal worth millions the Crazy Gang are now on the books of 255 Sig Sqn. We are starting to feel like the 'Stan Colymores' of the Regt. Hopefully this will be our last port of call prior to the Troop demise in March 2003. In addition to our normal work at RAF Bruggen the Troop is also in line for some small tasks in the more exotic countries such as Oman, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Norway and Ascension. There is always the call for more Mechs in the Balkans this is met by the intrepid crews that flit back and forth under the watchful eye of **SSgt Bing Crosby**.

HELLO'S

Lt Rickman, Sig Smart, Sig Ferris, Sig Hanlon, Sig Hansen and Wife

GOODBYES

Capt Stonier (OC leaving for 2 Sig Regt, York - Best wishes from the lads and lasses for the future.
Cpl Lewis (Back to the LAD), **Cpl Shaw** (North bound to Herford), **Sig Grebby** (Now a Mister).

CIS TROOP

THE METAMORPHISIS OF CIS TROOP

It has been a busy time for the Troop. No sooner than we had transferred to 255 Sig Sqn were also joined by assorted members of 7 Sig Regt. A big welcome to all those who have made the move. With this amalgamation came the added responsibility of building and manning another headquarters and the Tp is now responsible for undertaking all deployable IS tasks for HQ 1 Sig Bde. It was therefore with some sadness (and with little ceremony) that the former Borneo (CIS) Tp was split into two parts with the IS element transferring into 255 Sig Sqn on 30 Apr as CIS Tp, whilst Commcen BFG and ADA Rheindahlen retain their slippers, reformed under control of SHQ 252 Sig Sqn. There is always the danger that a Troop that is made up of unrelated elements including Commcen, Crypto and IS will become fragmented, however Borneo Tp has maintained a cohesion and unity that has done it proud. There will be a function shortly to mark the occasion.

SAN TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt** 'Admin Is A Place In China ' **Lyons**
Tp Sgt **Sgt** 'Through A Straw' **Green**

The Troop has been busy with the usual det maintainance, but just to keep us happy our new arrival from 1 ADSR **Sig Andy Duncan** (welcome to the Squadron) put on a fine display of emergency stiching for the RSM's parade. We must say goodbye to **Sig** 'Mad' **Chris Stewart** who has gone to civ div and also **LCpl** 'Biff' **Fisher** who has gone to be trained in the dark side of the force at 11 Sig Regt and is retrading to tech.

EXERCISE BAVARIAN BACKSTOP

Ex Bavarian Backstop was a 255 Sig Sqn adventure training exercise held (surprisingly) in Bavaria. The Exercise allowed 40 members of the Squadron to take part in either trekking, rock climbing or kayaking, with all those who went trekking coming away with their Summer Mountain Proficiency qualification. The area around Kranzegg provided us with some excellent walks, although not everyone agreed that the views from the top of the mountains compensated for the effort put in to get there! **LCpl** 'Fred' **West** didn't understand why we couldn't go up in the cable car and then walk down! **2Lt Brian Jeffery** certainly found his 1-Day visit to the ex very tiring and took every opportunity to stop for a breather! The kayakers enjoyed the calm of the Alpsee before progressing onto moving water, including the weir and rapids at Marienbrucke. **LCpl** 'Mac' **MacDonald** particularly enjoyed his experience of the rapids as he emerged from the water (after much pulling on the safety line by **Sig Michelle Jelfs**!) minus his kayak and paddle! The nearby towns provided excellent venues for sampling the local beer and the Karting Bahn at Fischen gave the budding formula one drivers a chance to shine! The fastest lap of the evening went to **WO2 (FofS) Matt Duff**, although the competition was tough! The greatest achievement of the evening was not getting thrown off the premises as numerous karts attempted to destroy the circuit and each other! Overall the ex was a great success and a lot of fun was had by all, with the added bonus of some of the soldiers gaining qualifications as a result of the hard work they put in and their enthusiasm.

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj G. Pickersgill**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Hannah**

The Squadron has changed significantly over the last three months, losing all its deployable assets amounting to around half the Squadrons previous size. These have been shifted in their entirety over to 255 Sig Sqn which should give them something to do for a change. The Squadron

now has 150 personnel, which should give the OC even more time to improve his golf handicap. We are still without a shadow of a doubt the hardest working Squadron in the Regiment – 24hr manning in the COMMCENS and SCP(R), as an example whilst the field Squadrons disappear on block leave! That said we have still managed to release people on a regular basis to go away for sport, adventurous training activities and even more 'fun' military training. For a squadron, which is so far flung, these activities are a vital part of our lives, which keep the spirits high and the will to win at the front of our minds. This ethos cannot be better demonstrated by SCP(R), winners, for the third year, of the Leicester Trophy. SCP(R) once again showed a determination and pride in the face of public opinion, 'They are only shift workers', to take a highly deserved victory by 16 points. Congratulations to all in the Troop and especially to **SSgt Leigh Crossing** who leaves us as a Leicester Trophy Champion on promotion to become SSM HQ Coy

EXERCISE BOSUN BACKSTOP
SAILING AROUND DENMARK

After a six-hour journey from JHQ to Kiel, the crew moved into temporary accommodation for the night before the boat was taken over the following morning. Whilst **Capt Bates** was taking over the boat , we were given the task of buying the fresh rations required for the first part of the journey. This and the loading of all our kit took some time, so we did not really get settled in the boat until about 11 o'clock. We were then shown various parts of the vessel including the odd names given to parts of the sails, ropes, navigation equipment etc. After a safety brief and lunch we departed Kiel at around 1300hrs towards our destination, Eckenforde, just up the road from Kiel. A good deal of time was spent getting used to the basics, including steering, changing sails, tacking and gibing, and the rules involved in sailing. During the journey the winds picked up significantly which caused a few worried faces. Oh dear, so this is what sailing is all about. With winds gusting up to 40 knots and heavy seas rolling the boat from the outset, we had to rig the storm jib and did not even raise the main sail because of the arriving storm. As the wind was behind us, the boat rolled with the high waves in a way that made everybody instantly feel ill. This was the sign of things to come, and the main sail was reefed in so we could control the boat a little better. We eventually arrived at Eckenforde at 1700hrs and spent some time preparing the boat whilst mother-watch prepared sumptuous spaghetti bolognaise. The second day's destination, Marstal in Denmark, was some 30 miles away so we were trying to prepare ourselves for a long journey. Unfortunately it was not long before **Leon** 'Chunks' **Crayton** was sick, and this made the rest of us feel even worse. It was all we could do to stop ourselves being ill, so we were kept busy by trying to control and maintain the boat in the rough seas. Eventually, we arrived at Marstal at 1900hrs and began to get the colour back in our faces.

Initially, our next destination was to be Faaborg to the North West of Marstal on the mainland. After negotiating some very slender deep-water routes we came out into open water and were able to raise both the mainsail and foresail as the weather was calmer than the previous day. However, the wind had shifted considerable and we found ourselves heading straight into wind and therefore had to keep tacking to head for Faaborg. After some hours of this, **Capt Bates** realised that it would be unrealistic to achieve Faaborg that day, so we altered course for Svenborg to the Northeast. Sailing with the wind made the yacht travel quickly, achieving speeds of up to 8 knots. We arrived at Svenborg at 1800hrs and immediately began preparing the curry that was eventually gobbled up by the hungry crew. Svenborg proved to be a beautiful town with many friendly people. As some of the crew were avid fisherman they wanted to try out their fishing skills in the harbour, and were given a few hours to try and catch dinner. It was to our surprise that they returned with four good sized fish that made their way to the diner table later that evening. **Capt Bates** took the crew out for the remainder of the day teaching safety drills like man-overboard and dropping anchor. As the weather was fairly calm we set full sail and practised tacking and gibing, as well as some of the crew being raised in the bosun's chair over the side of the boat. We returned to Svenborg later that evening and cooked our fish (and also plenty of pizza).

We set off from Svenborg at around 1030hrs the next day, towards Rudkobing, a small fishing town to the South East of Svenborg. As much of the sea around Rudkobing is very shallow, we had to pilot the boat through narrow deep-water channels in order to approach the town. A fine day weather wise meant that we all finished the day with red sea-dog faces. I was given the chance to go up the mast in the boson's chair in order to take crew photo. It proved to be higher up than I expected. Saturday night in Rudkobing was an interesting affair. Of the three bars in the town, everybody seemed to congregate in the one place, and we ended up playing an impromptu pool tournament.

We began the last and longest leg of the journey back towards Kiel. Unfortunately the wind was directly against us that meant we either had to tack all the way back or motor for much of the way and hope that the wind swung around a little in order to get some power out of the sails. **Capt Bates** was a little worried about the time factor and decided to motor much of the way. The weather was more forgiving than the outbound journey but we weren't willing to take any risks this time and the whole crew kept popping sea sickness tablets just in case. We were able to make some sail power for part of the journey, and returned to Kiel at around 1930 hrs, just when another four boats from other courses were returning. **Capt Bates** looked a little flustered as everyone was watching him try to reverse the boat into the narrow berthing space. Once the boat was tidied up ready for handover the next day we all went out and had a meal. All in all, the expedition was great fun, and everyone gained something from it. Although the seasickness experience will stick in everyone's mind, we enjoyed six day's sailing around the waters of Denmark and discovered that the Danish people were very friendly and welcoming to a boat full of British squaddies.

RSSST(G)
OC **WO1 (FofS) Briers**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Holloway**

EXERCISE TEAM EDIFICE

Ex Team Edifice was a Royal Signals System Support Team (Germany) adventurous training exercise that took place in Mayhofen, Austria over the period 14-21 April 2001 and was based on alpine skiing. **Sgt** 'Cozzy' **Costello** organised the event, his initial brief to all the participants was that all they needed was a passport and some 'non-ribbed' socks. The team invited **Capt** (Tfc) 'Rollover' **Roden**, **Capt** (TOT) 'Sleepy' **Steven** and **WO2 (SSM)** 'Port Monkey' **Hannah**. Day one was a 0600hrs meet in camp. We then gleefully set off to Austria, via **Sgt** 'Cozzy' **Costellos'** house so that he could collect his forgotten passport and ribbed socks (first fine of the week). On arriving at Mayrhofen, the group was met by the sight of over two metres of snow, on the Penken mountain. An absolute blessing especially in the last week of the ski season. The warm up on the slopes in the first morning ensured all the skiing participants had regained their 'ski legs', while **Sgt** 'Demon' **Dix** discovered that snowplough turns are rarely carved, they are more usually ploughed. After lunch **Sgt** 'Al' **Costello**, set **Sgt** 'Dixie' **Dix** to work, ploughing the green 'nursery' slope while he led the skiers to the infamous red number 7 ski-route. This route was to earn the name 'manic molly's mighty mogul mountain' as the skiers quickly learned that horrible cruddy wet snow on this, off- piste route, defied all attempts to ski parallel. Confidence shattered we rejoined 'Dixie' on the Nursery slope.

Wednesday saw the team on Snow Blades, these extremely small skis seem very awkward initially but can be mastered within 20 minutes. For the whole day the team, irrespective of skiing standard, skied together and completed all the slopes. Blades are great fun and everyone should try them. You can even chill out on the slopes with the snowboarders! The exercise participants rapidly discovered that **SSgt Steve Holloway** likes to tell everyone 'I'm not being funny, right' before his next sentence. However, his comical postures on the slopes and antics during the Après-Ski events, severely disproved this figure of speech. Thus **SSgt** 'Charlie Chester' **Holloway** made an outstanding contribution to the week by being nominated, every evening, for dick of the day! **WO2 (FofS)** 'Sooty' **Edge** made a notable contribution by ensuring we could always see the other group (day and night) due to his yellow banana skin ski suit.

Day Three saw the Team trying some jumps. **WO1 (FofS)** 'My Wrist Hurts' **Briers** set the standard by attempting a jump and landing on his head yards away from his skis. After this the group decided to remodel the jumps, to great effect. **WO1 (FofS) Briers, WO2 (SSM)** 'Port Monkey' **Hannah** and **SSgt** 'Norman' **Carter** started a 'buzz the snowboarder' competition, which proved very challenging. **FofS Briers** being the winner with a total of eight! The Team was sorry to lose **Capt (Tfc)** 'Rollover' **Roden** when he decided to ditch his skis and dive off the black slope breaking his collarbone. The fact that **Capt Roden** was extracted by piste machine caused an element of jealousy as **SSgt** 'Charlie Chester' **Holloway** had wanted a ride on it, all week. The week proved a great success with all participants showing considerable improvements in their skiing. **Sgt** 'Demon' **Dix** was a complete novice on day one and by day 6 was skiing well - winning the face planting competition. The Snow conditions were excellent and Mayhofen is recommended to all.

SINGAPORE BACKSTOP – *by Sig Mel Gros*

Bavaria 'the hills of death' is where we started, a lone band of adventures set on a journey of discovery. Led by the enigmatic **SSM** 'Rick' **Hannah** and the amateur bodybuilder **SSgt** 'Leigh' **Crossing**, also known as 'Foggy'. The party was made up of two sections. In the first section, led by **SSgt Crossing** was, **Sgt**'Steve'**Colbeck** who has a similar resemblance to Mr Burns of the Simpsons, **Cpl Gav** 'Random' **Ruckledge, Cpl Dan** 'Mad Welsh Man' **Peake, Cpl** 'V' **Gough, Sig** 'Geri' **Halliwell** and myself. The second section was led by **SSM Hannah**, this included **Cpl** 'Adam' **Dixon, Cpl Mick** 'Leather Head' **Durrant, Sig** 'BM' **Dean, Sig** 'Jay' **Jennings** and **Sig** 'Eminem' **McKella**.

We arrived at the Drei Muhlen Lodge in Wertach at approximately 15:15 after an 8-hour long drive, it was like a ghost town, the accommodation was excellent but we had to run round the showers to get wet! The first three days consisted of hill walking, (why walk up a mountain when you just come back down the other side). The hills were steep and the mosquitoes were mad for our blood but we didn't give up. And kept a smile on our faces for the duration. We all took turns map reading, how could we ever forget to orientate our maps to the ground? **SSgt Crossing** kept reminding us! But even he got confused with a bit of map theory, he went fifty-fifty and got the wrong answer all he had to say was 'listen to me I am a map reading instructor I should know'. Throughout our stay there were a lot of memorable moments such as the raging rapids that everyone hated as we capsized, everyone was gasping for air, as it was so cold.

The one thing we will all remember is, 'the slide of pain'. We set off on a two-day hill walk, and stopped at a nearby car park for a break near

a Toboggan ride, which a number of us decided to have a go at. **Sgt Collbeck, Cpl Durrant** and **Cpl Peake**, went up the slide first closely followed by **Sig Halliwell** and myself who got in a Toboggan together. We knew we would pick up speed so we allowed a distance to open up before we set off. As we descended we approached a blind corner, where unknown to us a build up had occurred due to slower people on the course. Among this build up were **Sgt Colbeck** and **Cpl Peake**. We came around the corner and went straight into the back of **Cpl Peake's** Toboggan, who's toboggan then went up **Sgt Colbeck's** back leaving him with a nasty case of friction burns all up his rear (ouch!) This is going to hurt he thought, he wasn't wrong. But these weren't the only people up to no good, **Cpl Ruckledge** bought a hat and walking stick (of pain) he called them, after purchasing them later that day went back, and exchanged his hat for a dry one as his feather got wet. This exercise was very much enjoyable and we took away from it what we put into it, even though we had a few near death experiences. At the end of the day everyone learned a great deal and received their mountain proficiency certificate. To this end we owe a lot of thanks to the organiser **SSgt Crossing**, and to **SSM Hannah**. Without these the exercise would not have been possible.

21 SIGNAL REGIMENT (AIR SUPPORT)

CO **Lt Col I. Hooper**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Rook**

Over the last few months RHQ has virtually had a complete changeover of its team. In particular a welcome to the new CO, **Lt Col Hooper** and **WO1 (RSM) Rook** and farewell to **Lt Col Gillespie** and **WO1 Jenkins**. On the Regimental Admin Office front new arrivals **Capt Barker** RAO, **Sgt Stainton, Sgt Lancaster** and **LCpl Cross**. Farewells go to **Capt Godden, Sgt Fuller** and **Cpl Bailey** on his promotion to Sergeant.

A SAD FARWELL TO THE CO AND RSM

On Friday 13 July 2001 it was time to bid farewell to the CO, **Lt Col Gillespie** and **WO1 (RSM) Jenkins** from the Regiment. The send off was in the form of a TAB as opposed to a formal parade. The Regiment set off at the double complete with rucksacks, arriving after a short arduous distance to where a table had been laid out with a few bottles of champagne. The CO joined by the most junior in each rank made a toast to the Regiment and from this point we set off again back into the run. After completing a further two circuits of the 4x4 driver training area the welcome sound of a Chinook was heard over head. This was the next phase of the send off. The Regiment lined the Tarmac and waved goodbye to the CO and RSM as the Chinook took to the sky with the CO and RSM both sat hanging on for grim death on the tailgate. On return the CO and RSM both remarked that that was the Heli ride of their lives At this stage they thought it was all over, but what they didn't know was that the Regiment had now formed up again and were waiting for them both to drive past in a go-kart and helicopter that had been made by our REME boys. The RSM sat in the go-kart with the CO at the controls of the Helicopter. They set off with the RSM towing the CO along the road, both of them looking a little bewildered in the direction of the Officers' Mess followed by a huge cheer from the Regiment. The CO and RSM will both be sadly missed by all in the Regiment. **Lt Col Gillespie** will shortly be leaving the Army and during his spare time he is intending to try his hand a landscape gardening. We wish him and his wife **Fiona** and baby **Cameron** the very best for the future. The Regiment would also like to wish the same for **WO1 Jenkins** and his wife **Annette**, when they move to Northern Ireland and 15 Sig Regt where the now **Capt Jenkins** takes up his new post as RCMO.

RECRUITING EFFORT
COLERNE ACTIVITES WEEK AND BOVINGTON FAIR

During the week 3-7 July 2001 the Regiment hosted and assisted with the Colerne activities week. This is a week dedicated to the recruitment of potential soldiers. The week saw approximately 350 school children each day visiting stands from a variety of Corps and Regiments. The Corps was well represented by members of the RSMPT boosted by members from A Tp 244 Sig Sqn, 14 Sig Regt (EW) and 3 ADSR. The activity week finished with an excellent Regimental Open Day. The following week saw our recruiting efforts pushed even further when we sent a team of ten to the Bovington Army Careers Fair for a week. Under the guidance of **Lt Clements**, 244 Sig Sqn, the team ran a number of stands for up to 350 school children each day. This proved a great success with a number of School children showing a particular interest in the possibility of joining Royal Signals. Both weeks culminated in a total of 700 man-hours towards the recruiting effort.

220 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Jim Forrest**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Nige Roberts**

The Squadron has been as busy as ever with commitments, including the MAPPS trials and deploying on Ex Saif Sereea. Numerous extra activities have taken place in the last couple of months for the Squadron, including: recruiting for the Corps, on show at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, sailing in the Solent, a battlefield tour to Crete, running stands at the Open Day, and representing the Regiment in athletics and swimming. The Squadron has seen lots of faces come and go recently, especially amongst the hierarchy. **Capt John** 'Get in your box!' **Fraser** has completed his sentence as Sqn 2IC moving on to the Joint Command Staff Course at Schrivenham. The boss himself, **Maj Jim Forrest**, is also off having been posted as Chief of Staff at JSU Corsham. To take control we welcome **Maj Mannings** as OC and **Capt Waddell** as the new Sqn 2IC. Unfortunately as so many people have been leaving, the Squadron has been forced to hold quite a few leaving drinks – never mind!

DELTA TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Jez Wadia**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Mark Gilbert**

First of all, a huge 'Big Up' to **Sgt Lee Francis** on his recent promotion. A big, big, welcome to the new characters in the Troop: **LCpl** 'Swanny' **Swan, LCpl Matt** 'I like driving over bikes' **Burton, LCpl Carl** 'Benny' **Bennett, LCpl Nikki** 'Alright La' **Donnelly, Sig Chris** 'Rude Boy' **Fielding, Cpl John** 'Strange' **McCone, Sig Danny Parker, Sig Dan Jones, Sig Gemma Coel** and **Sig Adam Ryan**. A fond farewell to **LCpl Steve** 'The Chin' **Smith**, who is giving into the dark side and rejoining the civilian community. Another farewell to **Sgt Adi Watts** who left the Troop on promotion to Staff Sergeant to start his YofS course at Blandford. Delta Tp has been exceptionally busy over the last couple of months, but we managed to sort out at least one Troop Day Out. Off the Troop went for a bimble along the Bradford-upon-Avon canal. Coincidentally the walk ended up at a pub, as usual, with certain members of the Troop cooling off in the river, allegedly. The 'dunk tank' stand run by Delta Tp, as part of the Regimental Open Day was a great success. Willing volunteers (?), including the CO, RSM, Adjt, Provost Sergeant and all the Troop HQs to name a few, spent roughly half an hour each getting wet for a good cause. Thank you to all of those who were dunked, for taking part and being good sports!

The Regiment gets its revenge on Capt Pete Griffiths at the Delta Troop Dunk Tank on the Regimental Open Day

GOLF TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Catherine Jardine**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Wayne Hayes**

The Troop bids a fond farewell to **Cpl Paul Howe** on posting and **Cpl** 'Denz' **James** as he leaves the army for pastures new in 'civvie street' (Who's gonna sort out troop admin now?). Additionally a temporary farewell to **Sgt** 'Daz' **Kidd** as he joins our detachment on Op Agricola. The Troop warmly welcomes **Cpl** 'Hector' **Heathcoate** and **Sig** 'Paul' **White**. Congratulations go to **LCpl** 'Stu' **Tucker** on his recent promotion to Corporal. The Troop has been involved in several activities including Ex Eagle (why don't the RAF wear cam cream?) Lift, a Joint Helicopter Command Exercise located at Keevil airfield and South Cerney, and continued pre-deployment training for Ex Saif Sareea for a total of one third of the troop. So overall a fairly busy time! The Regimental open day saw Golf and Charlie troops join forces to build and run a tented .22 air rifle range. To say it was popular is an understatement. After deducting out initial outlay (including hiring 20 hay bales from a local farmer) the stand made a healthy profit of £79 to go to a selection of charities.

SUPPORT TROOP - *by Cpl Thisby*
Tp Comd **Capt John Fraser**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Steve Pattenden**

This has been a very hectic period for Support Tp with Ex Saif Sereea looming and 16 Air Asslt Bde's Exercises Eagles Strike and Eagles Lift. Due to all the latter, there has been chaos in the Ops room, and the spillage of many brews in the Tech workshops. However, the Troop has managed at least one day out of the hangar, deploying to the hills for a day. **Yeoman Bentley** led from the front, dragging the Troop around a 14-mile circuit and a couple of well needed refreshment stops on the way. After the Squadron football competition we have discovered that we own some of the stars, namely the top header **SSgt Pattenden**, **SSgt Sala** who uses pure brute force and **LCpl** 'Budgie' **Burgess** a master of skill and speed. The MT is still going strong, so strong they can never make any of the PT sessions. They also have a new addition into their clan, **Sig** 'Maestro' **Shirley** – nice name! The MT is at present being led by **Cpl** 'Grandad' **Clement** and **Cpl** 'Bruce' **Lee**, standing in for **Sgt** 'Mackum' **Jobson** away on the Royal Signals Sergeants course. Farewell to the SQMS, **SSgt** 'Bruiser' **Sala,** who is off back to the fatherland to 280(v) Sig Sqn and good luck to **SSgt** 'Monkey' **Ezard** who takes over the SQMS post. We also welcome **Yeoman Parr**, formerly known as 'Gripper', and the operators will find out why later. Settling in to the Troop well are **LCpl Helen** 'Hatchback' **Coupe**, now in charge of the Radio section of the tech workshops, and also the Tech brew boy **Cpl Jim Thisby** – aka Iraqi tank Commander. Looking ahead life is only going to get busier for Support Tp!

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj David Bizley**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Williams**

The Squadron is now preparing for its deployment to Oman on Ex Saif Sareea in early September. With Alpha Tp deploying to Turkey over the same period and our continued presence in Kosovo, the Squadron will indeed be spread to the high winds. The summer has also seen our participation in various recruiting fairs, with the Troops showing themselves off at the Colerne and Bovington Activities Weeks as well as at our Regimental Open Day. The Squadron would like to bid a big farewell to **Capt Andy Arthurton** who leaves the Regiment to enjoy JCSC and welcomes **Capt Andy Hill** from 7 Armd Bde as our new 2IC. The Squadron also welcomes **2Lt Zoe White** who will take command of the newly formed Hotel Tp later this year.

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Pete Brunton**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Phil Render**

Goodbye to **Capt** 'Wild Bill' **Holbrook** who is off to 30 Sig Regt and also farewell to **Cpl** 'Stu' **Hunt** who leaves us for Civ Div: good luck to you and your family. Welcome to **Sig** 'Mark' **Hankey, Sig** 'Abs' **Absolom** and **Sig Scott** who've all arrived from Blandford and to the new boss **Capt Pete Brunton** who joins us from 1 Mech Bde. The Foot and Mouth epidemic caused a gap in our exercise programme that we filled with training, courses and personal development. This included a day of paint-balling organised by **Sig** 'Sid'**Reynolds** resulting in more than a few bruises amongst the Troop.

LANCE CORPORAL VALLANCE IN CANADA

When asked if I would like to go to Canada for two weeks I jumped at the chance. A week later I found myself attached to 624 TACP (FAC) to provide Forward Air Control support and target acquisition for 2 Sqn RAF. The team consisted of **Maj Nick Sparks**, **LCpl Andy** 'I collect helmets' **Fairington**, **LCpl Paul Sirett** and myself. After a flight from Brize Norton we eventually arrived in Goose Bay, Labrador, where we immediately unpacked and recce'd our location. The next day we got a ride in a helicopter out to the training area and dropped off with sufficient food and liquid refreshment to last the week in a cabin in the middle of nowhere. Later that day we set out to climb the adjacent hill to set up the Laser/Range Finder (LTM). The Tornadoes came in fast and furious and nearly always hit their targets of dummy tanks and command bunkers on a mock airstrip, dropping 1000lb concrete bombs. The second week was practically the same as the first, but this time 2 Sqn were dropping laser guided bombs over our heads, which miraculously flew over us and on to the target. Despite the horrendous mosquitoes and horse flies that ate us alive, I learnt a great deal and would gladly go back tomorrow.

LCpl Vallance laser targets for Tornadoes

LANCE CORPORAL MURPHY IN AUSTRALIA

Having being selected to play in the Corps Basketball Tour to Australia I started my 23-hour flight to Melbourne, followed by an hours drive to our camp at Pukkapanyol. Expecting an early night after such an epic journey we instead had a night out with the Rugby Club! Following a week's worth of training in the gym with our slave driver of a coach, **WO1 FofS** 'Kev' **Moir**, our first game was disappointing, receiving the thrashing of our lives from the local school team. We gradually improved until both male and female teams were able to give a good showing in the Victoria State Competition at the end of the tour. I spent the weekend off in Melbourne and decided that I couldn't come all the way to Australia and not see the home of my favourite soap opera. We promptly found the one and only Ramsey Street complete with the cast of Neighbours – I even managed to get my picture taken in the Robinson Family kitchen!

LCpl Fi Murphy (far right)
in the Robinson s kitchen from the TV Soap Neighbours

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Neil Clements**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Andy Gill**

The Troop has recently been enhanced by the addition of **Cpl Dave Halbert**, **LCpl Tracy Walker** and **Sigs Gareth Elsby** and **Phil Butler.** Our thanks also go to those who have departed recently, **Cpl** 'Speedy' **Speed**, who on promotion to Sergeant managed to get posted all the way to the hanger next door. Also **Sig Ben** 'Scotty' **Scott**, who is leaving us to go to 30 Sig Regt, and **Sig Tammy Yates** who leaves us for civvy street. Special mention must go to **Cpl Mark** 'Smudge' **Smith** who managed to convince the RAF that he was Officer material and now goes to RAF Cranwell where they will teach him how to use a knife and fork properly. Finally, after a gruelling course at RAF Benson **Cpl Dave Halbert** became a Landing Point Commander and **Sigs** 'Oxo' **Oxley** and **Mickey Young** qualified as Rigger Marshallers. With this much activity it was surprising that we managed time for anything else but some of the troops managed to get away sailing in the Solent for a few days.

Cpl Dave Halbert getting to grips with a Puma

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
21 SIGNAL REGIMENT (AS) OPEN DAY - 7 JULY 2001
Report by WO2 (SSM) Chapman
Chairman **Maj T. A. Dean**
Event 2IC **Capt A. Masson**
Events/Catering **WO2 (RCWO) M. B. Jessel**
Event Site **WO2 (SSM) A. A. Chapman**

The Regimental Open Day for 2001 was planned for 7 July and after the first major co-ordinating conference at the beginning of the year, the preparations began in earnest. As usual HQ Sqn took the brunt of the organising, but we were quite happy as it made a change from counting blankets and loading rations. Many of the faces from the previous year had changed so it was down to the new team to start from scratch and make it the best open day so far. Most of the major military acts were already booked, but after Foot and Mouth cancellations, some funny hand shakes and a little nudge nudge, wink wink from **WO2** 'M' **Jessel** and **Capt Masson**, the line up for the main arena started to take shape. This was to comprise of the Red Arrows, the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team, the Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons and the Royal Signals White Helmets. Not a bad line up for a Regimental Open Day. The week before the event, the Regiment was also hosting the Services Activities Week, with stands and displays from most of the different arms of the forces. The week comprised of visits from youth groups throughout the UK, allowing kids to get an insight into the British Army.

The preparation did not go that smoothly, as the tents that had been requested went off on exercise to Oman. However, with the reassuring words 'It's sorted,' from **SSgt** 'Scouse, Ducking and Diving' **Deegan** the tents started to appear. A new light also shone in the Regiment as **SSgt** 'Spence' **Ord** showed off skills in advertising normally only seen before in Fleet Street. The planning conferences came and went, the ulcers grew and grew but the week finally arrived, as did the Activities Displays. On the Monday confusion reigned, as displays and the Regiment attempted to find out what was going on, waiting until eventually the external organisers finally turned up and pointed us all in the right direction. The build of the site went amazingly well with the weather hot and sunny all week. However, on Friday the first Monsoon arrived. The weather started to clear late in the afternoon in time for the Chinook to arrive at low level, which blew all the neatly stacked bales of hay from one of the displays, all over the site and clear over the top of one of the hangers. Its arrival as one of the main displays did bring a smile to our faces since the Red Arrows were fog bound in Ireland, and the RAF Falcons were stuck in Belgium. Then the White Helmets arrived, 'Hurraaah!'

7 July arrived and what a glorious morning it was. The organisers were on site at 0430hrs as some of the fair rides were late in arriving. By 0700hrs the ground and tents were nice and dry as were the stall holders from around Wiltshire, who were arriving to set up get ready for the opening at 1000hrs. The call went out on the radio to open the gates at ten and the long awaited Open Day began. The first good news of the day arrived with the Red Arrows and RAF Falcons confirming that they could now make the event and then the White Helmets giving the thumbs up to the ground conditions. Things were looking up! By 1230hrs, when the Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons took to the arena, the crowds were getting bigger and the ticket vendors at both entrances were working flat out. The best sign of success was **WO2** 'Dusty' **Miller** and **WO2** 'Glen' **Hollas**, both in charge of the finance, rubbing their hands; always a good sign of raising lots of money.

LCpl Smith and Sig Elsby
I know that Sgt Maj Chapman said to wear waterproofs
but this is ridiculous

The White Helmets rode on at 1400hrs just as a light shower hit the show. The team captain said it was planned by the organisers to see a few spills but our hopes were dashed, not one. The long awaited Red Arrows flew in at 1515hrs and due to increasing low cloud performed one of the lowest and most breath taking display anyone had ever seen before. We were concerned that the ferris wheel with the fun fair would get in their way but not a chance. As the Red Arrows display finished the biggest, darkest cloud ever to be seen at Colerne arrived and so did Monsoon number two, with thunder and lightning to match. Everyone ran for cover, some to their cars, most into the tents, but the kids thought it would be fun to slide down the roads, in the rivers of water that were flooding the site. The organisers ran out to check the stall-holders, who were quite happy chatting to those who had taken shelter in their tents. Needless to say the beer tent was full (mainly by the Regiment). The storm eased off, and to our amazement a C130 appeared overhead, bang on time, as the RAF Falcons parachuted into the arena. To jump in such a storm was very impressive and they received the biggest cheer of the day as our departing Commanding Officer, **Lt Col P Gillespie,** took the salute.

The Open Day finished at 1700hrs and as the wet and weary visitors made they way back to their cars, the fatigue party took a well-earned break in the beer tent. It didn't seem to matter what the weather threw at us during the last hour of the event. It didn't dampen anyone's spirit, as it was still hot, sunny and humid the vast majority of the time, making the day a huge success. A huge thank you is owed to all the members of the fatigue party who worked hard all week through rain and shine. Also many thanks to all the military and civilian stall holders for their contribution and support to such a successful event. The sums are still being done, but the money raised for charity looks likely to be the biggest total so far. We have already started planning next years Regimental Open Day and watch this space as it promises to be even bigger!

MIKE TROOP - *by Cpl Rob Murray & LCpl Pat Eason*
Tp Comd **WO1 FofS 'Paul' Lewis**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Spence' **Ord**

With the recent influx of Class 3 Techs and Mechs, TM Tp has swelled to such an extent that we are considering becoming an independent squadron. On the work side of life the Troop has been kept extremely busy, the Mechs have, under the watchful eye of **Cpl Pete** 'That costs this much' **Richards**, been busy rewiring the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. Back in the workshops the shelves are being cleared of faulty equipment for the fast approaching Ex Saif Sereea.

Congratulations are sent out to the swimmers within the troop including **LCpl Andy Barnard, LCpl Paul** 'Stavros' **Angelidi** and **LCpl Cora Field** who were among the Regiment's successful swimming team in the Army Swimming Championships. Taking third place in the male event and second place in the female event. Personal congratulations go to **LCpl Paul** 'Stavros' **Angelidi** for becoming the fastest male swimmer in the Army on open water gaining third overall in the Inter Service Long Distance Championships. Congratulations also to **LCpl Steve Hadley** and his wife on the birth of their baby boy. The final congratulations to **LCpl Chris Yapp** on taking the plunge and tying the knot with his new wife **Amy**. Now on to the welcomes, a big hello hug to the new Regimental Foreman, **WO1 (FofS) Paul Lewis** who has joined the Troop from Cyprus, **LCpl Kev Moss, LCpl Neil Eyre** and **Sig Tasker** new TeleMech/ Installation Techs and **LCpl Cora Field** Sys Eng Tech. On to the sad business of farewells and it is a teary eyed farewell to **Capt Ady Knight** who has headed for pastures new. Goodbye to **Cpl Rob Murray** returning to Blandford for his Class 1. The last two goodbyes are to **Cpl Keith Gilbert** and **Cpl Mark Taylor** both are off to the big wide world of Civ Div. To end, promotions just in congratulations to **LCpl Eddie Waring**, and also **Cpl Ron Evans, Cpl Matt Jennings, Cpl Alli Smith** for gaining their second stripes, the Regiment can sleep easy at night when these three are guard commanders!

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS - *by Sig Cooze*
OICs **Maj Jim Forrest & Capt Alec Masson**

The athletics season started for 21 Sig Regt (AS) at the 5 Div athletics competition. For most of the team it was either the first day back after leave or a day off exercise. Nevertheless, team spirit was high and we soon managed to fill the events. It was a great success. The male and female teams finished second and fourth respectively. This gave the team, as a whole, a place in the Army Semi-finals and also something to aim for. The next hurdle was the Morrison Cup.

Sgt Daz Kidd flying through the air on his way to victory

Meanwhile training was hard and the Inter Squadron Athletics Competition gave the team captain, **Capt Masson**, a chance to search for any hidden talents within the squadrons. With the support of the rest of the Regiment we headed down to Blandford Camp for a rainy day on the track. Even though the weather was awful 21 Sig Regt yet again proved to have a winning side. With both teams finishing second and 13

members of the team being selected for the Army Inter-Corps Athletics, including some of the old and bald, **Sgt** 'Taff' **Mctavish**, **Cpl** 'Fred the head' **Hazard** and **SSgt** 'Wayne, competitive dad' **Hayes**. Several junior members of the team competed at the Army Individual Athletics. They achieved three first places from **Sigs Rowland, Heighton** and **Jesson** and third and fourth from **Sigs Cartwright** and **Tucker**. Not only individually but also as a team, the Regiment has achieved amazing results during this years athletics season. The latest update is that we were very successful in the Army Semi-Finals held at Colchester and made it through to the Army inter Unit Finals. The final result was that the women gained fifth place and the men, despite being down a few key players, came fourth overall. An excellent performance by all who competed at every stage. Here's to next year and even better results!

Sig Julia Cartwright finishes the relay with support from her team

REGIMENTAL SWIMMING

The transformation of the Unit's Swimming and Water Polo success has been a complete turn-around from previous years. From being just a competing team falling during the early rounds, we are now strong contenders for the Army Inter-Unit Champion title in both male and female competitions and the water polo.

The Regiment made a clean sweep at the 5 Div Championships in female, male and the polo competitions. **LCpl** 'horse lover' **Angelidi** and **2Lt Catherine Jardine** aka 'Jardine the Sardine' also become the 5 Div 50m Open Sprint Champions. The next stage was the Army Semi-Finals, where the competition was tougher, but the results were excellent, the females finishing second and the men in third place. The Polo team did exceptionally well, making the final but unfortunately loosing to SEAE – who were the eventual Army Champions. The Army Finals, held at the new Aldershot Complex, resulted in brilliant performances for both teams. The females finished second and the men finishing in third place – an outstanding result for the Regiment. Well done to all those who competed!

The Annual Inter-Services Long Distance Swimming Championships 2001, which took place in Lake Bala, Wales, was another success for the Regiment. Four members from 21 Sig Regt (AS) ventured to do the 1.5-mile swim in the lake (crazy fools!). In a field of around 60 competitors, and after a few apprehensive words prior to the race, the end results were a credit to all competitors. **2Lt Jardine** came in third, winning the women's Combined Services and Army Freestyle title, **LCpl** 'Can't believe I was beaten by a girl' **Angelidi** came in fourth winning the Men's Freestyle Army title and **Cpl** 'Who made me do this anyway?' **Lee** came Army Runner-up in the Breast-stroke discipline. **Sig Albury** also did very well to finish in the top half of the field.

After the success of the Regiment's season, congratulations goes to **Capt** 'Angry player' **Griffiths, Cpl Lee** and **Sig Smith** for Army selection in Polo. Further congratulation goes to **2Lt Jardine, LCpl Angelidi, Sig Fayers and Sig Parker**, who made the Army and Combined Service Swimming team.

A big thank you and well done to all those who swam this year, and we can now look forward to equal success in the Inter-Corps in November.

OPERATION AGRICOLA DETACHMENT
MARCH – JULY 2001

Det Comd **SSgt Russ Ezard**

The Detachment has seen some of the busiest times in recent periods, which proved to be challenging due to the deployment of the Spec Task vehicle and the inevitable changeover of Regimental personnel. The Spec Task vehicle has been used in a multitude of roles over the period.

Firstly in its everyday role of providing comms coverage in the event of an IRT callout, which sadly happened when one of the two Pumas crashed in bad weather in mountainous terrain in the south of the country. Comms trials have been carried out from various HLS sites, leading to the eventual deployment on Op Salisbury and immediate redeployment onto Op Eagle.

Unfortunately due to the strain of every day life the detachment broke two personnel and subsequently they became two more statistics for the aero med team. One of the two, a **Sig** 'Clear if you're quick' **Lake**, will be by now reading up on safety distances. Coping with the RAF can be a constant strain in the way they live compared to the Army, but every effort is made to remind them of the way ahead.

Especially when it comes to physical training, as the detachment hosts PT sessions of which we are normally the only personnel attending. The emphasis on personal fitness was shown on the inaugural APOD half marathon in which **Sig Bailey** romped home in a time of 1hr 19mins.

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col N. A. W. Pope**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) R. J. Pye**

SUPPORT SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj R. C. Cory**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dalton**

The Squadron said farewell to **Maj Rod Gladwin** on retirement to take up the position of RAO ATR Lithefield. On 19 June, **Maj Ray Cory** assumed command of the Squadron, relieving the stand-in OC (**Capt Gary Johnson**) of his time in command, allowing him to finalise the Regimental Open Day.

The Regimental Open Day was placed in jeopardy due to the Foot & Mouth crisis. However in true style, a management team of **WO2 (SSM) Russ Dalton** and **SSgt Craig Wrath** were put together, under the 'skilful guidance' of **Capt Gary Johnson**. They started the process of confirming possible attendees, organising publicity and amassing the stores required to hold an Open Day with up to 10,000 people attending. All went well and the event finally had the go-ahead on Monday 4 June, leaving exactly four weeks to put the final plans into place.

WO2 (SSM) Russ Dalton and **SSgt Craig Wrath** then set about the intricate plans of getting some 85 stalls and displays into the windbreaks, no small feat when the size of real estate would change on a daily basis. Finally the day dawned and all was in place, by this time the SSM lost a few more hairs from his head, and **SSgt Craig Wrath** had gained a HND in diplomacy. The tents were up, the car parking areas sorted out and all main attractions confirmed; we awaited the first stalls to arrive. From 0600 – 1030 on the Sunday streams of cars arrived to set up, followed by the opening to the public at 1030. The weather was kind to us, and the day passed off without any visible catastrophe. The Corps Band entertained us well, and the finale of the Royal Artillery Parachute Display team was extremely well received. Throughout the day in the region of 10,000 people visited the event, raising nearly £10,000 for various charities. The event was declared a success and all that remained was to return the windbreaks to their original condition. We are all looking forward to planning next years event!

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. W. Cooper**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. Keen**
A TROOP
Tp Comd **Flt Lt Paul** 'RAF' **Pearce**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul** 'The Maggot' **Storey**
OPERATION SILKMAN

Life continues as normal on this arduous operational tour, now renamed Club Silkman. Unfortunately for us, after taking each opportunity to squeeze a few 'sun-hours' in amongst the hectic workload, the tans are gradually fading as we now find ourselves subjected to one million feet of rain per day. There is still time though for **Sig** 'Brad' **MacCallum** to catch and torture the famous 'Press-Up' Lizards.

This hasn't interrupted the extra-curricular activities however, with guys getting out and about up-country as often as possible. **Cpl Paul** 'Gipper' **Richardson** escorted the boss on an EOD picnic to Port Loko, watching the destruction of a 500lb Guinean bomb whilst enjoying a warm spam sandwich on the bonnet of a G/S. **LCpl Dan** 'Nobby' **Clarke** spent a night in the jungle at Benguema learning how to build an 'A'-Frame bivi and slaughter innocent chickens. Meanwhile **Sig Stu** '22 B&Q' **Hemming** put his finely tuned close-combat skills to good use when he single-handedly pulled the J2 Field Human Int team to safety during a nearby 'contact' with rebels. We later learnt that the contact was actually taking place about three countries away, but we let **Stu** have his moment of glory temporarily. The closest thing to armed combat so far was when **Flt Lt Paul** 'Penguin' **Pearce** was engaged by an angry night-fighter with two loaded beer bottles, which she proceeded to pour over his head. This annoyed **SSgt Paul** 'Maggot' **Storey**, mainly because they were his beers.

Socially, things are picking up. **Sigs John** 'Jar-Jar Binks' **Roberts, Al** 'What do you Mean I'm Not Going Home Now?' **Neesam, Adam** 'Swampy' **Flatman** and **Colin** 'Larium Kid' **Robertson** have already recently celebrated their birthdays. Just time left now to say farewell to 'Maggot', 'Matt', 'Neese', **Kate**, 'PJ' **Stainers, Adam, Dave**, 'Geezer', 'Scouse' and **Hemming** and welcome into theatre 'Gaz Shuck', 'Robbo', **Craig, Nicky, LCpl Haddrell, Sig George, LCpl Hogg** and **Holly**. Watch out for the next exciting episode.....

CHARLIE TROOP – *by Sig Roger Livesey*
Tp Comd **Lt Lucy Pim**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Phil Joyce**
EXERCISE JMC, CAPE WRATH, SCOTLAND: 17 – 29 JUNE 2001

We began our mammoth drive to the north of Scotland in the early hours of Sunday morning with an overnight stop planned in Edinburgh; eleven hours later we arrived, minus one vehicle (due to technical problems). We finally reached Cape Wrath on the Monday afternoon having driven all the way from Edinburgh wearing cam cream. The next two weeks were spent fully tactical (not our usual cushy number) providing a VSC 501 with ICC supporting 9 AAC on a JMC exercise involving the USS Enterprise carrier group. Whilst the rest of the lads were living in tents eating ration packs, **LCpl** 'Gray' **Wootton** managed to get himself flown onto HMS *Chatham* for a shower and some decent food. Even though we were looked after quite well by the RSO of 9 AAC after two weeks in the field we couldn't wait to get back to civilisation.

Sigs Chignell & Marsden searching for the bird

EXERCISE CYGNET CHANNEL, ALDERNEY: 16 – 27 JULY 2001

You could tell from the way it began that this was going to be a relaxed exercise, soaking up the rays during an 8-hour trip across the English Channel onboard a landing craft. The Troop was going to Alderney for a comms exercise to be followed by a spot of liaison work with the islanders. The first week was a non-tactical CNR exercise with three detachments moving locations around the island. This involved spending some time with the local militia explaining our job, and doing a spot of sun-bathing as we were never far from the beach when off-shift! The second week was more laid back, designated as a community relations week - we played cricket, football and golf against the local teams and even though we weren't very successful we put up a good fight. To help out the locals we spent a day weeding – they were trying to clear an area, and we provided the perfect manpower for the job! We also spent a day mountain biking and caving around the islands WW2 defences - we are now fairly sure that **Sig** 'Banksy' **Banks** is scared of the dark. The lads would also like to thank **Sig** 'Chiggers' **Chignell** for the lengths he went to in ensuring free food and beer for us all! By the time it came to leave we had made such an impression that we had hoards of women waving us off as we boarded the landing craft. In all we had a great time and we have the suntans to prove it!

258 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj P. Deans**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Forrester**
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS NEWS

The Squadron has spent the last few months holding two Comms Troops, plus Support Troop soldiers, at R1 manning the Joint Task Force Headquarters (JTFHQ) Sig Sqn and Spearhead Lead Element (SLE). There has also been time to compete in Trailwalker (UK) 2001 with six Squadron members dispersed amongst the three Regimental teams; Nijmegan 2001 (commendable second place!) and the Corps Regatta. There have also been adventurous training exercises and attachments with the Royal Navy! We are now on countdown to Ex Saif Sareea II where the 'globe trotters' will meet up with the rest of the Royal Corps of Signals in Oman…

DELTA TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Chris Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jim Lyons**

Despite our usual commitments, the Troop has managed to squeeze in a week's adventurous training in Fort William enjoying the Scottish Summer – yes, it rained every day except the departure day! The Troop discovered it is not just officers with maps who get lost, as several members found themselves 'navigational challenged'. Other than hill walking, they tested their aquatic skills with some canoeing and scaled some rocks which **LCpl** 'Elvis legs' **Pennock** excelled at. **SSgt Lyons** organized some abseiling off a bridge into a river, this was until **LCpl** 'Fearless' **Foster** tried to take the bridge with her by hanging on to it for dear life. Our new Troop Corporal, **Cpl** 'Gaz' **Mckee**, skived the rock climbing with a kidney stone and has also managed to squeeze in a bit of post-adventurous training leave at Wrexham General Hospital. The Troop welcomes back **LCpl Maybank** from his short notice ORLT deployment to Macedonia after singly handedly trying to sort the Balkans problem out! **Sig Fielding** returns form his trip to the Baltic after his short attachment to HMS Illustrious where he 'worked alongside the Navy'. The Troop has also provided a commitment to the Corps Regatta in Kiel with **Sig McKinnell** earning his sea legs. A big WELL DONE goes to those members of the Troop involved in Trailwaker UK with the **Lt Smith** entering as part of the 'Taxi for 4' team and **LCpl Foster** and **Sig Phillips** as representatives of the female teams – 'Too Hot…' and '…To Handle'. Congratulations to **Sig Phillips** in completing the 100km injury free, plus the additional 20km – just for the hell of it!

ECHO TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Laura Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Al Combe**

Echo Tp have had two new arrivals in the troop in the form of **2Lt Smith** (fresh from RSS) and **Sig** 'Mally' **Mallinson** (who has come to us from over the water). We've said farewell to **LCpl** 'Blinkin' **Mick Allan** who's been sent off to JCU on an early posting. Leaving us shortly are **LCpl Michelle** 'Cilla' **Black** who is going to Blandford, and we also loose **LCpl Arron Donnelly, Sig John** 'Kebab' **Lawrence** and **Sig Adam** 'Flashdance' **Toner** – they are about to join the great unwashed and probably sign on! Only joking and good luck in Civvy Street. **LCpls Matt** 'Gink' **King** and **Lee** 'Black Economy' **Simmons** had a cushy three weeks, courtesy of the Royal Navy aboard HMS *Illustrious* travelling around the Baltic. **Sgt** 'Big Gay' **Al Barker** has finally returned to us after six weeks away doing every course under the sun and re-instilled his ruthless cleanliness regime into the Troop. Whilst **Cpl Tony** 'Bones' **Gallagher** has been sent away on his detties in Blandford, he has managed to stay on the course, whether this is a good or bad thing for him, we have yet to see!

ATTACHMENT TO HMS ILLUSTRIOUS - *by LCpl Lee Simmons*

An opportunity arose for two members of Echo Tp to go on an exchange visit to HMS *Illustrious*. On finding out that the fleet flagship will be running ashore in Oslo and Stockholm **LCpls Matt** 'Cider Visor' **King** and **Lee** 'I've got a problem with go-go bars' **Simmons** hastily put their names down and were lucky enough to be accepted. So with words of warning ringing in our ears and useful advice about surviving at sea like 'remember to sleep on your back with your mouth closed!' off we went on our three weeks booze cruise communications exchange. Our first port of call was Plymouth here we were continuously stared at as the Navy looked on in awe of DPM uniform and we laughed at their bellbottoms and greeted everyone with a friendly, 'Hello sailor!' and so the banter continued on for three weeks. **Chief Yeoman Harris** had drawn up an interesting itinerary which was to show us all about how the Navy works at sea and included such activities as working in their equivalent to our Commcens, checking out the goalkeeper Gattling guns and we even went through various war scenarios. A week into the trip and the lack of land had taken its toll so we were glad to arrive in Oslo. Before we left for our jaunt we heard there would be some sort of royal visit; we were expecting the King of Norway to come aboard, only to be shocked to find out it was **HM Queen Elizabeth II** to meet the troops. As we never had any No 2 dress with us we missed out on the visit, instead we were conveniently hidden away like asylum seekers so as not to stand out. After the state visit we were allowed shore leave for five days. So with **LCpl Matt King** in pursuit for the only woman in his life 'Stella' we ran ashore. The time in Oslo passed all too quickly and it wouldn't be long till our next shore leave in Stockholm. The three weeks had passed us by in a haze and we had to return back to Blighty, slightly more cultured, slightly wiser and well and truly skint! Thanks to the entire Navy and everyone concerned with the exchange for their hospitality, kindness and above all a good laugh.

LCpl Simmons takes on the Capt of HMS *Illustrious* in a thumb-wrestling match

FOXTROT TROOP - *by LCpl 'Danny' Thwaites*

Tp Comd **Capt 'Des' Holbrook**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Anita Smith**

New arrivals to the Troop are **Capt Holbrook** from 21 Sig Regt and **SSgt Smith** from the Regimental training wing. The Troop has recently said goodbye to **Lt Southern** who has gone to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Squadron on promotion as the 2IC and **SSgt Fidler** who has left us for the green theme of the training wing. Soon to be leaving us are **Cpl Neil Harrison** and **Sig Adam Langton** who are going to Northern Ireland on promotion; **Cpl Jim Stewart** who is going to 249 Sig Sqn (AMFL) to become an arctic warrior; and **Sig** 'Soon to be Mister' **Moore** who is going back to civvy street. At the beginning of May most of the JNCOs from the Troop were on their Class 2 to 1 crammer so a big congratulations go out to **LCpls** 'Franky' **Langford**, **Kelly Maclean, Del Jackson, Andy Armitage** and myself (**Danny Thwaites**) who all passed. Straight after the 2 to 1 crammer most of the Troop were involved in the Regimental shooting camp Ex Swan Connection in Lydd and Hythe where we were able to go on some exciting ranges such as urban shoots, FIBUA, and section defence plus many more. The exercise lasted for two weeks and a lot of ammo was fired! Most of the Troop is now on the Spearhead Lead Element (SLE) roster, now until Ex Saif Sareea in September. Lastly, a big congratulations goes out to **Sig Craig Wilkinson** and his fiancée, **Maxin**, who have just had a baby boy called **Oscar.**

FOXTROT TROOP SAILING - *by Sig Adam Langton*

SSgt Smith arranged for seven of us to spend a couple of days away from the hanger to sample the delights of offshore sailing. So the lucky few of us departed Bramcote on a hot, sunny afternoon and headed for Gosport. On arrival we were met by **Cpl** 'Windy' **Gale** who introduced us to yacht Petasus, which was to be our home for the couple of days. Once he had taken us through the many safety points we were able to move our baggage on board and fight for our bunks. Next morning was an early start although most had had little sleep due to **Sig Jim** 'Susat' **King's** sewer-like snoring. Whilst we got the boat ready for sea, **Cpl Paul Roberts** and **LCpl Andy** 'Fridge' **Armitage** went and carried out a local supermarket sweep for our rations. By nine o'clock we had left harbour and were hoping for fair winds to carry us to Brighton. Once under way, the real sailing started with everybody keen to have a go at the helm and to learn which rope had to be pulled and when. The winds, unfortunately, were not in our favour for our proposed port of Brighton, so our passage plans were changed for Lymington. This enabled us to learn anchor drills when we stopped off for lunch in a small bay off the Isle of Wight. Some of the hardier members of the crew decided to brave the British summer and go swimming. We also attempted halyard swinging which involves standing high on the front of the yacht and swinging out on the halyard before returning to the yacht. This also involved **Sigs Mark Lawrence** and **Jim King** indulging in some 'gurning' before letting go! After lunch we upped anchor and headed for Lymington, which was a long passage up a narrow, shallow river where **Sig Steph McGinn** enjoyed playing 'chicken' with the ferries. The next morning **LCpl Andy Armitage**, finalist of last year's master chef, cooked us baked beans and hard boiled egg, unbeknown to him others sloped off for a bacon butty in a local shop! All too soon we set sail for our home port of Gosport. On berthing at JSASTC the bad bit came - scrubbing the decks!! The yacht was soon in 'ship shape', so that only left us to thank **Cpl** 'Windy' **Gale** for his time and catch the transport home.

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Rae**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Lawton**

The Troop would like to wish **SSgt Andy Dutton** all the best at 21 Sig Regt and farewell to **Cpl Andy Moffat, LCpl** 'Bart' **Homer, LCpl** 'Sly' **Moine** and **Sig Chris Bradstreet** who are on their way to Civ Div. Congratulations go to **LCpl Aaron Nessling** on getting married to **Sharna** and **LCpl** 'The Legend' **Slade** on his upcoming marriage to **Donna**. Best of luck to you both! A big hello to **SSgt** 'Yorkie' **Lawton** on his posting from 3 (UK) DSR. The Troop is very busy at the moment trying to get everything ready for Ex Saif Sareea II (Sun tan lotion, Baby Oil, *etc*.). The Troop is still filling all the usual commitments and everyone thoroughly enjoys being on R1 readiness for 12 months+.

EXERCISE MERCURIAL MARITIME DRAGON

Ex Mercurial Maritime Dragon was the name given for the Royal Signal Sail Training Week, which is conducted every year at the Army Sail Training Centre at Kiel in Germany. Royal Signal units compete in various races around the area of the Baltic Sea from the period 16-25 July. 30 Sig Regt, headed up by 258 Sig Sqn, entered a crew of seven personnel. All the crew bar one were novice sailors and our skipper **Maj Bob** 'Cocktails 'R' Us' **Appleton** did an excellent job of moulding us into efficient competent crew. The first few days were spent getting to grips with how to handle the boat, tie the correct knots in the various ropes and learning general seamanship. This came more naturally to some than others as **Cpl** 'Pass The Seasickness Pills' **Mason** found out. On the third day we had our first go at racing. Everything went well at first until, under the expertise of **Sig** 'Scouse –it' ripping' **McGloughoin** and **Sig** 'Brummie –pull it harder then' **Hurl,** we managed to rip our Spinnaker sail nearly in half. Needless to say we came last but made up for it at the post –race drinks where **Sig 'I**'m never drinking again' **Malia** was definitely first past the line. The first race seemed to set the scene for all the other races and we only managed to achieve an overall fifth position out of seven. All on the boat would agree that the fun aboard yacht *Widgeon* counteracted our poor racing achievements; it was a great experience and particular thanks go to **Maj Bob Appleton** for putting up with us for the duration of the exercise.

The Nijmegan team at the feet of power, the end of the marching

NIJMEGAN 2001

The Team departed Bramcote at 0500hrs on the Saturday morning for Harwich, we had a slight delay due **LCpl Gaz** 'The Blister' **Prydie** and **Sig Stu** 'Axe Murderer' **Mason's** administration. Once on the way it was a clear run down to Harwich arriving there three hours early. As soon as we were on the ferry we started acclimatisation training. This was invaluable, as the Team had three days close target recce's on Nijmegan town centre, before the marches began. This was probably the most training we had done as we were constantly on our feet, sampling the local delights, with **LCpl Richie** 'Surfer' **Maybank** getting the best view of the countryside. With the marches starting on Tuesday, the Monday was spent sorting out admin and de-toxing. This gave **Sig Stu Mason** time to buy a towel, due to his amazing admin he left his in Bramcote that will teach him to panic pack prior to deploying anywhere.

The first day of the marches had us starting at 0630hrs, one of the last team's led out by the team captain **WO2 (SSM)** 'Fozzy' **Forrester**. Due to the late start time the team got caught up with many of the civvy marches and the going was very, very slow, even **Cpl Lee** 'Gunner' **Glaves** got told to slow down - which isn't heard very often! The only saving grace was that the weather had at least cleared up. By the time we had got to the ten-mile point, certain quotes could be heard, 'I'm never doing this again'. By the end of the first day the whole Team was feeling the worst for wear, on completion of the first 25 miles, the Team sorted out there admin and blisters, and replened on pizzas and kebabs.

The second day's marches started at 0600hrs and again we got caught up with the mass of civvy walkers, unfortunately the weather was not with us and we got soaked. Due to injury we lost one of the team at a checkpoint, which meant that **Cpl Lee** 'I've put on half a stone whilst marching' **Glaves** had to catch up with the Team. We got to checkpoint two thinking that we would have at least an hour wait for him, so we settled down to wait. Five minutes into the break, the dreams are shattered as he turns up. The rest of the day went well with the team making good time even over the cobbled streets. The highlight of the day was stopping to have our picture taken with a big pink bunny rabbit and **Sig** 'Song Bird' **Fielding** coaxing the Team to sing all the way around. The day was rounded off again by another glorious pizza.

The start of the third day saw three more team members retire due to injury. The remainder cracked on setting a good pace with moral quite high. The route found the only hills in Holland and to help the team get up them **Cpl Peter** 'Did I tell you I've been on ops but I don't like talking about them?' **Sykes** starting the chant 'We eat hills, push harder'. It helps you stop thinking about your feet and get up the hills with all the civvies parting in front of the team to let you through. The day was yet again finished with a pizza and sleep. The last day was a 'do and die' effort for the whole team starting at 0400hrs. The Team made good time even with the different walking styles: **Sig Paul** 'Shockwaves' **Howells** and **Sig Ian** 'Stig' **Atkins** tied first place for the stupid-walking award and **Sig Andy** 'The Bladder' **Jordan-White** spending most of the day running to the nearest tree. With the last final push, the team was the second Regular team to finish. It was then time for medals and a trip to the beer tent for a couple of well deserved sociable drinks. Being the last night the whole team (except **Sig Ian** 'Stig' **Atkins** who lost his Bergen and decides to wear his Regimental T-shirt as underwear and was put to bed) went to Nijmegan to say there farewells before the 0500hrs start for the journey home. Notes compiled by: **Cpl** 'Stalwart' **Stewart.**

250 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. J. Cole**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Guatam Gurung**

TRAILWALKER 2001

As people are no doubt aware Trailwalker is a QG SIGNALS organised 100km endurance run that had it's origins in Hong Kong. First run in 1981 it raised more than £7 million for the Gurkha Welfare trust before the colony was handed back in 1997. The first Trailwalker (UK) was run in 1997 along the South Downs Way from Petersfield to Brighton. It has grown in stature since then and has raised £130,000 to date for the GWT. This year's event took place on 21-22 July 2001. The start date had been delayed due to the foot and mouth crisis and the entailing difficulties in getting permission to cross the appropriate farmer's land. Some 220 Officers and Men from across QG Signals deployed in support of the event and 119 teams participated. The event was won by a team from 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron in an impressive time of 11hrs and 6mins. Teams from the QOGLR and QGE came second and third respectively.

The winning team from 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron with SSM, OC and 2IC seated

250 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON ARE CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF THE NEPAL CUP 2001

by Sgt Surje Gurung

20 years of hurt ended in tearful triumph at 1625hrs on Saturday 7 July 2001 at Gamecock Barracks, home of the Queen's Gurkha Signals/30 Signal Regiment when 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron were crowned champions of the Nepal Cup Football Tournament 2001, after defeating 69 Gurkha Field Squadron QGE in a nerve-racking final. The Nepal Cup was first introduced in 1948 following the formation of the Brigade of Gurkhas in the British Army as an annual inter-unit football competition. Since its inception, it has been contested for annually except in 1971 and 1995 when the Brigade moved to Hong Kong and UK respectively. In the United Kingdom the cup was resurrected as a knockout competition between all UK based Gurkha Units/Sub-Units. The first competition took place on 1 September 1998.

The QGS Team, competing in their first final since 1988, silenced the QGE crowd by netting two early goals within 15mins of play. With a 2-0 lead at almost half-time – courtesy of goals apiece from **Sigs Kishan Gurung** and **Neeraj Rai** – the whole Regiment looked as though the memories of two successive defeats to QGE and B Coy 1 RGR in penalty shoot-outs in the 1999 and 2000 first rounds were about to be laid to rest and the Regiment's increasingly long wait to lift the trophy was about to be ended. However, spurred on by a late revival by their crowd during the early play of second half, QGE (nine times winners and pre-tournament favourite managed to equalise).

In terms of Nepal Cup finals, it was undoubtedly proving to be the most nerve-racking showdowns for everyone. Watching it all in a state of anxiety was a crowd the like of which I have never seen before. We were very certain that QGE will always be a hard nut to crack as they kept attacking us from all directions. Once again, an upset looked to be on the cards but gallantly led by **Cpl Anjankumar Gurung**, the Team Captain and a veteran of this tournament, we fought back. We not only stemmed the onslaught but cheekily started a series of counter-attacks with long sniping runs down each flank. Hard work finally paid off as **Sig Neeraj Rai** scored again to give us a 3-2 lead. In addition to these, heroics between the posts by **LCpl Haribahadur Limbu** prevented the QGE Team from snatching another late equaliser and thereby forcing the game into extra-time. The moment finally came when the predatory boot of **Sig Rabin Gurung** scored on a 84-minute mark to drive the home crowd all bonkers again. Although QGE scored to make the score 4-3 with two minutes of play remaining, but it was all too late.

The Nepal Cup Trophy was presented to **Sgt Surje Gurung**, Team Manager/Coach, by the Guest of Honour, Col Brigade of Gurkhas. **Sig Dipendra Gurung** was declared as 'Man-of-the-Match' for his outstanding all round performance and sportsmanship. This magic day will always be remembered as one of the greatest days of all in the history of the Queen's Gurkha Signals. The losing streak against QGE in this competition since the '90s finally came to a halt on this very day. Understandably, there are three sporting arenas within the Brigade of Gurkhas where every Gurkha soldier would dream of becoming a star – Trailwalker, Bisley Shooting and Nepal Cup. The Regiment itself has been a dominant force on Trailwalker and Bisley Shooting. The one and only sporting achievement that has eluded us for such a long period was the Nepal Cup. Therefore, everyone's main effort was to win the Nepal Cup this year. To achieve this, we produced the best team we could and, on the day, the better team won.

Last but not the least, this unforgettable achievement would not have been possible without the incredible support provided by the supporters. It goes without saying that it was the outstanding contribution from **Capt(QGO) Santa Pun,** OIC Nepal Cup 2001, that inspired us to glory and therefore, dedicate this victory to him and wish him good luck in the future as he is retiring from the army in mid-September this year.

Winning formula — 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron, with the OC and 2IC, celebrate winning the Nepal Cup Tournament 2001 at Gamecock Barracks

31 (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col P. D. Wenlock TD**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Young**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Alec Ferguson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Clarke**

There have been only two topics of conversation in HQ Sqn over the last couple of months - Recruiting and Annual Camp. The effort to fully recruit D Tp and the other elements of HQ Sqn carried on at a fast pace. Our recruiting team strategically placed themselves at local tube and rail stations on Tuesday nights to catch those happy commuters on their way home from work, offering them a more fulfilling existence within the TA. Having already used this tactic before, our recruiters quickly distributed all available leaflets to likely looking candidates. This tactic seems to bear fruit in that for half an hours work we now expect to get two or three recruits turning in through the gates of Southfields TAC each week (now it's just a question of keeping hold of them!).

While the recruiting staff was left to carry on their commendable work, the rest of HQ Sqn turned their attention to Annual Camp. HQ Sqn had to

ensure that there were enough serviceable vehicles available as well as all the usual matters to attend to such as rations, ammunition, pay, spare kit and equipment. Once this was squared away, (in double quick time), by our ever-effective staff, we relaxed in the knowledge that all we need do was turn up.

Whilst waiting for the rigours of Annual Camp to start, the LAD organised an adventure training weekend in central London (the countryside still being out of bounds due to the continued presence of F&M). 'Not many mountains, rapids or ski slopes around there!' I hear you cry...how wrong could you be! The LAD organised an excellent package, with a climbing wall and abseil facilities in Mile End, canoeing in Kingston, orienteering on Wimbledon Common and a dry ski slope at Aldershot. This was rounded off with BBQ & beer at Southfields TAC. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves and our thanks and congratulations go to the LAD staff for organising the weekend.

REGIMENTAL ANNUAL CAMP – SALISBURY PLAIN

Before we knew it (not even time for eight more O Gps), Annual Camp was upon us. This year we were at sunny (believe it or not!) Salisbury Plain and more specifically the palatial surroundings of Knook Camp. This Annual Camp was memorable for a number of reasons. Firstly that all the HQ staff, whatever their rank, took a full and active role in the training and exercise phases. Secondly, there were some star performances put in by specific individuals and thirdly, HQ Sqn won the Duchess of Gloucester Cup (DoG Cup).

Brig N . C. Jackson MBE chats to SSgt Wringe
on the Advance to Contact phase of the camp

The training phase of camp was used to ensure that all personnel were re-acquainted with their infantry skills and that they could take part in the field-firing phase. This was more than a slight shock to some members of HQ Sqn, however all seemed to enjoy it.

Charlie's Angels launch themselves
into the Exercise phase of Summer Camp

The main Exercise phase combined both infantry and trade skills. The exercising Troops enjoyed live firing, helicopter moves and a very realistic CivEx prepared by 3 MI Bn. In the meantime those members of HQ Sqn tasked with enemy/DS roles were kept permanently busy thanks to the very demanding Exercise plan orchestrated by the TM.

LCpl Renaud tries to liaise with the local militia
through the MILO on the Civ Ex scenario set up by 3 MI Bn

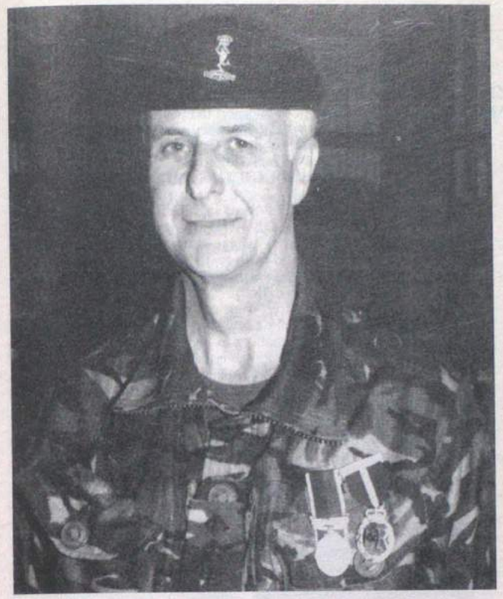
The star performer during this phase was **Capt Bewsher** who no matter how many times he was shot, never seemed to die! Also renowned for his unwillingness to do anything other than CTR's on the exercising Tps. Immediately following the Exercise phase the Regt held the annual DoG Cup. This was a hotly contested competition with HQ Sqn producing the victorious team. The Trophy was presented by **Col Power**, TA Col LONDIST (N).

The victorious HQ Sqn team with the Duchess of Gloucester Cup
Top Row (L-R): WO2 (RQMS) Lothian, Capt Windibank,
Sgt Crowhurst
Bottom Row (L-R): Sig Carrick, Cpl Man Down Hales,
Crft Johnson

At the presentation of the DoG Cup, there were also presentations made to a number of HQ Sqn personnel. The QM (V) **Capt Fred Southey TEM** was awarded the TD as was **Maj Mahoney** (ex-OC HQ Sqn). These were received for 32 years exemplary Service to the Territorial Army and it is quite a rarity to be presented both the TEM and TD – congratulations and many thanks to you both for such determined and loyal Service. **SSgt Alleyne** received his Volunteer Reserve Service Medal, and **Sgt Carter** was awarded the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal for his previous operational Service in Northern Ireland. Congratulations to you all.

PLEASE DON'T SEND US DIGITAL PHOTOS

as most of them are only saved at 72dpi, for publication they must be a minimum of 300-400dpi



Capt Fred Southey wearing his TEM and TD

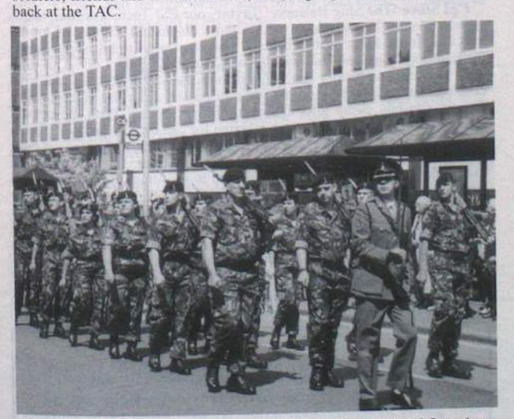
On returning to Southfields TAC, HQ Sqn had a post camp dinner at which a cup was presented to **Cpl Hales** for 'Best soldier in HQ Sqn'. Since Camp there have been a few personnel changes with the RQMS (V) **WO2 Clarke** taking over as HQ Sqn SSM and SQMS **SSgt Browning** moving across to be SQMS of the QM's Dept. Unfortunately we have also said farewell to the TM, **Maj Tim Cooper**, who has moved to MoD. We would like to thank him for all his efforts and wish him every success in the future. We also welcome to the Regiment our new Adjt, **Capt Fiona Stewart**, and new Tech PSIs **SSgt Gorman** and **Sgt Kempton**. We hope you enjoy your time with the Regiment. The main effort now for the Regiment is to build on the experiences of Camp and keep training fun, while still working flat out to fully recruit in HQ Sqn.

41 (PLK) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Steven Ong**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Watson**

FREEDOM OF CROYDON PARADE

On Saturday 23 June 2001, all TA Units in the Croydon area marched through the town centre having been granted the Freedom of the Borough of Croydon. The parade involved over 100 marching troops and ten military vehicles. 151 Regt RLC led the procession, followed by 41 (PLK) Sig Sqn, vehicles from C Sqn RY and a Troop from 10 Para. The salute was taken by His Worshipful the Mayor of Croydon, **Mr Peter Hopsun** on the steps of the Town Hall. The Mayor then hosted a reception in the Fairfield Halls for all those involved in the parade, before soldiers, friends and families of 41 (PLK) Sig Sqn enjoyed a curry buffet back at the TAC.



41 (PLK) Sig Sqn smartly turned out for the Freedom of Croydon
parade, Maj Steven Ong the only person in step!

ANNUAL CAMP 2001 – CYPRUS DETACHMENT

Whilst most of the Regt worked hard on Salisbury Plain, a few were lucky enough to deploy to Cyprus in order to test our LANWARD equipment from the WSBA. **Lt Debs** 'Sightseeing' **Speakman**, **SSgt Willie** 'Undercover' **Loch**, **Sgt Del** 'Casper' **Trotter**, **Cpl Julia** 'Eric's Girl' **May**, **Cpl Maria** 'Slim Shady' **Traynor**, **Cpl** 'Ollie' **North**, **Cpl Jo** 'Shopaholic' **Butler**, **LCpl Chris** 'Penelope' **Hunter**, **Sig Jo** 'Jolly Juggler' **Gaskill**, **Sig Kris** 'T Shirt' **Todd** and **Sig Arianne** 'General' **Fournier** all bravely volunteered to spend their Annual Camp acclimatising in Cyprus, instead of deploying with their respective Squadrons to Salisbury Plain! Contrary to what most of the Regiment think, this was no holiday, but an arduous test of stamina and survival.

The Cyprus detachment
on their arduous test of stamina and survival !

After a few initial problems of kit not arriving, broken fixtures, foot-pumps not working, power failures and wiring problems, we eventually managed to communicate! We nearly encountered a further problem on day 3 when a young RA guard asked **Cpl Traynor** to move the 17metre mast. A rare display of patience and control was shown by her, as she calmly uttered the words, 'You'll have to see my Tp OC about that!' We successfully maintained our link between Cyprus and the UK for the duration of the Ex, but unfortunately were unable to complete the second part of our aim due to the failure of a keyboard on our second LANWARD system. We should have been testing the LANWARD equipment between Episkopi and Dhekalia, but with one set of kit not working, this proved impossible. Instead, we decided to fully take advantage of the extra manpower this generated, and see as much of the WSBA as possible. We visited various places of interest inside the WSBA, and tried our hand at knee boarding, water skiing, wake boarding, and parascending.

SSgt Willie 'undercover' Loch
taking advantage of the adventure training facilities in Cyprus

Sgt Del 'Casper' **Trotter** was seen to buy two rounds of drinks in the fortnight we were there (yes, two!). Maybe it's because he's leaving that this remarkable incident occurred! Our thanks go to 259 Sig Sqn, who kindly let **LCpl Chris** 'Penelope' **Hunter** play in their Tech Workshop, and to 12 SU (RAF) who invited our operators to spend a couple of shifts in their COMMCEN. A very interesting visit and hopefully a useful experience was had by all.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Simon May** on his promotion into the Sergeants' Mess (Watch out – they can take your Mess Bill by Direct Debit now!), **Cpl Maria** 'Slim Shady' **Traynor** on her second stripe, and to **LCpl Scott Fisher** on his promotion from Signaller. All are well deserved, and well earned. Huge congratulations are also due to **Sig Kris** 'T Shirt' **Todd** who was named Regimental Soldier of the Year at this year's Annual Camp. **Sig Todd** was awarded a cheque for £125 from the Worshipful Company of Innholders, and will be invited to the Innholders Dinner early next year.

56 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Sarah Streete**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Godden**

We have welcomed several new recruits into the Sqn and they are now undergoing their recruit training with 2 (SE) Bde. With the F&M restrictions eased, they are now able to complete all five weekends before going to their Recruits Course at Blandford. This has come as a welcome relief to **Sig Mason**, who has waited since Feb to complete her pre-Blandford training. Breaks seem to be in fashion and having had two broken legs, we are all now wondering who is going to be next! **Sgt Dickie Bonner** was very unlucky to break his femur when completing his march and shoot at the beginning of June, but after a stay at Frimley Park Hospital, is now home again. His leg has been pinned internally and he is ever hopeful that he will not have to use his crutches when he goes up the aisle next month to get married, congratultions in advance, for this event. **Maddie Loch**, the wife of our PSI, **SSgt Willie Loch** was the second one to break a leg. She waited until he was on Annual Camp in Cyprus but naturally, he chose to fulfil his commitment to the TA and remain where he was rather than cut short his stay on the island! She was grateful for the support of the PSAO, **Capt Ian Murray**, who ensured she had a wheelchair and cups of tea.

COLLECTION FOR THE ABF
AND HELP GIVEN TO THE SUMMER FETE, MAIS HOUSE, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION NURSING HOME BEXHILL.

On 1 July 2001, three members of 56 Sig Sqn held a street collection for the Army Benevolent Fund, in Bexhill-on-Sea raising over £100. The collection also provided an ideal opportunity to raise the public image of the TA in Bexhill, which is a good recruiting area for the Squadron. Later on in the day, **Lt Keiron Francis, Sgt Tim Odam** and **Sig Gavin Dalton** then provided their services to the Royal British Legion's Mais House nursing home for their summer fete. An 18 x 24 army tent provided the ideal shelter for the Little Common British Legion Band and Standard party. The guest of honour at the fete was **Mr David Dimbleby**. Many 'old soldier' stories kept the three younger soldiers amused and nearly all the veterans were surprised that the rank slides were worn on the chest with CS95 not as on the shoulders as during their military days! Next on the list of public appearances for Squadron personnel is Airshow 2001 to be held in Eastbourne in mid August.

ANNUAL CAMP

This was hailed as one of the best ever camps, despite the threat of it being 'infantry-based'. Indeed, it was enjoyed so much that many felt they would prefer to carry on rather than re-form as a Troop to 'communicate'. **Lt Kieron Francis** enjoyed the opportunity to get cammed up and **LCpl Gardyne** and **LCpl Dalton** thought it was great to shoot at the OC and take her prisoner, until they realised that she did not smoke! **Capt Anthony Lamb** was in his element as part of the CTR, spying on the platoon and **LCpl Hewitt** and **LCpl Hawes** relished the opportunity to return to their roots and dig trenches again! Morale was high as they entered the final attack, knowing that they were going to win, particularly as the enemy only had blank rounds!

Maj Sarah Streete commands
the final Company attack of the Exercise
with her able singaller Lt Paul Ukpai

DUCHESS OF GLOUCESRER CUP

The loss of the DOG Cup crown at the end of a comical day did not dampen the spirits of either of the 56 Sig Sqn teams. This was generally inspired by **2Lt Rob Wood's** horrendous knowledge of military armour and added to by a spectacular 'crash and burn' by **Sig Prescott** on the motor cycle stand. Such behaviour caused morale to hit an all time high and as the Sea King came in to transport the teams to the next stand, the pilot felt secure in the knowledge that they were completely safe from any Javelin fire! Despite such failings, **LCpl Paul** 'Citroen' **Renaud** kept hold of his teddy bear – and his rank (for now!).

ANNUAL CAMP 2001 THROUGH THE EYES OF A RECRUIT
by Sig Prescott

High Spots - Riding in a Mk 5 Sea King, Riding in a Chinook, taking part in a live firing exercise, OBUA Training, Motor Cycle Riding, Driving a 432 ADC, Infantry phase during Ex Mercury Wand, Regimental Smoker, getting paid to do something I really enjoy!

Low Spots - Accommodation at Knook Camp (better in the field!), Guard Duty – but someone has to do it!

Summary - At the start, I felt a bit out of place as I did not know many people, having joined only a few weeks earlier. As the days went on, I found that you just start chatting to people and that a lot of people are on the same wavelength. Camp gave me a great opportunity to bond with and really become part of my Squadron. It turned me from being '**Sig Prescott** who had just finished recruit training' to being nicknamed 'SUSAT' and becoming one of the lads.

83 (LONDON) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Julian Carmichael**
SSM **WO2 Stevenson**

EXERCISE COSSACK EXPRESS - *by SSgt Mat Cahill*

Ex Cossack Express was the first out of area deployment of the Regiment's Lanward HF equipment in support of The Rifle Volunteers in the Ukraine. Operators from all three Squadrons were brought together for the Exercise. The Team flew at 1000hrs on Saturday 9 June 2001 after a hairy journey to the AMCS with **LCpl Paul** 'I got my drivers licence in a cornflake packet' **Starbrook.** The flight into Ukraine was uneventful unless you have a fear of flying! The RAF had installed the latest model of 'strange noise generators' which had a few people convinced that the wings were about to fall off!

Once we touched down in Lviv the coach ride to Central City Camp which was about an hour long quickly gave you an insight into the condition of this former Soviet state. There are clear social divisions between town and countryside and the aging infrastructure is struggling to cope with the demands of a newly independent country. Most of the population is involved in subsistence farming and almost all of the land that we saw on the drive had been converted into small family sized plots. On arrival at the Camp we found that our advance party, **LCpl Rich** 'Arthur Daley' **Baldwin**, had already off-loaded all the equipment and set up the COMMCEN, including the 17m masts! He had had some help from a collection of Private soldiers who had been foolish enough to be caught looking like they had nothing better to do. He had also made some useful contacts with the ATO, RMP det and the local mafia! We had a series of briefings from the Embassy staff to keep us up-dated on security issues and were made to feel extremely welcome by our hosts. During our off shift time there was plenty to keep busy with, most notably a project to help renovate an orphanage and **Cpl Gary** 'Look lads, I've found a snake' **Carey** was involved in relaying flooring for them! **LCpls Starbrook** and **Hornibrook** went to a firepower demo and also had a crack at handling a selection of foreign weapons, some were handled more competently than others! (How bad is the wound on your thumb H?) **LCpl Baldwin** helped the ATO in laying charges for the above. Meanwhile there was a strange outbreak of 'stickering' - Royal Signals stickers were appearing with monotonous regularity on innocent victims backs and on various pieces of equipment!

Cpl Steve 'The Slug Balancer' **Taylor**, our PSI Tech, won the 'tache-growing contest' hands down with a quite disgusting display of top lip hair. Before we knew it the Exercise was over and the kit packed away for transport home, all that was left was some R&R in Lviv. The town itself is steeped in history but suffered from the Soviet style of industrial development encroaching on the old city center. After the sightseeing it was time to buy cheap gifts and even cheaper booze! With the help of some pre-arranged instructions in Ukraine for cab drivers and our 'please do not arrest this squaddie' cards for the Police, everybody made it back to the hotel in one piece after an excellent night out. Back in camp the local wildlife seemed more than interested in us – huge flying things and **Cpl Gary Carey's** dramatic entrance with his new 'friend', a seriously unhappy snake, which prompted a dramatic exit by everyone else! After two weeks of continual rain it was time to say goodbye to 'sunny' Ukraine. The RAF police had turned up to check hand luggage and I was relieved that I had talked **LCpl Hornibrook** out of buying the Ukrainian special forces 'bayonet that turns into a pistol thing'! The flight home was uneventful broken only by the lads trying to spot their homes when we over flew London.

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32 (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col J. K. McKee MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. J. Russell**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj** 'Cammy' **Payn**
SSM **WO2 Norma Sproul**

KFOR STAFF MAKE FRIENDS IN PRISTINA

Anastasija Stosiae holding teddy bear with Maj Roddy Sutherland
YU Project Community Centre, Pristina 22 May 2001

Maj 'Roddy' **Sutherland** is currently detached from Headquarter Squadron and is serving as a Staff Officer in the Headquarters of the Multinational Brigade (Centre) based in Kosovo. Before he went out to Kosovo with KFOR, 'Roddy' had heard a BBC Radio programme that featured a small Serbian community living in Pristina. There are only 160 Serbs still in Pristina and they are all housed in a single apartment block called the YU Project. When he arrived in Kosovo, he decided to arrange a meeting with some of the community leaders of the YU Project to offer assistance to the young children who live there. There are still tensions between the Serb community and the local Albanians, but KFOR are working hard to unite all ethnic groups living in Kosovo. When 'Roddy' and fellow members of his Brigade arrived at the YU Project, some of the Serb children were playing basketball with the Albanian children. They challenged the KFOR team to a game; something 'Roddy' and his colleagues thought would be a walkover. After they were well and truly trounced, everyone made their way to the local community centre, where the Brigade staff distributed goodies that they had brought to all the children. These included fresh fruit and orange juice, as well as drawing books, coloured pens and pencils. **Capt Alex Clixby**, the Adjutant of 209 Sig Sqn, even produced a bag of teddy bears, which were an instant hit with the younger children; so much so that 3-year-old **Anastasija Stosiae** refused to let go of her bear even when it was time to go to bed! After a very pleasant evening of Serbian hospitality in the YU Project shop, 'Roddy' and the rest of the team left for their camp, promising to return again before the end of their tour.

51 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Morna Strachan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Lynn Bertram**

There are a lot of changes to the Squadron, both recent and forthcoming. Welcome to **Lt Milne Weir** from 52 'Soap Dodger' Sig Sqn and **Lt Chris Buckley** from Aberdeen Universities OTC. Welcome also to our new PSI, **SSgt Andy Minorczyk** who joins us following his recent promotion. Finally, we welcome back **Maj Andrew** 'Tommo' **Thompson TD** from Tayforth OTC, as our new Squadron Commander. Farewell to **Maj Morna Strachan TD**, who leaves us after several years of dedicated service as our Squadron Commander to join Aberdeen Universities OTC as Training Major. Farewell also to **Cpl** 'Cabby' **Henderson** who leaves on FTRS with 249 Sig Sqn. Congratulations are in order for **Capt** 'Davey' **Crockett** on his commissioning and his appointment as Sqn 2IC and also to **2Lt Colin Bruce**, who successfully passed out of RMAS. **Capt Linda Duncan TD** welcomes him as her Troop 2IC and looks forward to putting her feet up and cracking the whip.

EXERCISE TARTAN TERRAIN

Seven members of the Squadron took part in this Adventure Training exercise and walked part of the Speyside Way from Buckie to Aviemore, a distance of 85 miles. The Squadron team consisted of **Sig Suzie Thompson, Sig Ian Hardie, Cpl** 'Cabbie' **Henderson, Sgt** 'Girlie Tech' **Jamieson, SSgt** 'Houdini' **Shand, Maj** 'I'm off to the OTC' **Strachan** and **Pte** 'Cookie' **Kelly**. The route passed through local landmarks such as the Baxter's Food Company (jam and scones stop), past the Glenlivet distillery and on to Aviemore. A good time was had by all, despite the blisters.

Posing at Buckie — Start point of the Speyside Way
Back Row (L-R): SSgt Shand, Maj Strachan, Sig Thompson, Sig Hardie
Front Row (L-R): Lt Col McKee, Cpl Henderson, Sgt Jamieson

Sig Hardie, Sig Thompson obscuring Sgt Jamieson, SSgt Shand, Cpl Henderson. Walking between Nethybridge and Aviemore

REGIMENTAL SKILL AT ARMS MEETING

The RSAAM was held at Fort George ranges and congratulations go to the Squadron shooting team consisting of **Sgt Lawson, Cpl Henderson, LCpl Davidson** and **Sig Hardie** on winning the Association Cup. Congratulations also go to **Sig Hardie** and **Cpl Henderson** who achieved best shot in the Association Cup and LSW shoots respectively. The Squadron sports team, which consisted of the shooting team, plus the SSM and **Sgt Mike Webb** won the uni-hoc competition.

Regimental SAAM Team display their trophies
(with members of the Squadron Sports Team)
Back Row (L-R): WO2 (SSM) Bertram, Capt Crockett, LCpl Simpson, Sgt Burnett, Pte Kelly, Cpl Richardson, Sgt Webb
Front Row (L-R): LCpl Davidson, Cpl Henderson, Sig Hardie, Sgt Lawson

GORDON BARRACKS FAMILIES' DAY

Around 7,000 people attended the Gordon Barracks Families' day in Aberdeen, which featured stands from the Regular Army, including 14 (EW) Sig Regt, 249 Sig Sqn, the recruiting team from Blandford and stands from the TA and Cadets. The Squadron provided a display stand and a dozen members of the Squadron to meet the public and explain about their trades and role. **Sig Bakewell** looked particularly war-like and was an instant attraction with some of the day's younger visitors. As **Maj Gen Robert Gordon**, GOC Second Division visited this event, it was also an excellent opportunity to hold a medal presentation ceremony and several members of the Squadron were among the recipients. **Cpl Ian Briggs, SSgt Denny McLaren** and **Cpl Craig Edwards** received the VRSM, while **Sgt Trevor King** was presented with his long overdue Efficiency Medal and the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate.

LCpl Davidson and Sig Bakewell posing at Gordon Barracks Families Day

52 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Donny Gordon**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Karen Swan**

The summer months have seen the arrival of our new Squadron Tech PSI, **Sgt John McKeown** and two new Troop 2ICs in the form of **2Lts Alex Wright** and **Iain Davidson** coming in from HQ Sqn (V). The **Weir** brothers are also handing over command of NCRS Troop with the outgoing **Lt Milne Weir** heading off to pastures new in Aberdeen and **Lt Ewan Weir** moving to the Squadron from his previous posting as OC RRTT – welcome to one and all. The Squadron completed the run up to the Summer stand-down with a burst of activity as Foot and Mouth restrictions were gradually lifted and long standing events were rescheduled. One of the highlights among these events was the Squadron Adventure Training and Physical Training weekend at the end of May, where we carried out a walk along the route of the Crinan Canal on the Saturday and were dragged around the RMR endurance course in Largs. This arduous weekend was closely followed by the Regimental SAAM and Inter-Squadron weekend in June, which has already worked its way into Squadron lore. Here we won the Roupel Cup, the Graham Trophy and the Whittaker Cup, the pistol titles and the falling plates competition. The Skill at Arms proved the warm-up to the real event with the Squadron winning the Volleyball, the Tug o' War and most importantly, the Football titles.

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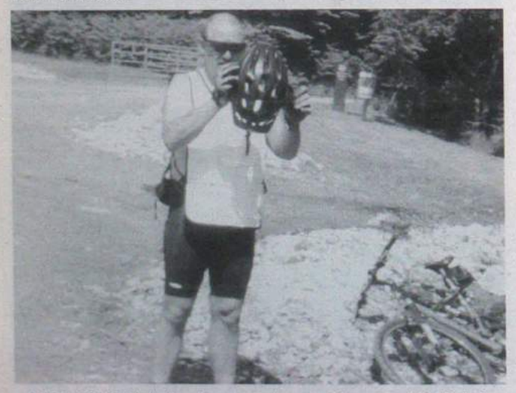
33 (LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col Elton Davis**
RSM **WO1 Day**

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS & 55 (MERSEYSIDE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj W. Wyper**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) M. Robertson**

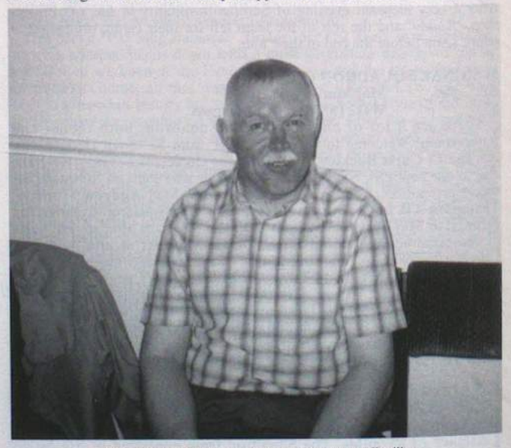
33 Sig Regt deployed to RAF Machrihanish (where?) Scotland, Mull of Kintyre 23 June – 7 July, where 55 Sqn answered the Regiment's call for admin. The first day that the Regiment arrived, confusion reigned. 'Beds! What beds?' More importantly toilet rolls were a scarce commodity. When **SSgt McCormick** arrived with 'Andrex' everybody was relieved. The first week was intense militaryand trade training, looked after by **SSgt Kenny** 'Two Phone' **Smith**, and **WO2 Bob** 'Brave Heart' **Patterson.**



WO2 AQMS Mally Poole, wondering what happened to his hair (it was there when we left this morning!)

Week Two adventure training went smoothly organised by the Trg Maj, **Maj Hailstone**. Mountain biking was run by **WO2 AQMS Mally Poole**, whose impression of John Wayne was a sight to behold after his daily 25-mile trek. No falls or scrapes were encountered on the rock climbing ably run by **SSgt Glen Martin**. All got wet on the water skiing run by **WO2 Phil Daniels**. The hill walking went according to plan, as nobody got lost.

The Colonel's week long course ended with all students being dropped off in Glasgow for 48 hours with a £20 note and a sleeping bag plus a list of tasks they had to complete with blagging at a height. All enjoyed their little jolly. A points system was introduced for tasks completed such as Act on Stage in a Theatre 1000 pts, appear on Local Radio 25000 pts etc.



OC, Maj Bill Wyper attempting to smile like Eric Pollard of Emmerdale farm

PT was organised every morning at 6.30 am. As the days progressed **Capt** 'Doc' **Shoaib** and **Sgt Arthur** 'Karaoke King' **Garnett's** caseload lengthened with the sick and lame.

David McPherson is pictured (second left) after the cheque from Cpl Paul Fahey (L), SSM Mick Robertson (second right) and Major Chris Heaton (R).

David used use his purpose-built trike on a ride from Campbeltown to Machrihanish to raise funds for the senior citizens. His fund-raising efforts received a kick-start when the 33 Signal Regiment donated a cheque for £100, raised from donations from the shuttle runs into Campbeltown.

59 (CITY OF LIVERPOOL) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. Miller**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) P. Williams**

Annual Camp this year proved to be very successful, especially for 59 Sig Sqn. The training apart, 59 Sqn managed to thrash the other squadrons on the games afternoon after R&R. This was no doubt to our superior strength, which of course was by no means an unfair advantage.

The winning Rugby Team
Rear (L-R): Cpl Matt Riley, Sig Kev White, Sig Geoff Cox, SSgt Brian Heslop, LCpl Richie Murphy
Front (L-R): Sig Martin Hankin, Sig James Duff, Sig Paulo Goulart

The afternoon, arranged by **Lt Paul Knight**, included football, rugby, softball and volleyball. 59 Sqn managed to easily win all four events, and were presented with our winnings later that night. Much invaluable vocal support was given to the teams by **SSM Paul Williams**, although none of this would be repeatable.

80 (CHESHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj D. Titheridge**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) F. Hale**

EXERCISE WHEATSHEAF ROSE 2
ANNUAL CAMP - 24 JUNE – 7 JULY
CO'S CADRE (OFFICER/WO/SNCO TRAINING PACKAGE)
by O/Cdt Claire Southworth

After Spending ten months in the South of France, and only having one week to re-adjust to England, going on exercise to RAF Machrihanish on the Mull of Kintyre for two weeks was quite a shock to the system! It was definitely a strange feeling putting on the green kit again, and having to make the effort to look presentable. The worst part was trying to get up at 6am every morning for much needed PT.

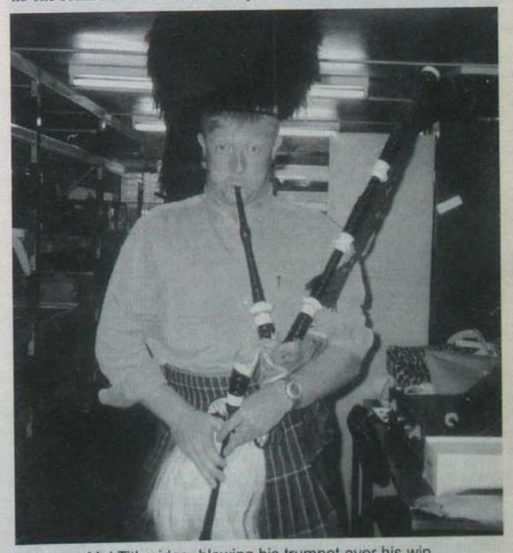
Not really knowing what I would be doing, due to my late return, I was informed I would be following the CO's Cadre. The Course was mainly run for Senior NCOs and Officers, so as an Officer Cadet, it was all new to me, and sometimes quite mind-boggling! There were of course the few who couldn't make it in on time – permanent Duty Student **SSM P. Williams**, and others who just couldn't stay awake through the CO's lectures – **Capt K. Sirr**. My solution was to team up with **Lt S. Evans** and poke each other in the ribs every so often. Definitely recommended if you can keep a straight face! The lectures covered everything from the roll of the present day TA unit and what the future holds for us, to Media Ops and Summary Dealings. The experience gained from the Media Ops exercise, where everyone had to give a press conference, was very interesting, and I'm sure that **SSM Robertson** has learnt valuable lessons in restraint, after being provoked so much he nearly started beating up the acting press representatives.

The final 48 hours of the course was spent on Ex Commanders Gallop. We were split into pairs, each given a 24-hour ration pack, a disposable camera, £20 emergency money and a list of 40 tasks with varying point's scores, the highest 4000 points for having a photo taken with Sean Connary. Despite much blagging, no one actually managed to complete this one with the real Sean. However, **Lt P. Knight** and **2Lt D. Fenwick** achieved the second highest scorer, the First Minister of Scotland. The First Minister was not all too amused though when told he was second to Sean Connary, and after that he, would not allow any other teams to see him. (There was, however, a mention in the Sunday Times of the incident the following weekend).

Lt Paul Knight and 2Lt Danny Fenwick meeting the First Minister of Scotland

When as many tasks as possible were completed, everyone had to ensure they were back in barracks and ready to give a presentation by 11am Friday. The most spectacular return made by **Maj Miller** and **SSgt Duffield** managing to somehow get a flight back from Glasgow, although the circumstances are a little suspect, (How was the flight paid for)?

After all presentations were complete, with much heckling from other teams, there followed a short adjudication and the announcement was made. The Top Blaggers who managed to amass around 240 000 points, and only just managed to get back in time, were **Maj David Titheridge** and **SSM Paul Williams.** The losers, much to my dismay, were **Lt S. Evans** and myself. As a forfeit, **Lt Evans** had to ensure the first test rugby match between the British and Irish Lions and Australia was recorded and presented to the CO by 1300 on the Saturday afternoon. My forfeit was to ensure that the CO did not find out the result of the match before he watched it. Both tasks were completed, God only knows how I managed mine, but I'm now dubbed the CO's shadow! However, some people were not impressed when the final few minutes of the match had not been recorded. By this time, **Lt Evans** was already past Glasgow, so no one could skin him for the mishap!



Maj Titheridge, blowing his trumpet over his win

MILITARY TRAINING - *by Sig A.. Dowling*

The course was run by **Capt Hopkins** from 80 Sig Sqn (V) for those from the Regiment who didn't need to complete trade training. The students consisted of Signalmen to Corporals with varying abilities. On the exercise, the infamous bog monsters of Machrihanish took out two people by swallowing their feet and hurting knees. Some were also taken out by the amazing quality of Scottish water. All on the adventurous training, which followed in the second week, had fun. The most enjoyed being the 16-mile walk over the beautiful hills, seeing all the forestry commissions' hard work and the breath taking view of the fog and mist. We followed a single track, and completed the Mull of Kintyre Coast to Coast. I still can't quite understand why a GPS was produced. It didn't work, but we weren't by any means lost! Then on the other side glorious sunshine and plenty of flies met us, while waiting for the transport.

Trade Training - *by Cpl R.. Haddock*

Summer camp for 33 Sig Regt (V) was, due to the Foot and Mouth crisis used as a good opportunity to train new operators for the Regiment. The course was controlled by **SSgt Ken Smith** in Scotland at the old US Navy Seal compound at RAF Macrahanish, with his chief instructors **SSgt Paul Langley** (Radio Relay), **Sgt Phil Price** (Sys Op) etc. and their various instructors. The fortnight was a success with a grand total of eight new Radio Relay Ops, including **Sig. Dave** 'Dangerous' **Dougherty**, his brother **Sig. Paul** 'Plug' **Dougherty,** and **Sig, Ian** 'Isaiah' **Parsons.** There were also four Sys Ops trained, these included **Sig Nancy** 'Never Sleep' **Dunbavin**, and also a loose collection of EDs, including **Sig Jimmy** 'Glass Back' **Walker**. The course consisted of six days continuous training followed by a days R&R, followed by 3fi days training and a 36hr confirmatory comms ex. Which, although there was considerable type three interference, enabled the new operators to strengthen and confirm their new found skills, which are to be further worked upon on exercise in August. During the R&R phase, both students and instructors alike, made ample use of the local hostelries after taking part in various activities, including a round of golf organised by **Sgt Paul** 'Mad Dog' **Bermingham** and a trip to Glasgow by minibus.

34 (NORTHERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col I. D. Westerman**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. Anderson**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj C. Jones**
SSM **SSgt I. Cairnes**

The epidemic of Foot and Mouth caused the cancellation of the 11 Sig Bde COMMEX Flying Eagle. Not to be thwarted, the Ops Team led by the much missed Training Major, **Maj George Whyman** and his team **Capt Mike Bryden**, **WO2 (FofS) Young** and **WO2 (A YofS) McKinnon** put together the alternative, Ex Grounded Eagle due to the fact that this exercise was flying nowhere fast. Due to the hard work and dedication of the support team a number of thank you comments should be made. Thanks go to the key personnel that ensured the camp went as well as it did. There was **WO2 (RCWO) Berry** and his team of chefs for consistently providing excellent catering. Then there was the administration and organisation of the large tented area provided by the RQMS team of **WO2 (RQMS) Bell** and **WO2 (RQMS (V)) Bell**..(Yes this does cause endless problems and no they are not related), with the co-ordination of the **QM Maj Les** 'has anyone seen my 7 iron' **Wood**. There were also the pay parades that sent glum faces away smiling to the credit of **Capt Keith Sherburn**, **Capt Carl Freeland** and the RAO staff working hard behind the scenes. Of course not forgetting to mention **WO1 Dave** 'I've got my 7 iron' **McGurk** and the MT and LAD team for ensuring everyone got to and from Camp safely. Often undervalued as a whole the Annual Camp this year was the greatest of successes by the hard work and dedication put in by all – meals, mail, money, medical, motor transport and many more.

49 (WR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj D. E. Sixsmith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Holdstock**

A warm felt welcome go to a plethora of new recruits that joined the Regiment during the latest fast track course run during Annual Camp; **Sigs Ambler, Bryant, Frose, Hook, Hopper, Jaboro, Murphy, Parker, Serasinghe** and **Shippin**. Well done to all and good luck for your future TA career! Congratulations also go to the well deserved and newly promoted **LCpls Andy Barrett, Ross Pemble, Rich Torley, Lodge** and **Courtney**. For being the 'best Siggies' on Annual Camp **Sig Sahera Ramzan** and **Sig Ben** 'Gizmo' **Evans** and all those that passed their driving tests during camp the Squadron congratulate them.

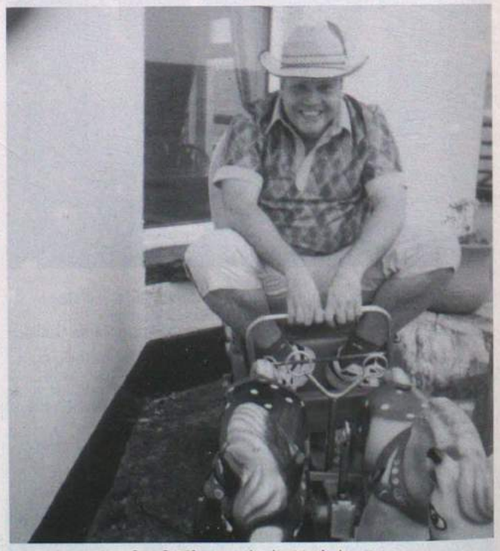
EXERCISE GROUNDED EAGLE
ANNUAL CAMP A 49 SQN PERSPECTIVE

Once again the Foot and Mouth Crisis affects the training programme with Annual Camp being held at Cawdor Barracks in Brawdy, courtesy of 14 Sig Regt (EW). The Camp was in the form of three phases; Exercise, ITDs and Adventure Training. 49 Sqn were fortunate enough to have the phases in the order as listed here and therefore began with the comms exercise. The Exercise was used as a teaching and learning phase and to try and establish a form of Sqn SOPs. Memorable moments included **Sig Maj** 'I can't let go' **Jaboro** on being told to throw the smoke grenade. This was in the short period there was to utilise the pyro that had been taken on camp – what Coast Guard? What local farmers? What police? What Welsh Boys Choir?

On the ITDs a new side to **Sig Sahera** 'Anne Robinson' **Ramzan** who was found dispatching the weakest links in double quick time during the CFT. **Brig Nigel Wood**, Secretary of the Yorkshire and Humber RFCA, was regaled with **Sgt John** 'It's a funny thing' **Barrass**' life history during the coastal walk, thereby saving the rest of the walkers. The Squadron potted sports event included such wide-ranging activities as hopscotch, javelin throwing and an alternative pitch and putt golf. The team consisting of **OCdt Karen** 'I must win' **Ford**, **Cpl Neil Malloy** and **Sig Bing Serasinghe** won the event. Wooden Spoons went to **LCpl James** 'Bad at everything' **Lutkin**, **Sig Mark** 'So am I' **Clarkson** and **Sig Maj** 'And me too' **Jaboro**.

This was to be the last camp with the Sqn for the OC, **Maj David Sixsmith,** as he move across to sunnier climes in HQ Sqn as the Training Major. He was presented with a picture commemorating his 13-year service and best wishes go with him from all at 49 Sqn. He did, however, take a well-deserved bath in the nearby water tank which proved to be quite chilly!

745 SIGNAL TROOP – HULL DETACHMENT
Sqn Comd **Capt R. Middleton-Powell**



Sgt Godfrey on the last train home

A worthwhile and encouraging turnout from the Troop members on camp meant that all had a good time. The Troop rounded up a number of prizes over the two-week period. First prize in the 'Who can ask the stupidest question' competition went to **LCpl James** 'Pass the ball' **Lutkin** for his question posed to Comd 11 Sig Bde, 'Who are you and what do you do?' Was it his own attempt to get his own back for the numerous occasions he has been asked, 'How long have you been in the TA and what do you do in civvy street?' First prize in the 'how to attack a trunk node' competition went to **Cpl Neil** 'talk a good battle' **Malloy**. Great plan, just a pity the practical element to the attack did not quite go to plan. Oh well, at least the fire support team enjoyed using up what seemed to be an eternity of pyro although they were a lot less enthusiastic about the weapon cleaning. Unfortunately, **Sgt Rob** 'Albert Gidfrey' **Godfrey** could only manage second place in the 'Who's the messiest' competition. He was well and truly beaten to the post by **SSgt Ian** 'Fair Weather Biker' **Middlemiss** who constantly gained points for maintaining the most untidy bed space in Wales. Never mind **Sgt Godfrey**, there is always next year! Whilst on the subject try and picture the scene as the Regiment sleep oblivious to everything except the sound of an early morning lark singing a dawn chorus. Suddenly, the morning quiet is shattered by the sound of the reveille reverberating around the old aircraft hangar that is the accommodation tented area. This was courtesy of **Sig Dan** 'The Man' **Stead** and his trumpet for tunes – that is once he got the correct tune for reveille. More volume will be needed next time to drown out the dulcet tones of **Sgt Tommy** 'BFAT' **Simpson**'s snoring. Thanks go to **LCpl Wilkinson** and **Sig Bibby** who were attached from HQ Sqn to the Troop for the duration of camp – hope you enjoyed it!

50 (N) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj G. Jennings**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Middleton**

EXERCISE GROUNDED EAGLE
ANNUAL CAMP A 49 SQUADRON PERSPECTIVE

As previously mentioned, the Annual Camp was split into three main areas – ITD Trg, Sqn Trg, and Adv Trg. The ITD training was planned and co-ordinated by the SSM with the only encouragement needed by the troops was the thought of that bounty at the end of the training year. Apart from the normal ITDs a number of other items of interest were slipped into the programme in an attempt to make it more interesting and varied. For the lucky ones this included a Helicopter familiarisation training (jolly!) in a Puma thanks to our friends at RAF Benson.

The CO glad to be back on Terra Firma from a Puma Heli ride

During the ITD phase the Sqn hosted the Comd 11 Sig Bde, **Brig Le Gallais**. He toured a number of stands, meeting instructors and soldiers alike, being most impressed by the well prepared BFAT stand and the almost theatrical skills seen by the Regimental FofS, **WO2 (FofS (V)) Land** who is thought to be applying for RADA after this latest performance. Squadron training followed the ITD phase with an organised military interest day. This included a visit to the Household Cavalry Regiment at Castlemartin Training Ranges in the morning. The troops were given the opportunity to clamber all over a variety of vehicles including Spartans, Sultans and Scimitars. The hardest task of the day was removing ex-tankie **Sgt Gary Fletcher** from the area – 'once a tankie always a tankie!' During the afternoon the Squadron had the pleasure of a visit around 14 Sig Regt (EW). Here **WO2 Alistair Scott** briefed all on the delights of Odette EW followed by a look around the kit and then **SSgt John Winn** and his staff for their presentation of the Barracuda EW kit. Adventure Training saw the Squadron embarking on a three-day Adv Trg phase. Some had better weather conditions than others and enjoyed a marvelous walk around the Pembrokeshire coast from Solva to Whitesands – **Capt Steve Wayman** is still recovering with **Sgt Steph** 'Ravanelli' **Gibson** at the half way point on day one. Other activities included surfing, a boat trip around Ramsey Island and a trip to Heatherton Country Park.

CO with new promotees
(L to R) Sgt Jemmett, Capt Bailey, CO, Lt Denning, SSgt Spoat

The Squadron Social was held at Brawdy Lanes following the last day of adv trg. Ten-pin bowling was the order of the day and the CO and SVWO were the main guests of the evening. The Lanes staff prepared a fine buffet and more than enough was scoffed by the Sqn gannets. The grudge games match including table football, bowling and pool between the Officers (messrs Wayman, Edwards and Bailey) and the SNCOs (messrs Robinson, Blair and Jemmett) resulted in a close victory for the Officers, going down to the very last frame of pool. Highlight of the night was when the CO promoted four of our finest stalwarts with congratulations going to newly promoted **Capt Jez Bailey**, **Lt Paul Denning**, **SSgt Cath Sproat** and **Sgt Karen Jemmett**. Well done to all!

Finally the two-week period was completed with the Comms Exercise. The Squadron deployed the Trunk and Access assets on Ex Kids Caper in and around the Pembrokeshire area. Access had the short move from Brawdy out to Templeton Airfield and the TN travelled a little further a field to Trenorgan Farm, Castlemartin. Once comms were in and working, the exercise introduced a 'role reversal' for a number of key appointments. **Sgt Karen** 'Capt' **Jemmett** took the Tp Comd's job and **Capt Jez** 'Sig' **Bailey** became a Central Crewman, taking this role very seriously as he saw it as an opportunity to actually learn something. 'Sig' **Bailey** promptly turned off his mobile, went to bed and got up 10fi hours later, just like a normal Central operator! At Access, **LCpl John** 'Sig' **Wightman** took command and **Lt Paul** 'Sig' **Denning** got stuck into cam and comms as a trainee Radio Relay operator. All in all a very valuable portion of the Exercise which all participants found both educational and beneficial. Leaving their initial locations, both assets moved back to Brawdy airfield, the TN going via Templeton Airfield where they were promptly subjected to an attack by 'Free French Resistance Fighters' in the guise of **Capt Dave** 'Pierre' **Edwards** and **WO2 (SSM)** 'Jean-Paul' **Middleton**. Unfortunately for the terrorists they had not anticipated the ferociousness of **Sgt Dave** 'Mad-Dog' **Brown** wielding his wooden club with cries of infringements against the Geneva Convention. **Sgt Mickey** 'Hannibal Lector' **Jemmett** took the opportunity to practice stress positions and something unmentionable with a thistle on them – don't even go there! The exercise finished with a comprehensive turn around on Brawdy Airfield where all were visited by the Hon Col, **Sir Norman**, the Regimental TOT and FofS (V).

The CO in his wisdom requested a Regimental Dinner out of the norm by having a joint Officers' Mess and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Dinner. An excellent yet rather unorthodox evening saw **Maj** 'Taff' **Watts** taking the role of Mr Vice and leaving us enthralled by his rendition of Men of Harlech. Not to be outdone the CO and RSM did an impressive 'Not the 34 News' which set the standard for some very entertaining skits, the majority involving members of 50 Sqn, forthwith to be known as Comms and Comedy Sqn. 'Star of the Night' has to go to **Sgt Peter** 'Absolutley Loopy' **Robinson** for his role in the 'Alternative White Helmets.' The CO, however, was heard to say to **Lt Paul** 'No theatrical ability whatsoever' **Denning** that he should not bother giving up the day job just yet. Editorial sensitivity prevents the production of photos taken of the march back from the mess in the morning except to say that a good night and morning was had by all!

90 (NR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj R. Lenton**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ward**

A small note not related to camp must be a congratulatory comment from the Regiment for the successful application for PSAO 90 Sqn, **Capt Ray Duffy**, with his appointment as a member of the Queen's Yeoman of the Guard. Well done and nice uniform!

PSAO 90 Sqn, Capt Duffy
appointed as a Queen s Yeoman of the Guard

From Flying Eagle to Grounded Eagle the Squadron found itself in deepest, darkest Wales on Brawdy Airfield for this year's Annual Camp. A varied and interesting programme was provided and the opportunity of hitching a ride on a visiting Puma helicopter was gladly taken by all –

this included **LCpl Becky Williamson** and **Sig Helen Keen** who were so enthusiastic they insisted on a second ride. Following on from the success at Christmas, 90 Sqn once again proved they are the best beat 49 Sqn into submission on the sports field. Credit should be given to the Shinty, Football and Orienteering teams, who all performed extremely well under stiff competition. A day's Go-Karting revealed some demon drivers, particularly those frustrated one who do not hold full driving licences yet! **Cpl Jerry Carr** received the dubious privilege of being the only person to be black-flagged and therefore found himself being beaten by all including the females! The final battle of the cars was between the OC, **Maj Richard Lenton** and **Cpl Kev Pountain**. Under-hand and unfair tactics were employed as the OC was taken out on a particularly sharp bend. **Cpl Pountain** was his usual modest self when accepting the winner's trophy. The outcome of the Adv Trg now means the Squadron have five certified (or is that certifiable!) 'surfing dudes'. **SSgt John (FofS) Walsh, Cpl** 'Granny' **Groundsell, Cpl** 'Johno' **Johnson, Cpl** 'Ed' **Law** and **Sig** 'Who's pinched my carpets?' **Farrington** were all bitten by the 'surf's up' bug. They now have the wetsuits and training boards and it will only be a matter of time before their cars grow roof racks and sprout full size boards.

XXXV

35 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col S. J. Potter TD**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. T. Cauldwell**

PLAIN SAILING

Doubts that annual camp would ever take place were quickly dispelled when reporting instructions were issued some weeks before deployment to all members of the Regiment announcing a long overdue Mobilisation Exercise. The exercise, which was designed to represent a Regimental mobilisation through a TMC, would launch our move to Salisbury Plain to participate in Ex Flying Eagle. Here we would engage in some useful joint comms training with our regular counterparts from 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt. This was to be a unique annual camp and a first for the Regiment as it was to be split into two distinct but separate phases. The first phase on Salisbury Plain in July was devoted to mobilisation and comms training and this is to be followed by a second phase in September/October at Wathgill. While Phase 1 was comms orientated Phase 2 will concentrate on trade, military and leadership training – something to look forward to some would argue provided another FMD crisis does not get in the way!

The CO in a rare moment of relaxation

The first phase, which took place during the period 30 June–7 July went extremely well. The mobilisation exercise made everyone aware of how the new Reserve Forces Act affected the TA and how important it was to practice crucial administrative procedures. The SPS team in particular led by **Maj Mark Whittingham** and **Capt John Middler** ably assisted by the RAOWO, **WO2 John Watson,** and his team of Admin Officers learnt some valuable lessons. These included the true definition of a Sibling and some team building lessons in relation to the number of additional staff they think they need to expand their organisation! Although one or two still think COLI is a stomach complaint – well in a sense it is if you don't receive it, and most were disappointed to learn that the Call Out Gratuity is just not paid for an exercise! Following this useful but vital interlude Det Comds and their crews concentrated on the task of carrying out final checks on their installations. After which movement briefings took place in preparation for the long drive to Salisbury Plain via Hullavington transit camp. Here all elements of the Regiment benefited from a plug up ex and other useful training before deploying to SPTA.

I'd walk a million miles for one of your smiles
Sig Phillipa Holt and Hilary Baxter relaxing between shifts

I would like to say that this move went without a hitch but unfortunately a traffic accident occurred on the M5 southbound involving a 95 Sqn vehicle driven by **WO2 Ritchie Roberts** and his co driver **Sig Steven Smith** from 58 Sqn. They were driving the last vehicle in a packet when a civilian vehicle collided with the back of the trailer they were towing causing it to collide with the central reservation. The trailer ended up on its side ejecting its contents over the motorway. The Land Rover itself spun round facing the oncoming traffic and completely blocked the outside lane. Fortunately **WO2 Roberts** who, under the most difficult and harrowing circumstances, remained calm and maintained control over his vehicle and brought it safely to a halt. He then took control of the incident ensuring the injured civilian driver was treated immediately and traffic controlled safely until the police, ambulance and recovery services arrived. The police in particular have heaped great praise on them both on the way they handled the incident that ensured the safety of many others at the scene. The remainder of the week passed by without any other mishap and each Squadron settled down comfortably to their operational roles and routines and by all accounts communicated well, as well as enjoying the heat wave. Our illustrious technicians, who have a reputation to maintain, meanwhile spent most of the exercise with little to do as equipment failures and problems were remarkably low and retreated from the tropical heat in the comfort of an air conditioned ERV. The joint comms venture with 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt also went well and, despite one or two hitches, the relief in place of TN 078 with TN 037 was deemed a huge success and highlighted how well the TA and Regular Army can work together. Everyone agrees that joint efforts of this nature can only strengthen this vital partnership. Even **SSgt Andy Lloyd,** 48 Sqn's SPSI was pleasantly surprised at how well it went, but whatever you do don't raise the issue of time and motion with him, you may not like the response!

A happy threesome from 48 Squadron

Elsewhere the ex went like clockwork and everything clicked into place, which impressed our most notable visitor Comd 143 Bde, **Brig Andrew Meek.** He spent a whole day with the Regiment on Tuesday 3 July and visited as many locations that he could cram in accompanied by the CO, **Lt Col Stephen Potter.** This enjoyable and productive week ended all too quickly with endex being declared late on Thursday. After

Commander 143 Brigade with Sgt Scott of 58 Squadron

various de-briefs and turnaround we all made our way back to our respective TAC's, via Hullavington once more, in the early hours of Friday morning. To sustain us on our journey an excellent haverbag packed with goodies was provided by the QM Dept - although the veggies were not too pleased by the high meat content, cest la vie! At the end of this phase of annual camp the traditional rest and recuperation period was replaced by a relaxing post exercise party in each TAC and after a long hard Saturday we returned home to our families and our now beginning to look forward towards September and something completely different.

TERRITORIAL ARMY FOUNDATION COURSE

It does pay to be politically correct especially as Phase One Recruit Training is now correctly called the TA Foundation Course which takes place at Regimental level.

The Course Photo

Normally this course would take place over four or five weekends but annual camp presented another unique opportunity to invite our newly attested recruits to attend a crammer course to coincide with annual training on the SPTA. The RRTT headed by **Lt Skip Whalley** deployed directly to Westdown Camp accompanied by eleven aspiring recruits drawn from all Squadrons. The week offered huge benefits as it allowed the recruits to carry out seven days continuation training thus removing the usual monthly breaks between weekends. This naturally resulted in far better trained recruits than normal even though they still took a lifetime to put the Corps badge into their berets – win some lose some! The Recruit Pass-Off Parade also coincided with the Regimental return from annual camp and took place at Canley TA Centre at dusk on a warm summer evening on Friday 6 July. The inspecting officer, **Lt Col Stephen Potter,** presented the award of Best Recruit to a proud and jubilant **Sig Carl Moore** of 95 Sqn. The CO then sprang a well planned surprise on the parade commander **WO2 Terry Douglas** by announcing and promulgating his promotion to WO1 (SVWO). **Terry** for once in his life was speechless. Fortunately for him though he choose this particular parade to wear his new Combat 95 having being forced to abandon his beloved desert combats.

ROUNDABOUT

While **Terry Douglas** is still reeling from his well earned elevation to SVWO, congratulations are also extended to **WO2 Martin Thacker** on his recent promotion and appointment as SSM of HQ Sqn. Also a belated congratulations to **WO2 Nav Muhammad** who has taken over the reins as SSM of 48 Sqn replacing **WO2 Carol Eden** who moved in with the ever expanding Ops Team in RHQ. Elsewhere **Maj Chris Edwards** our newly appointed 2IC has finally handed over the reins of power as Ops Offr to **Maj Robert Stone** and we have welcomed **Capt Jo Evans** as Adjutant replacing **Capt Bob Lovett** who is posted to HQ LAND – he would argue for a rest. **Jo** unfortunately is only with us for six months as she has chosen to join another gigantic Corps the AGC. Finally a special congratulations is extended to **2Lt Sally Carroll** of 58 Sqn having successfully graduated from RMAS and being appointed to a TA Group A commission.

REACHING THEIR PEAK

By the time this edition of *The WIRE* goes to press, the Haupsberg Dragon team headed by **Capt Alec Rodgers** and **SSgt (FofS) Steve Brown** will be well into their expedition to Kenya. Here the expedition will trek the Chogoria route that will culminate with a physically demanding and daunting ascent of Mount Kenya obtaining an altitude of 4800m. It has to be said their efforts to get there have gone through many trials and tribulations - not least the selection and training phases, which have led to a few disappointments. Many volunteered to participate in this expedition and all have gone through tough selection, assessment and training to secure their places. Preparatory training has been exhausting and has consisted of many rigorous weekends in Wales and elsewhere with the final selection weekend taking place in Snowdonia during the weekend 20/22 July. Here aspiring expedition members negotiated three peaks in torrential rain that included an overnight wilderness camp having to descend an almost vertical 200m to the campsite. Everyone who attended this physically exhausting weekend gave it their best shot in their final efforts to be selected and can all be extremely proud of their achievements. After many deliberations, the final team of twenty-three members has now been chosen and they will commence their journey to Kenya on 18 September.

36 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col W. D. L. Brown TD**
RSM **WO1 Dougie Eaglesham**

NEWS FROM THE PUZZLE PALACE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Annual Camp is always a busy period for any TA Regiment, but a combination of the FMD epidemic and a Royal visit made this years event particularly challenging, especially in RHQ. Overseeing everything from about 50,000 feet was the TM, **Maj 'Jimee' Sykes**, who proved to be his normal, unflappable self. Our Adjutant, **Capt Rousell Edwardes**, had been nominated as the RPO (Rotund Project Officer) for the visit of the Princess Royal, and all the hard work that he had put in during the previous three months came to fruition on the day. The Regimental 2IC, **Maj Dove Witson VD**, was under intense scrutiny during the first week as several people, **The Princess Royal** included, tried desperately to find out what he actually does for a living (apart from playing golf). The RQMS, **WO2 Gaz Tuff**, made his huge presence felt, and the vital kit necessary for the visit miraculously appeared well beforehand, though the RQMS (V), **WO2 Eddie Kickars**, soon started to tear his hair out. During all this time the QM, **Maj Phil Daisey**, and RSM, **WO1 Dougie Eaglesham**, quietly got on with tasks commensurate with their experience, rank and appointments – and then after they had cut the grass and erected the tents, they started on the weeds in the driveway! After a huge amount of hard work and meticulous planning, Ilford TAC was finally prepared for the arrival of the TA personnel for the start of their camp, followed closely by **The Princess Royal**. After much wailing and gnashing of teeth (mainly by the Ops Officer, **Maj Willy Shurley**), all the component parts of Annual Camp went reasonably smoothly, as they normally do.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON - ILFORD

Sqn Comd **Maj Pete Minshall**
SSM **WO2 Terry Lambert-Butler BBC**

Well, that's Annual Camp over for another year, and what a Camp it was! Due to the Foot and Mouth Epidemic, the Regiment was obliged to rearrange its plans for Ex Flying Falcon, the 11 Sig Bde FTX that was to have been based initially around STANTA before relocating to points North. The enforced changes led to week one of camp being relocated to

Ilford TA Centre, where we were to be honoured by a visit from our Colonel in Chief, though other locations such as Colchester, Woolwich and West Tofts Camp were also utilised for disparate training needs. As a direct consequence of these changes the PSAO, **Capt Ernie Feasey**, nearly had a nervous breakdown when his plan for a restful camp went straight out of the window. However, after his pleas for the relocation of the Royal visit to any other TAC fell on deaf ears (The Adjt is booked in for a hearing test) he had to settle down and get stuck in, along with the rest of the Squadron. The Sqn Comd, **Maj Peter** 'Mad Major' **Minshall** decided that this was just the time to take his annual holiday and departed for the USA for four weeks. (I'll be back when it's all ready, he was heard to mutter as he disappeared over the horizon). The 2IC and QM(V) **Capt Gordon** 'Not another crumb' **Shelley** adopted the tortoise attitude i.e go into your shell, and it will be alright on the day - the Messing Plan he left lying around was found and proved to be workable, if a little frayed at the edges. The SSM, **WO2 Terry** 'Blue Wings of Glory' **Butler**, rose to the occasion. He coaxed, organised, planned and (ably assisted by the **SPSI SSgt Jim Pollitt** and **PSI Sgt** 'Griff' **Griffiths**) ensured that all of the Squadron would be in the right place, at the right time, with the right kit.

Much wheeling and dealing with various agencies produced a plan (on a rather large 'fag packet') and many taskings and rehearsals to make sure that it would all work. We were never sure whether we were on Plan A, B, C or Z, so many versions existed, depending on who was delegating to who! In the end, it all seemed to work, as the visit was a glorious success which made all the hard work, weeding and bandinage worth while. Much of the work prior to the visit, in particular the grounds maintenance and social life in the bar, was due to the sterling efforts of **Miss (Pte) Caroline Evans**, our gorgeous resident caretaker. After spending several weeks not knowing whether she was 'dyed, bored or countersunk', she was still able to switch between stroppy civilian to dutiful soldier like a chameleon. She deserves the prize for the best split personality of the camp. The Royal Luncheon was ably orchestrated by the Master Chef, **SSgt Norma Miller-Kight**, and her team of chefs, and the service was co-ordinated by **Sgt Linda** 'Mum' **Cooper** whose skill and diplomacy in briefing eight disparate individuals (on Royal Service) had to be admired. **Linda** never raises her voice, she just suggests LOUDLY. Once the Royal Visit was over, the Lemmings flew the nest to Woolwich and a hard earned R&R before deploying onto a Regimental FTX over private land in East Anglia. This left the PSAO, the RAO, **Maj John Nixon** with his Pay Team of **SSgt Trevor Franklin**, **Sgt Sue Vicary** and **Pte Caroline Evans** (her again) to sort out the money and to hold the fort at Ilford. During this quiet(?) period, they organised and delivered RAO and Administrative training to the Regimental Civilian and Military Clerical Staff - this was a trial run for the future development of such training within the Regiment, and it was adjudged to be a success. The QM, **Maj Phil Daisey**, organised a Regimental Stocktaking at the drop of a hat to mark his handover to his successor (arriving any day now, or so we are led to believe by MCM Div) **Capt Geoff Woodcock**. This was complicated by the transition of the accounts to UNICOCKUP!!, oops UNICOM. All the boots, socks, nuts and bolts have been counted to the last minutia, and some poor soul has now got to key the whole lot in. Good luck to you, **Clare**!

Camp was rounded with a Regimental Smoker and entertainment at Woolwich, followed by the Regimental Sports Day for the Commanding Officers Cup (covered elsewhere) - suffice it to say, the Squadron put up a sterling performance, but just lost out in every event to youth and inexperience. Some of the sterner warriors of the Squadron got slightly bent in the process. **WO2 Keith Smith** forgot that Ballet Practise takes place on a dance floor and not a slippery football pitch and somehow managed to fracture some bones in his foot. The OC, **Maj** 'Storming Bull' **Peter Minshall** strained a ligament just thinking about playing a game, and the Ops Officer, **Maj Bill** 'I'm a former trucky' **Shirley** was taken out by a hidden sniper during a very physical game of softball – it's normally cars that he bends, rather than hamstrings. **Sig (now LCpl) Reggie Cullumbine**, **Sig Charley Meredew** and **Pte Johnny Walker** attended the Regimental JNCO Cadre and participated in the Regimental Guard of Honour for the Colonel in Chief. **Reggie** finished as top student and was promoted to Lance Corporal at the end of Camp as just reward for her efforts – a big well done to a soldier with a big future ahead of her. **Pte Johnny Walker** appreciated the support of his younger contemporaries who encouraged him throughout, especially as his initial contact drills consisted of forming a square – good on yer, Grandad! **Cpl Michael Egunjobi** managed to complete the NBC Instructors Course and can now shout GAS, GAS, GAS louder than any one else. **Sgt Roberts**, **LCpl Cullumbine** and **Sigs Painter, Pemberton, Hill, Meredew** and **Mann** completed the Driver training module to attain full trade status. Around all of this, the normal life of the squadron has continued. Our recruiting continues to bear fruit, with little or no wastage. The Sqn and LAD have now gained some 15 new members in the last three months, with the loss of only one - albeit on transfer to another unit as a parachutist. We have another eight in the system, with 4 more positive enquires from the latest weekends recruiting.

All good things come to an end, and regardless of the new blood there will always be some sad departures. We have just said a sad and tearful farewell (of joy in some cases) to **Maj Phil Daisey**, who is to retire from the Army after 37 years outstanding service. **Phil** is well known throughout the Army, never mind the Corps, and he was seen off in some style. An Officers Mess Dinner started the ball rolling (though unfortunately there was no quiz to entertain the assembled brain cell(s)) and a Permanent Staff Dining Out which brought back various characters from his criminal past. The roll of honour/dishonour included, amongst others, **Col (soon to be Brigadier) Tim Inshaw**, **Capt Gary Mason** and **Ex-WO1 Steve Buxton**. The event was slickly organised by **WO2 (RQMS) Gaz Tuff**, who is proving to be a 'massive' presence within the Regiment, and was an enormous success. We wish **Phil** and his wife **Gerry** good fortune for the future, especially in his reincarnation as the SO2 (RO) Camp Commandant at STANTA, where we will meet him often on Regimental Training.

The good, the bad and the departing QM,
Maj Phil Daisey (front row, fifth from right with the white socks on!)

Other departures include the Regimental YofS, **SSgt Tony Martin**, off on promotion to 2 Div Sig Regt with his family - he needs the rest. **Tony** has had an exceptionally difficult tour, which has meant he has had to be extremely flexible and has organised Regimental Comms and Training in an exemplary manner. His post is to be gapped, and **Sgt Karen Ellams** has had to step onto the soapbox and assume the mantle of YofS pro-tem. Still, POHR is some compensation for making more cups of tea. The RAOWO, **WO2 Gordon Cameron** has decided that working in uniform no longer suits his manly figure and has decided to retire to a Civilian appointment in a school, where they all wear uniform and he does not have to. We await his successor with interest. **Sgt Tim Gamble** has finally worked his ticket and is to be medically discharged a month ahead of his normal discharge having signed off last year. **Tim** is a larger than life character, having been taken from the same mould as Billy Bunter, and has suffered a large degree of ill health in recent times - we wish him and his family well back home in the dark North. Another Regular soldier off on his travels is **Sgt Kevin East**, who moves down to Blandford and the Royal Signal Display Team – lock up your daughters! **Kev** has been an extremely popular member of the Regiment (and that's saying something, given that he is a Technician) who has always tried his naked best to fit into the local community, even when somnambulating (get your dictionary out, **Kev**) – all the best, matey. **SSgt Terry McIntyre** arrives in TM Tp to cover the vacant FofS post - he has been put straight into the deep end with Euromux 'Out of Use', RSIT, ECI etc all ongoing. Other arrivals are **SSgt Les Eldridge** from TA to NRPS as the permanent SQMS, leaving room for **Sgt Babs Babester** to move over from MT to become SQMS(V) - now **Babs**, you don't actually have to take off your socks to count them.

COMMANDING OFFICERS CUP 2001

by Cpl Dave Worsfold (CO's driver and resident beast master)

The end of Annual Camp was looming, and that could mean only one thing - the CO's Cup was back on the agenda! The weather had been non-stop sunshine from the first day of camp, and this constant heat was starting to take its toll on the officers and soldiers (even the Adjutant had lost half a pound in weight). I decided, therefore, to ask the padre, **Maj Eaton**, to put in a demand for some rain up to the Great QM in the sky (I knew that Quarter Master is an RD appointment, which is as close to God as you can get). **Maj Eaton** really came up trumps on the big day, and the heavens opened for about one hour, which was just enough time to bring the temperature down to a reasonable level.

The Regiment paraded at 08.00hrs in Woolwich Station Gymnasium (God's Temple) for the initial brief on the days events. I immediately noticed that the boys and girls did not look at their best, and then realised that it had been the Regimental smoker the night before. A couple of whistle blasts soon got the attention of the assembled throng, and after a quick pep talk they soon realised the day had actually begun.

The morning's events started at 08.15hrs and consisted of Volleyball, Softball and 6-a-side association football, all very physical events which produce copious amounts of sweat (Angels Nectar), helping clear the body of beer (Devil's Urine) which had been consumed the night before. HQ Sqn was undoubtedly the superior Softball Team, winning all three of their matches. The Team was very professional, studying the opposition's tactics and changing their own accordingly – **SSgt Jim Pollitt's** bowling technique also proved to be extremely effective. The only thing missing was the chewing tobacco (though **Pte Caroline Evans** was seen with a big wad in her hand at one stage during the day) and the teams' spit bin.

Brig D. R. Wilson visited the Regiment whilst the afternoon's events were in full swing. That non-contact sport known as basketball was played in the Gymnasium and the spectators had a chance to talk to **Brig Wilson** in between the fearlessly fought battles on court. The day's events were starting to take its toll on the participating officers and soldiers, as many of them were playing in every match, but the high sprits of the TA came to the forefront when the Tug-o-War, which was the final event, began. After the penultimate event had been completed, all four Squadrons were in with a chance of lifting the Commanding Officers Cup, which was all that I could have hoped for. The tension built as the first two teams dressed off on the rope. There was a deathly silence as the teams took the strain, and then I gave the command PULL and all hell broke loose, (or at least it sounded like it). From that one word the entire Regiment found the energy to shout and encourage their squadrons – I have no idea where this fresh impetus came from, perhaps the padre's mate had something to do with it, but it was a commendable effort from everyone. A combination of good technique, true grit, determination and pride saw 45 Sig Sqn, who were previously lying in third position before the Tug-O-War began, pulling themselves into first position overall. Well done to everyone from Colchester and Warley for giving us an excellent finale to what was an enjoyable day.

Sig Aktash receives the Trophy from the CO
on behalf of the OC 45 Sig Sqn,
Cpl Worsfold tenses up and looks good in the background

44 (CINQUE PORTS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
SOUTHEND & GREYS

Sqn Comd **Maj Mork Banker TD**
SSM **WO2 Neal Fawsett**

After a considerable period of absence, a big 'Hello' From 44 Sig Sqn. The Squadron of late has been gearing its main effort towards Annual Camp, which due to the current F&M crisis, was split between various locations around Essex and Suffolk. Prior to Summer Camp, on 2/3 June the Squadron underwent familiarisation training on the Gazelle helicopter. Our hosts for the weekend were 666 Sqn Army Air Corps, based at Netheravon. The weekends training consisted of heli-loading drills with underslung loads and all of the associated safety points this entailed. After conducting dry and live drills, each member of the Squadron was given the chance to experience a flight in a Gazelle, which was something many of the soldiers had never had the opportunity to do. On completion of the days training, 666 Sqn kindly organised a horse racing evening, which was enjoyed by all, with the exception of those who lost money! (All of us…) A great time was had by all, and our thanks go to 666 Sqn for the excellent training and hospitality they provided. On 27 June, the Squadron took part in the visit to the Regiment of our Colonel-in-Chief, **The Princess Royal**. The Squadron stand was a great success, with many members of the Squadron taking part. The stand traced the history of 44 (CP) Sig Sqn, with soldiers dressed and equipped as their predecessors would have been throughout the centuries. Some of the older members of the Squadron carried their roles off better than others, with certain individuals (**Sgt Bathurst, Cpl Jones, Sig Dunham** etc…) looking like extras from Dads' Army!

Members of the Squadron
showing their big guns off to the Colonel in Chief

Equipment to furnish the stand was kindly provided by the Corps Museum and Coalhouse Fort, Tilbury. The day was enjoyed by all, particularly those soldiers and families who were fortunate to meet **HRH The Princess Royal** in person. Finally, our congratulations go out to **Sgt Trev Franklin** and **Sgt Jeff Suckling** on being selected for promotion to Staff Sergeant. More from 44 in the next issue……

ANNUAL CAMP 2001 – A PERSONAL REFLECTION

by Sig Mann (HQ Squadron)

Saturday 23 June - the first day of Camp 2001. Camp with a difference - our Colonel in Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal** is due to arrive at 36 (E) Sig Regt (V) TAC Ilford on Wednesday 26 June.

Last year the Regiment had centralised training in Castle Martin, Wales, but due to Foot and Mouth the Regiment is to be split up between the different centres - namely Colchester, Ilford, STANTA and Woolwich over the next fortnight. I'm on two weeks Driver training in Colchester under the command of **WO2 (MTWO) Stevo Kentish**, who used to be a driver in the Royal Corps of Transport; successful completion of this course will see me qualified as a B2 Driver, Licence Category C. Following parade and debrief, the Driver course and Cadre course candidates were taken to their locations on the back of a 4-tonner, heads buried in books or resting, with eager anticipation as to what lay ahead. The Driver course arrived at Colchester and said their good byes and good lucks to the Cadre Course, who all had a CFT to look forward to on arrival at STANTA with lots of Drill practice thrown in for good measure. They have a tough few days ahead and will be the Guard of Honour for the arrival of **The Princess Royal** on Wednesday.

Wednesday's fast approaching with personnel busily finalising the weeks of preparation for the royal visit. **Sig Szabo** - Colchester's sewing machinist, has also been busy, sewing nametags and regimental flashes onto shirts and jackets. Wednesday morning parade - all are looking smart. There's an air of excitement and nervousness as we are taken to Ilford. On arrival we are greeted with the newly transformed Ilford TAC - fit for a Princess! An impressive array of stands have been laid out, showing the different troops - past, present, young and old side by side. Beautiful bouquets and plants are on display, and security is tight, with the police and Special Forces in attendance. All eyes went skywards as **The Princess Royal** was flown in by Helicopter to South Park, then driven to the TAC. Cheers from the crowd of family and friends invited to attend **HRH The Princess Royal's** first visit to Headquarters.

The Guard of Honour provides an outstanding royal salute under the command of **2Lt Sturt**, prior to **The Princess Royal's** tour of the TAC and stands, after which she has her picture taken with the Regiment. Then it's lunch with a handful of soldiers from each squadron., and I'm lucky enough to be one of those individuals picked to meet **The Princess Royal**. She is pleasant and easy going and soon puts everyone at their ease as she finds out a bit more about the people behind the Regiment – when they joined; why; what jobs they do, both civvi and TA.

Sig Mann, with other members of HQ Squadron,
meet the Princess Royal

With lunch over, **The Princess Royal's** visit is complete, she waves good-bye to the crowds and is whisked away, leaving everyone with fond memories. The rest of camp proceeds with almost every candidate gaining their B2 or B3 Driver qualification and/or their Category B, C, C+E or D licence. Special thanks to the instructors, especially **Sgt Outlaw** and **Sgt Butler** who's dedicated instruction ensured my second camp with the Regiment has proved to be successful, once again.

45 (E) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) – COLCHESTER & WARLEY

Sqn Comd **Maj Mikey Whitey TD**

The Regiments newly appointed Honorary Colonel, **Col S. P. Foakes TD DL**, took the opportunity during Ex Mars Marathon to visit the Squadron. During the visit he took the oportunity to promote and commission, **WO2 Mark McKenzie Bell** to Captain.

REGIMENTAL GOLF SOCIETY - *by SSgt (SQMS) Ron 'Tex' Russell*

There is only one thing to do after a very busy week at Annual Camp – play golf! Logistics, hangovers and further preperation for week two saw the field whittled down to only nine enthusiasts. **Maj Pete Minshall** and **Capt Len Carr** led the way in their 'buggy', with **Capt Gordon Shelbey** and **Maj Davie Witsom** bringing up the rear. Superb weather combined with a new course, the South Essex Golf and Country Club, made for a really good day. The honours on this occasion, however, went to the middle pairings with **SSgt Gerry McGachy** winning the nearest the pin competition, on a 190 yard par 3, and **WO2 Martin Wright** continuing his steady improvement (some of our older readers may perhaps remember Martin from the Falkland Island campaign, the Iranian Embassy in 1980 or El Alamein). The overall winner was **SSgt Ron Russell** who, at long last and to the relief of most other Regimental players, has been caught and cut. Our sincere thanks go to **Maj Pete Minshall** who organised the event – we should do it more often!

JNCO CADRE COURSE - CAMP 2001

by Sig (Now LCpl) Reggie Cullumbine – Top Student

The JNCO Cadre Course Camp 2001 proved to be one of the highlights of my TA career. Fourteen Siggies from various squadrons of 36 Sig Regt.(V), all willing and eager to learn the leadership skills needed to become a JNCO, volunteered for the course. And the rewards for their endeavour – a tick in the box for promotion to Lance Corporal and the prizes for Top Field Soldier and Top Student, which would lead to instant promotion. The course was kicked off with our PTI, **Cpl Worsfold,** putting us through our paces with the TACFT. **Sig Burton** took this as a personal challenge, and all her training paid off as she led from the front. **Cpl Worsfold** then punished us daily with PT and Command Tasks. At the end of each lesson we were exhausted and he was smiling (PTIs have a strange sense of humour).

We were tasked to prepare a five-minute lesson on our chosen topic. There proved to be an array of subjects, from **Pte Walker's** talk on lens caps to **Sig Bleck's** hilarious paper plan lesson. We learnt all about bird watching from **Sig Fraser** (when he is not watching birds, he is thinking about them), and **Sig Bathurst** entertained us with her theories on personal cam. Not unreasonably, **SSgt Marlowe** decided we needed a bit of help. After teaching us some basic instructing techniques and how to chair a discussion, we set to work on a ten-minute lesson, and choosing topics for the class to talk about. After applying all **of SSgt Marlowe's** theory, our lessons improved immeasurably. **Sig Impey's** 'All You Ever Wanted To Know About Challenger 2 But Were Afraid To Ask' lesson, showed he has the makings of a recognition instructor. We learnt basic Dutch from **Sig Bland**, and can now confidently go to any pub in Holland and order a beer ('Waar is de bar'). The discussion group was great; **Sig Meredew** chaired a passionate debate on animal testing and **Sig Pemberton** dazzled us with his knowledge of the law (you would never guess he works for the courts in Civvy Street). The conversations carried on after the lessons were finished, which really helped us get to know each other better.

54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
CAMBRIDGE, BEDFORD & NORWICH

Sqn Comd **Maj Dennis Prawnce**
SSM **WO2 Martin Wright**

STILL WORKING

The Squadrons main effort over the past few months has, of course, been Annual Camp based in Ilford and on the STANTA training grounds. The Squadron mounted impressive displays of our equipment and history in conjunction with Regimental stand, helping to make the Royal visit by **The Princess Royal**, an outstanding success. In addition to the hard work in planning and constructing the stands, our soldiers managed to complete driver training (all categories), MT skills, NBC, BITS and Junior Cadre courses. **Sig Collins** 754 Tp (Bedford) successfully passing his Cat B first time! Rumour has it that not only are **Sgt Beach** and **Sig Brocklebank** now expert Cat C drivers but also have first class toe dipping skills as they found time to paddle whilst practising their driving skills around the coastal areas. It's not all work, work, work… hey boys! **Sig Malloy** of 757 Tp (Cambridge) conducted himself in exemplary fashion on his Junior Cadre Course by finishing in second place and attaining the Best Field Soldier award. On the NBC Cadre 54 continued its tradition of leading the way with **Cpl Blackwell**, 755 Tp (Norwich), coming top of his course, and on the recruits course **Sig O'Brien** (755 Tp) was award Best Academic Soldier. **LCpl Crawford** and **LCpl Barnes** also doing the Squadron proud by successfully completing their Corporals courses.

As always 54 have put much effort into recruiting over recent months with 757 and 755 Tps mounting displays at Duxford and Mildenhall respectively. During which time 755 Tp raised £50 for the Army Benevolent Fund through running quasar and face painting for the public, in conjunction with their recruiting. Charity events have also been in the mind of 757 Tp, 18 of which managing to successfully complete the London to Cambridge bike ride with supporters of the Marie Curie Trust. The weather held out well, as did the legs and bottoms of the Troop, although some were definitely limping on the Thursday after! July has also seen 54 host their annual Summer Ball at Coldhams Lane, Cambridge. The evening was a resounding success with guests and soldiers alike partying to the resounding tunes of Rickie Martin to well into the early hours of Sunday morning. If the level of hangovers on the Sunday was anything to go by, it was a good night.

Final words before we close for this quarter are heart felt Congratulations to **Sgt Beach** and **Pte Beach** (757 Tp) on the birth of their first baby girl, **Ammie**. Mother, daughter and dad all doing extremely well. It is good to see wee **Ammie** has the lungs to make it to Sergeant (just like her dad)! Further congratulations to the now **SSgt Durso** (754), **Cpl Blackwell** (755) and **LCpl Everitt** (757) on their recent promotions and a warm welcome to the Officers mess for the now **OCdt Spurling** (754). A sad goodbye to **Sig Impey** (757) who leaves us in order to join the REME in the Regs. Finally best of luck to **Sig Fraser** (757) who is due to run in the Three Peaks Challenge. You're mad!

Students and Instructors from the Regimental Junior NCO Cadre Course surround two passing REMFS in the form of the CO and RSM

Sgt Parkinson certainly had his work cut as he was our drill instructor for the week. Not only that, he had to prepare us to act as the Honour Guard for a Royal Visit by **HRH The Princess Royal**. None of us had performed any sort of rifle drill before but **Sgt Parkinson** persevered with us, and when the time came to fix bayonets the first aid kit was never far away (no major injuries). On the day all went well, as our friends and families cheered and clapped as we marched away - I do believe it brought a tear to my eye! We were all very proud to have the opportunity to perform a royal salute as TA soldiers, and the hours of hard work on the Drill Square, the bruises and sore arms were definitely worth it. We were split into patrols for the final exercise; our mission was to set up an OP observing a rebel force in an air control tower. In the late hours we received a radio message – our rations had been dropped outside the wood we were in - so the rummage search patrol went out to hunt for our supper (I have never looked forward to eating compo rations so much in my life). **Sig Brocklebank** led the CTR armed with a neatly rolled ball of string to make his measurements of gates and fences. As dawn approached we planned our attack on the control tower. **Sig Impey, Sig Brocklebank** and **Sig Malloy** (Best Field Soldier) and myself went in first. When the signal came we seized control of the tower and just as we thought the job was done, **Cpl Worsfold** sprang the last surprise (PTIs always have the last laugh) - a gruelling stretcher run. This gave **Sig Smoker** and his team the opportunity to demonstrate some of the best qualities of a TA soldier; teamwork, encouragement and true stubborn determination. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the JNCO Cadre Course Camp 2001 to thank **SSgt Marlowe, Sgt Parkinson, Cpl Worsfold** and **Cpl Price** for all their hard work and patience. A student is only as good as his instructor, and these guys were 'Spot On'. By the way, Top Student went to me, **LCpl** 'Reggie' **Cullumbine**.

IS YOUR FITNESS READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?

by Lt Hilyard

I have kept it quiet for many years but, alas, the secret must come out. I am one of those spotters that starts to dribble with excitement when names like Soloman and Blue Eskimo are banded in my presence. I often spend hours poring over outdoor magazines dreaming of the new kit I would buy and places I would go if only the TA would pay me more! So when I finally convinced a friend to attempt an Introductory weekend Adventure Racing Camp, no sooner had he agreed in principle then we were off! If I had seen their slogan (this title) I would have thought twice!

After a long drive to the Forest of Dean we arrived at the centre for Trail Plus, the organisation running the camp, and wow what a welcome! Food and beer waiting for us with hospitality beyond what is necessary.

The weekends programme was explained and we were invited to join the group for the 'optional' 7am run. So Saturday started and we opted in for the run. Urggh! A few minutes in and I was breathing through my ears, I wondered what I had let myself in for. I was with a bunch of seriously fit people. I was going to die! At breakfast we met the folks who'd opted out of the run, and boy what a crowd. The backgrounds were varied ranging from serious runners and tri-athletes to folks who'd not ridden bikes since being 18 (now aged 35). My fitness was probably mid to low end of the group. So the day began. We were given lessons in map reading (no officer and map jokes please), abseiling, Canadian canoeing, mountain bike handling and running techniques. We were given tuition and practice time in all disciplines. The hills that we were running down were, to me, unbelievably steep. To the extent that before the camp I would have tentatively baby stepped my way down, but here I was not just running down them but jumping like a maniac down them. The bike handling was great, again the hills being steep enough to cause the bikes to tip if you did not distribute your weight properly. Through the tuition I finally learnt how to bunny hop my bike over obstacles, albeit haphazardly! More practice needed I think! So a much enjoyed day came to a close, and we returned to the centre for a well-earned shower and food. As we sat down (in varying degrees of discomfort from aching muscles) to a fantastic meal and wine I felt pretty good, give or take a stiff quad (thigh). Soon the conversation flowed as freely as the wine, offering the opportunity to get to know our fellow competitors and nutters. Maps and equipment ready, my race group were chomping at the bit for the next days race… (massive exaggeration). The concept of adventure racing revolves around glorified orienteering in tandem with biking as well as running with compulsory stands with physical and mental challenges. For my group the first challenge for one member was being able to walk due to her aching body! We started with anxiety as the whole of the other teams went a different way to us! I breathed a sigh of relief as we cut them up having taken a short cut!

The race was off, and we dedicated ourselves to obtaining the checkpoints and 'boy' did it involve some fun cross-country! Through the day we scaled slagheaps, crawled through (and under) fencing, ran gullies, balanced over fallen logs, ran rivers and climbed through culverts and pipelines and if like me you take a more direct route to islands… swimming! We were slow but methodical and finally finished in third place beating much fitter individuals. The reason we did so well was not our physical but mental strength. We were slow but did not get lost. We were three strangers but were united in a love of being outdoors and having a good time through adventure training. For some they enjoyed the experience but would not wish to repeat it, for most…. Bring on the next race! The weekend was fantastic well organised and friendly offering the opportunity to combine sport with socialising with like minded, slightly mad individuals. I would strongly recommend it.

ON TOUR DOWN UNDER WITH THE FUSILIERS

by Sgt Kev East

It was the start of another working week at 36 Sig Regt when I received a phone call from the Training Major, Maj Jim Sykes, to come straight up to his office. So up to his office I marched, armed with a dozen excuses to get out of the impending task I was sure I was about to receive. On walking into his office he asked 'what would you think if you were offered a trip to Australia to play rugby for the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, as well as watching the British Lions play the Aussies.

Sgt Kev East enjoys a bit of culture
(L-R): Cpl Bell RRF, Sgt Kev East and Cpl Vinning D&D

I was given the day to think about it, as an immediate answer and the money was required by the end of the week. After a long deliberation (ten minutes) the cheque was on the TM's desk and I was soon to be on my way to the land down under. After meeting up with the team, I discovered that the squad consisted of 28 personnel, four of whom were guests from other Regiments and Corps, myself included. We had a briefing that night on tour rules, and at that point I realised that I had forgotten my ladies underwear, and apparently Rugby tours are not the same without said ladies underwear (and who am I to argue with rugby protocol?). I was gutted; as a good Technician I normally always travel with a least two complete sets of matching lingerie. The next morning we all awoke at 0530hrs and set off for Heathrow airport, After a gruelling 27hrs flight we arrived in Sydney, Australia. We were taken to our four star hotel in down town Sydney, situated in a suburb called Kings Cross, an area known for its late nights and red lights (not of the Traffic variety, Griff and Jason).

The first eight days of the tour were extremely hectic. In that time we had three games, all against top class civilian teams. Unfortunately we only managed to win one game, however, they were all closely fought and physical and we managed to keep our heads held high. Then the highlight of the tour came - the third and final test of the Lions tour. With the series tied at one game each, we couldn't have had it any better. The stadium was awesome, and the atmosphere was like nothing that I had experienced before.

We all know the result, so in the after match entertainment we showed the Aussies how to drink and sing songs which included 'We cam here with a backpack, you came here with a ball and chain' and many other great classics. The final game of the tour was the first against an Australian Army team (3 Royal Australian Regiment). This was by far the most physical game, with numerous players leaving the pitch through injury, mostly due to the tremendous tackling. The three weeks soon ended, and on reflection they have to be rated as some of the best memories of my army career thus far - a trip of a lifetime was had by all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Regiment for covering for me while I was away - cheers guys.

38 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

'BRAVO, ECHO, ALPHA, ROMEO –OVER'

Derby Territorials on operation 'Carpathian Express' will be packing the bare necessities - while their hosts keep the local bears at ease. **Rob Bromwich** and his friends are stuffing every spare corner in their kit bags with teddy bears as presents for deprived children in Romania. After their visit to one of the orphanages, near Soveja, the part-time soldiers will be heading into the highlands for ground breaking military maneuvers. Their Romanian army hosts' biggest worry is that a grumpy black mountain bear might try to eat one of them. **LCpl Bromwich** (25), from Oakwood, said, 'We've got a huge supply of cuddly toys to hand out to the children, but not enough cargo space to carry them. We've all been trying to figure out which bits of kit to leave at home so we can make more room in our rucksacks for toys. We're all really looking forward to meeting the youngsters after we fly out, on Friday (June 29). We simply can wait to get stuck into the military manoeuvres.'

LCpl Bromwich, a technician in civilian life, has been in the Territorial Army for 12 years. He is among 12 members of Derby-based 46 Sig Sqn taking part in the exercises in Romania. They will be deploying overseas for the first time a unique new computer controlled communications network. The Kingsway-based Signallers are the world leaders in the developing the system that can speed up battlefield communications ten-fold. Their adaptation of ordinary personal computers to drive the military's latest signals equipment has also reduced by 70 per cent the time it takes to train new Signallers.

The part-time soldiers' two-week stint in Romania, in searing 38 degrees of heat, will culminate in the cool of the mountains, around Molena. There they will be operating under armed guard in a ten-square-mile fenced compound. Both wire and rifles are necessary precautions against ferocious bears.

Bear necessities
LCpl Rob Bromwich from Oakwood, who serves with 46 Sig Sqn

MISSION TO OMAN

Nottingham Territorial **Stephen Shaw** can hardly wait for his American Adventure to turn into a mission to Oman. The 21-year-old city-based Royal Signaller is spending his summer sharing people's excitement at the region's famous theme park. However, when his temporary job ends at the attraction, near Ilkeston, he will be swapping fun and make believe for the real adventure of a lifetime in the Middle East. **Sig Shaw's** Triumph Road-based part-time military unit is the world leader in military computer-operated data transmission systems. The British Army has utilised the expertise of civilian specialists serving with the unit to create a network that can speed up battlefield communications by 900 per cent. When **Sig Shaw** heads off for Oman an entire armoured division will be depending on his skills to keep them on track. He said, 'I'll be working with a Signals team taking part in a huge army exercise. Our job will be to keep a radio watch along a main supply route running right across the country. If any tanks or supply vehicles get in to difficulties they will be relying on us to call in heavy recovery support to help them.' **Sig Shaw**, from Ilkeston, said that with desert temperatures soaring into the forties, access to immediate assistance was vital for the soldiers and their machinery. He added that he was aiming for a full-time career in the regular army. Serving with the Territorials had been the perfect way to find out what military life was like first.

Sig Stephen Shaw from Ilkestone

39 (SKINNERS) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col P. R. Towers MA MSC**
RSM **WO1(RSM) F. Roberts**

RHQ is undergoing significant turmoil as two key characters move on and are replaced. Firstly to **Maj** 'Butch' **Maycock**, the Training Major, a sad farewell, and secondly to the Adjutant, **Capt Nick Feet** who not only moves onto warmer pastures in HQ Cyprus, but takes with him his new wife **Rachel** (many congratulations from all in the Regiment). Good luck to you all! Linked of course are greetings to the incoming Training Major, **Maj Mackay** and Adjutant, **Capt Jason Nichols**. Mention must be made of two individuals of 47 Sig Sqn; **Sgt Bob Young** who recently spent two weeks on an exciting exchange with the US National Guard (in the US, of course!) and of **LCpl Spittle** who has just returned from four months in Mongolia with Raleigh International (full articles below). In addition, there has been a very colourful Medal Award Ceremony for 5 Sig Sqn, Squadron exercise deployments and a Squadron Battlefield tour by 47 Sig Sqn. Looking forward to the winter? Despite the promises of potentially inclement weather, the Regiment looks forward to the mobilisation and deployment of 16 individuals to the Balkans as part of the composite 97 Sig Sqn - the first of its kind for a long time! Also in October is Annual Camp, this year to Bodney Camp (STANTA), in Thetford, Kent - the program is shaping up well and it looks to be a busy camp indeed!

5 (QUEEN'S OWN OXFORDSHIRE HUSSARS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (BANBURY & OXFORD)

The Squadron bid farewell to **Maj Robert Stone TD** Royal Signals on 20 July 2001 and we wish him every success in his new appointment as the 2IC/Ops Officer of 35th Sig Regt. **Robert** has served in 5 Sig Sqn as a Troop Commander and Second in Command. The Squadron would like to thank him for efforts during his tenure as Officer Commanding and also for his extremely generous presentations of a Personality Board and Lance. We would also like to express our appreciation to his wife, **Sarah** for the excellent BBQ held at their home in June this year.

Maj Stone explaining the role of an OC to his son George

We welcome **Maj Richard Belbin** as Officer Commanding and wish him a successful tour of duty in Banbury. We also have with us for a three-month FTRS Sergeant Drew Hall from 46th (City of Derby) Signal Squadron filling the vacant PSI (Tech) post. Congratulations to **Cpl Danny Palmer, Cpl Lizzy Matthews** AGC, **LCpl Max Sample** AGC and **LCpl Mike Bayer** on their respective promotions.

MEDALS GALORE!

Medal Recipients
Sgt Mark Taylor, Sgt Gordon Shields, Colonel John Bridgeman, Major Robert Stone, Lord Lt, Cpl John Smith, Sgt Paul Milner, Sgt David Jarvis Cleaver RLC, Sgt Chris Minchella, SSgt Judith Phillips, WO2 Ray Phillips

Colonel John Bridgeman CBE TD DL receiving the Lance from Maj Robert Stone TD

On Tuesday 17 July 2001 the Lord Lieutenant for Oxfordshire, **Mr Hugo Brunner** presented medals and certificates to serving and past members of the Squadron. Our Honorary Colonel, **John Bridgeman CBE TD DL** also presented NELC Certificates to two supporting employers in the area. The evening was a splendid affair with 80 guests including the High Sheriff for Oxfordshire, **Lady McLintock**, RFCA Secretary **Brig Powell**, Deputy Commander 2 Sig Bde, **Col Chris Laurence TD** and Deputy Commander 145 (HC) Brigade **Col G. S. Smith TD**. Banbury Town and Cherwell District Council were represented. A number of civilian employers were in attendance and most importantly the families and friends of those receiving their awards, congratulations to all.

Maj Robert Stone
receiving his farewell gift from Sig Nicola Harker

47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (UXBRIDGE)

Sqn Comd **Maj C. M. Lankester**

Despite the hindrance of Foot and Mouth, the Squadron remains reasonably well recruited, we continue to recruit high calibre, enthusiastic and well-motivated people. The battle to retain soldiers whose civilian jobs become more hectic and demanding continues and we are optimistic that we can regain full strength this year. Elsewhere, **Sgt Ben Newby** is to be congratulated on his achievement of finishing top student on his Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course at Blandford The Squadron has had several exciting things occurring these past few months, with a highly successful Squadron battlefield tour to Normandy (see below); a deployment to Salisbury Plain and Sheffield on Ex Mercury Skirmish, and NCRS(+) exercise. A real chance to practice comms skills in a tactical environment, special mention must be made of our affiliated cadet detachment who provided a strong force to simulate the guard force that would inevitably be deployed to such a communication site. They performed splendidly under **Lt Mark Hinks** their new detachment commander and many are the war stories going the rounds at Uxbridge. Looking forward, the squadron is now preparing for Ex Marconi Yeoman, an HF comms exercise utilising the NCRS HF voice capability. This is a follow on exercise to Exercise Eastern Venture in February of this year, much enjoyed by those taking part because they really had to work at the comms problems that faced them.

SQUADRON BATTLE FIELD TOUR EXERCISE NORMANDY YEOMAN

Following the success of the Squadron's previous trips to Ypres and the Somme, it was decided that the next trip should focus on the Second World War. Our intent was to visit major sites from the Normandy campaign, and to follow in the footsteps of 4 Squadron Middlesex Yeomanry. Extensive pre-exercise planning was conducted and briefing notes prepared by our guide, Normandy expert and PSAO, **Capt David** 'Don't call me Dave' **Gibson**. Eighteen members of the Squadron assembled at Uxbridge on a Thursday night, and once two stragglers had been rounded up set off for 'somewhere in Southern England' where our landing craft awaited. An uneventful night crossing was made (broken only by high level debate with other members of the ship's company on Northern Ireland politics). In the early hours of Friday morning we were reconstituted on the bridgehead, with horses well watered (some troopers more so) and keen to gain a foothold further inland. Unfortunately our stragglers struck again and decided to come ashore on foot rather than in the transport laid on.

The first day's itinerary was gentle and included the establishment of camp before visiting our first two sites. At Longues we visited one of the coastal gun batteries that faced the invasion force and recreated scenes from 'The Longest Day' at the observation bunker on the cliffs. The Squadron then moved to Arromanches, the town on Gold Beach where one of the Mulberry harbours was established. Here we visited the museum dedicated to the landings, walked on the beach and were refreshed in a cafes assisted by the incredible language skills of **Sgt Bob** 'Babelfish' **Young**. For the evening's entertainment the Squadron dispersed and found that Normandy appeared to be closed until the holiday season began. This could explain why the troops RV'd towards the end of the night in 'The Yellow Submarine'. A bar devoted to the Beatles and charmingly wallpapered in tartan carpet (which pleased **Pte Darren** 'The Hustler' **MacFarlane** almost as much as the pool table on which he proceeded to win the shirts from many Squadron members). We also encountered our own difficulty in establishing a bridgehead here as entry involved being examined through a peephole before giving the password, which after much guessing transpired to be, 'Vive la France et le Four Fab'. Further delight was had by the Squadron's male choir (star vocalist **Sig Jon** 'Freddie Mercury' **Clarke**) when the karaoke machine was set in action, although questions were asked about the post-watershed Channel 5 nature of the backing videos.

The following morning a relatively early start was made and the Squadron headed for Bayeaux. The trip was enlivened by **Sig Sean** 'M. Creosote' **Diton's** discovery that he was not good at travelling in the back of a minibus after a night in The Yellow Submarine and **Sgt Ben** 'Golden Boy' **Newby's** map reading skills. In fact so expert did our chief navigator show himself throughout the weekend he was immediately recommended for a field commission! At Bayeux we visited the excellent Musee de la Bataille de Normandie where **Babelfish** was able to regale various veterans with his military experiences and **Lt Matt** 'Melchett' **Watts** definitely did not fall asleep in the film show, despite rumours to the contrary. We then moved on to the Bayeux cemetery, the largest from the Second World War. Here, in the absence of any Middlesex Yeomanry fallen we laid a wreath on the grave of a member of the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars, now our sister Squadron 5 (QOOH) Signal Squadron and observed a minute's silence. A poignant reminder of the 'all arms' nature of the landings and battle was the number of Merchant Navy graves to be seen in the cemetery in addition to those of the RN, Army and RAF. Our next objective after victualling at a local supermarket was Hill 112, the scene of a month-long battle between various British divisions (including 5 DCLI, after whom the site has become known as Cornwall Hill) and 11 SS Panzer Corps. Here a second wreath was laid at the 43rd (Wessex) Division and silence observed. The site was also interesting for the assembled Officers as a TEWT had been held in the UK during Officer Training (although **Lt Melchett's** suggestion that the best strategy was to 'form square and hoist the Regimental colours' was not taken as the best option). We then moved to Villers-Bocage, site of an action involving the British 7 Armd Div including 4 Sqn Middlesex Yeomanry. Here, in true Yeomanry style, a column of armour had stopped for a nice cup of tea when an SS Panzer commander, **Michael Wittmann**, burst from cover. He charged into the town destroyed 49 British vehicles (including the entire RHQ element of 4 County of London Yeomanry) before escaping on foot after his own vehicle was disabled. This site was of particular interest to **LCpl Keith** 'Vapour Hazard' **Braun,** who had studied Wittmann's career in the past.

At this point it was decided to return to camp and divide the Squadron so the cultured could visit the Bayeux Tapestry and the remainder take some R&R. Reports from the bus to Bayeux handed down from **Capt Lisa** 'AWOL' **Taylor** suggested that the speeds reached in order to get to the museum before closing time were every bit as frightening as facing **Michael Wittmann**. The excursion was judged a great success. The evening continued in 'The Yellow Submarine' where the, Squadron were greeted as old friends and the Male Choir performed again. On a foraging mission some members of the Squadron including **LCpl Kev** 'Tintin' **McRae** discovered the rare beast that is a restaurant with absolutely no food available. We were also treated to the sight of **Lt Dave** 'Swamp Thing' **Cornick** and **Lt Melchett** in extremely lively matching Hawaiian shirts, which attracted criticism from many including **LCpl Cath** 'Fashion Police' **Corcoran**, who could not believe that two supposedly grown-up leaders of men could be seen in public in such items. On the way home it was also rumoured that our PSI Tech, **Sgt Baz** 'Boatswain' **Kightley** was pursued by Norwegian and Japanese fishermen during his moonlight dip.

The following morning dawned far too early for some (yes, the stragglers again) but camp was struck in a timely manner and we departed for our final two destinations. This element of the trip centred on the Airborne assault, partly to please the PSI 'Oops' **SSgt Jay** 'Stumpy' **Saunders**. The first location was the Merville Battery, scene of savage fighting after a drop by 9 Para went awry. The museum here was housed in the main bunker used dioramas, photographs and paintings to bring home the scale of the action, which was ultimately successful for 9 Para even though it transpired that the guns they had been sent to silence were not in fact as formidable as the planners had feared. We then moved to Pegasus Bridge where a fine new museum has been built covering the airborne action. Here the PSI 'Oops' was teased mercilessly by members of the Squadron pointing out that the objective was taken not by the Paras but the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. Lunch was enjoyed in the Café Gondrée and our attachment, **Maj Toby** 'PLK' **Lankester** was appointed as official photographer for the inevitable group shots on the bridge. Attempts to recreate the painting 'Go to it' by **Peter Archer** were frustrated by the volume of traffic coming over the bridge. We then performed our exfiltration to Le Havre, following the coast road that allowed us to examine more of the beaches from the transport. 'Golden Boy' again showed his navigational abilities: at one point **Sig Stuart** 'Homer' **Morris** was heard to say, 'If we pass that McDonald's again can we please just go in?' The return to the port was accomplished eventually, although an attempt to stock up the Squadron's bars was thwarted by (i) the fact that all supermarkets in France appear to be closed on Sundays (ii) the heavily laden state of the transport and (iii) the enormous queue at the British-owned shop on the quayside. Luckily the Squadron team (featuring **Sgt Lois** 'Ian' **Lane**, the resident music expert) won a return crossing for later in the year in the onboard quiz so perhaps

we will be able to return for further explorations and replens. A fast crossing was made and good time achieved in the return to Uxbridge, so an earlier than expected dismissal parade was held and the Squadron dispersed with plans already afoot (encouraged by our OC, **Maj Carla Lankester**) for next year's trip. Suggested destinations on a postcard, please! There are many people to thank for their efforts to make this trip the success it was **(Lois** and 'Golden Boy' made fine breakfast chefs, for example: please don't transfer to the Really Large Corps). However, overall mention must be made of **Sgt Young** for his translation, which helped things run smoothly, the PSIs for their input during the preparations for the trip and most of all of **Capt Gibson,** without whom the exercise would not have been the great learning experience it turned out to be.

OTA/US NATIONAL GUARD EXCHANGE JULY 2001

by Sgt Bob Young - 47 (Mx Yeo) Sig Sqn

Get all my stuff in the car ready to go to the TA Centre ... ... .do I really need all this stuff? I go via RAF Uxbridge to meet my host **Sgt Ray Reynolds** USNG and we set off via Heathrow, bound for Washington DC. I meet up with Warrant Officer **Terry Werley** the US National Guard representative, who helps to organise the exchange programme, and acts as the point of contact for all the British personnel whilst they are in the States. With my host, we were then airborne to Des Moines, the state capital of Iowa, via St Louis, arriving late evening. We had been told during the briefing in March, that the first thing most servicemen notice in America was the heat, and believe me they weren't wrong! Even arriving at Des Moines at 10pm at night it is still over 80 degrees and the humidity is really sapping! The overnight accommodation in an air-conditioned room was a welcome relief. On Saturday my host took me to Iowa City (Indian country), and then a drive up to the Amana Colonies (an old 19th century Germanic colony). After meeting my host's family, we check in at a baseball game where I am honoured with the 'first pitch', having been introduced to a crowd of 10,000 as **'Sgt Bob Young** of the Queens Territorial Army from Oxbridge'. I manage to pitch the ball without disgracing myself, although I don't think that they'll be looking to sign me up just yet! I literally 'melt' back into the crowd to watch the rest of the game.

Sunday morning sees the start of the trip to the exercise area, only about 1000 miles to go. We head for South Dakota via Sioux City and Sioux Falls, missing a tornado on route. The plains are very dusty, very dry, full of cattle and very little else especially people! Following an overnight stop, we head for Elsworth Air Force Base, where there are an awful lot (25) of B1 Bombers (and at $200 Million per aircraft, that's an awful lot of aircraft). After looking around the aircraft, it is off to Mount Rushmore, eventually arriving at Camp Guernsey in Wyoming in the early evening where we meet the rest of the battalion. I switch from tourist mode to military mode.

On Tuesday, my host and I visit some radio dets. Quite interesting, how they use their masts. They are all hand cranked with directional ropes attached, which are used to focus in their SHF antennae. This procedure sometimes seems to take them forever. The other thing that was really noticeable was the sheer weight of the masts, probably about twice or three times the weight of our own. The weather becomes a highlight on the Wednesday night; 22 people were struck by lightning out on the training area, it was a miracle that no one was killed. We got flooded out (memories of England). I have been volunteered to act as enemy during one of their combat training tests, the test being how they react to effective enemy fire. One thing that was really noticeable was their whole ethos to training, because it appears that much of their training revolves around their trade, with less emphasis on other parts of the military syllabus, especially the infantry side of soldiering. The heat did finally take it toll and I had to retire for the afternoon.

During the weekend, I decided to look up a couple of British soldiers, who were also participating in the Echange Programme and were out on the same training area. We found their parent unit fairly easily, and came across an MLRS unit (grid square removal company) that was co-located with them. Their hospitality was outstanding and I had a wonderful few hours being allowed to drive the power unit and be shown how the system worked. Sadly we had to leave but found our compatriots nearby, demonstrating the advantages of combat 95 webbing. Their parent unit offered us all the chance to fire the 155MM field howitzer, and again it was a fantastic experience and highlighted the great hospitality and warmth that the US soldiers showed me throughout my stay. Monday was my other 'must do' day, namely the watching of the 'Million Dollar Minute'. This was where the employers of the National Guard got to meet the military Top-Brass, with the million dollar minute being a salvo of rockets from a battery of MLRS's ... This was absolutely amazing and afterwards I presented a regimental plaque to the head of the Army National Guard - **Lt Gen Schulz**! Monday was also endex and how quickly a week passed!

Tuesday morning, my host and I acted as an advance party for the battalion recovery back to Cheyenne, the state capital of Wyoming. Following a fast turn-round, it was time for the presentations, tea and medals. After all the presentations, it is my turn to be wheeled out in front of the battalion, where I receive a 'Certificate of Appreciation' from the **Lt Col Feldman**, the CO, which was in 'recognition of my vivid and thoughtful debriefings during the combat training tests'. Wednesday was recovery day (in more senses than one!) It was reveille at 0530hrs, so that I can fly back to Washington at 0630hrs, via Denver and Chicago. Thursday is a chance to see Washington, particularly Fort Mayer and Arlington National Cemetery, and the tourist sites and statues of the city. It is also a chance to catch up with the rest of the British contingent and swap stories (as one does). With my body and suitcases weighing almost the same, I am sad to leave the USA. I have so many great memories and have met so many nice people. Of course I will be going back to the US next year! If only life was that simple. All I can say is that these two weeks have been the best of my life.

FROM UXBRIDGE TO ULAANBAATAAR - FOUR MONTHS IN MONGOLIA

by LCpl Spittle 47 Sig (Mx Yeo) Sqn, 39 Sig Regt

Mongolia - one of the most desolate and wild countries in the world, perceived by most to be the back of beyond. When I received the phone call from Raleigh International asking me if I would accept the position of Assistant Logistics Manager for the April to June expedition this year, I had no hesitation in saying yes.

'Raleigh International is a youth development charity which inspires people from all backgrounds and nationalities to discover their full *potential by working together on challenging environmental and community projects around the world.'*

The young people who take part in the expeditions are 17- 25 year olds from a variety of backgrounds, they all participate in three phases - a community, an environmental and an adventure phase. The staff team consisted of the following - Expedition Leader (lives in country and is employed by Raleigh), Logistics Manager (is contracted to Raleigh for two expeditions), Deputy Expedition Leader, seven x Project Managers, six x Assistant Project Managers, two x Builders, eight x Medics, three x Assistant Logistic Managers, Accountant, Administrator, Public Relations Officer and Photographer who are all volunteer staff. As part of my ALM role I was also to be the Communications Officer for the expedition.

Pre Expedition - The logistics team arrives in country early in order to allow them to prepare the equipment, food etc before the main complement of staff arrive and staff training begins. One of the first tasks was to empty the container from England which had all of the food from London for both expeditions running in Mongolia in 2001, all the new tools for the building sites as well as various other bits and pieces. It took a day (in the snow!) to unload and then we had to sort everything. In the first few days I also visited the Black Market (so called due to colour) - the main source of everything in Mongolia from Apples to Yurts (Mongolian felts tents aka Gers). Due to Foot and Mouth in North Eastern Mongolia it was decided to move both the environmental projects down to the Gobi desert and to have a secondary field base down there as well. This was to host Venturer Induction and Changeovers and would have staff based there throughout each phase. This decision meant that the Logistics team would have a slightly different role than first anticipated. Instead of spending most of our time in UB and travelling out to the sites and organising re-supply from UB we would be operating from Southern Field Base (SFB). This meant that re-supplies were much harder to obtain and transport as it was a fifteen-hour drive from UB along roads that wouldn't even warrant being called a track back in England. There was a local town - Dalanzadgad (DZ) where we could buy most things but not in the bulk we required. We therefore had to buy all of the local food (pasta, rice, milk and other staples) and sort it and the food from London into project groups for transportation down to the Gobi. This isn't normally done until it is required. All equipment and kit that might have been needed i.e: spares also needed to be sorted and made ready to be moved down to the Gobi. We also had to buy all the stock to ensure that Tuck Shop was adequately stocked and run during Induction and changeovers. Trying to work out how many bars of chocolate, cans, bottles of moisturiser, tubes of toothpaste, films and cigarettes amongst other things the expedition are going to require is a headache of the largest order. Everything needed to be bought in UB and transported down as we wouldn't be able to find it in DZ.

Staff Induction - I had to teach the staff about HF communications and the radios we were going to be using. The radios also needed to be programmed and checked and the kits made out for each group. The radios we used were made by an Australian company called SMC and were called HF90s. My brief was to teach the rest of the staff basic voice procedure, basic antennas and propagation, how to use the radios and how to deal with any problems. In Mongolia the only way to communicate is by radio, therefore every staff member had to be competent and confident in using them because in an emergency that would be the only way of communication between the group and field base. Once the project staff had deployed the listening watch was then activated in Field Base. This was my next job - to ensure all staff remaining at Field Base knew how the system worked there. On arrival at SFB (about 60mins after leaving DZ) we discovered that the trucks that had transported everything from food to meths from UB had arrived - there was no rest! We unloaded the trucks then put the food away in the food ger, and put most other things in the storage ger. One of the first things I discovered was that a dipole had been set up using two poles usually used for tying horses to! However, as masts they were proving remarkably effective. This dipole worked and all groups could be picked up as could FB. Excellent - one less job for me! Over the next couple of days we sorted food, moved food, sorted and moved food and then moved it again! Normally back to where it had come from! The staff returned from their recces with kit requests left, right and centre so we dealt with those, placated and cajoled staff as they realised that this and that wasn't possible and then the one word appeared that sends shivers down my spine even now - TENTS. Quite an innocuous word really. I was trying to allocate tents as fairly as possible as we hadn't enough. I managed it only after one staff group came back and assured me you could fit four people in a three magi Hyperspace.

Venturer Induction - Now came the bit I was dreading - I was to teach 100 17 - 25 year olds how to use a radio. I had cunningly forgotten all my notes so had to rely on memory and luckily it didn't let me down. I didn't teach them as much detail as the staff- just basic VP, how the radios worked and what the dipole did and safety issues.

Phase 1 - During phase one I was based at SFB with Paul, Albert one of the other ALMS and **Jane** - a medic. We had to ensure that the trek groups were supported adequately as well as trying to source food and possible spare equipment in case anything got broken. Supporting the trekking groups involved doing three food drops as they couldn't carry 21 days food with them. We agreed food drop locations with the groups over the radio then headed out and located these places and endeavored to leave the food there. At SFB we had a generator which allowed us to have an eight-way battery charger charging them batteries constantly. This allowed us to collect the trekking groups batteries and replace them with charged ones during the food drops. During this phase we also had a great deal of difficulty with one of the channels we were operating with and I had to try to work out a better system for the next phase. It was decided not to use this channel for the rest of the expedition and as a result comms were much better. The radios were also proving to be somewhat troublesome during this phase, however it was all stuff that the groups could fix. Sadly the groups didn't realise this, so during this phase I put together a 'Troubleshooting Guide' for the project - there were significantly less problems next phase. The weather at SFB proved to be the toughest thing to overcome - the wind was constant at about 40mph and on some days we had gusts of 100mph with 80mph constant. Walking around proves to be somewhat challenging in these conditions. We also had temperatures below freezing, snow and blizzards, but we also days of bright sun and nice weather, however it was still windy. At the changeover between Phases 1 and 2 I ran through everything with the project staff individually and covered any issues they might have. I also checked all equipment and issued charged batteries where necessary. Changeover also means that the Logistics team also have sort out the food for the next phase and deal with any kit / equipment issues that arise.

Phase 2 - My 'phase out', (i.e: away from my role) I found myself in one of three folgons heading to Togrog -home of A1. Togrog is a small town in the north of the Gobi where we were building a Straw Bale Medical Clinic for them so they had a purpose built medical facility. Raleigh has a contract with the UNDP to build four of these clinics a year until 2003 - 16 in total. It was the hardest phase I did as the work was very physical and we did long hours on the site. Despite problems with the straw bales not arriving on time and rain (in the desert?) we managed and left at the end of the phase having finished the inside walls which you have to stuff with straw and the outside walls which uses straw bales as very big bricks. During this phase the venturers also get to interact with the community and we spent evenings in local workers (we had six local workers on site with us) gers, playing with the local children in the after school club, playing sport against the townspeople and generally getting to know them.

Phase 3 - I was to spend this phase at FB in UB. We were packing up SFB this phase and all the spare food and equipment was coming back up to UB. In order to save costs it had been decided that the next expedition's food for the trekkers was to go down to DZ *in* the vehicles that were to bring our remaining food and equipment back up. I as the only member of the Logs team in UB was responsible for arranging the buying of local food and the sorting of the food into groups and phases. In the absence of the DEL I also had to arrange the drivers for the run and negotiate their contracts with them which is always an experience. During the rest of the phase I had to generally prepare kit and food for the next expedition. I had to equate spending on Tuck Shop to what we made, write reports and clear up. I arranged the provisions for the end of the expedition. This involved buying the food for endex, being held at Terelj - an hour outside UB. We could provide fresh food for everyone as it could be transported. Menus had to be arranged and quantities calculated although we could always buy more if necessary.

Endex - The last few days of the expedition are Endex - the venturers all come together for debriefing, a day in UB, the endex party and slide show. However, we as Logs have to ensure all the kit is returned and is serviceable for the next expedition, any spare food is returned and added to the next expedition's allocations. I also had to ensure all radio equipment was still usable although there was some new equipment coming out with the new staff Endex was remarkably smooth and the fresh food went very well after all the dehydrated food they had been eating! In the back of beyond (Outer Mongolia) I experienced things that very few people will and I am one of a privileged few hundred to visit there this year. Temperatures ranging from -20 to +40, scenery ranging from desert to forest, extreme material poverty, a complete contrast from winter to summer and I shared it with some great people. Raleigh in Mongolia was everything I expected and more, everything I dreaded and more.

If anyone is interested in taking part in a Raleigh expedition further details can be obtained from the website - www.raleighintematioml.org.uk or phoning the following number - 0208 7371 8585.

71 (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT BEXLEYHEATH

CO **Lt Col S. R. C. Malik**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. D. Tait**

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

The Regiment says farewell to **Maj Eric Heritage** and his wife **Cathy** who move from South East London to North West London to take up an appointment in the J6 Branch at PJHQ in Northwood. To replace him as Training Major, the Regiment welcomes **Maj Stu Boyne** and his wife **Helen** and hope you have a successful tour with the Yeomanry Signal Regiment.

REGIMENTAL AWARDS

At the end of the recent Regimental OBUA exercise, Ex Phoenix Kestrel, at Longmoor Camp, the CO took the opportunity to present a number of major awards. The first was the trophy for the soldier who had achieved the best placing on the Blandford (or equivalent Arm/Service School) 2-week Recruits Course during the previous training year (TY00). This year the trophy was awarded jointly to **Sig Hutchings** of 68 (ICCY) Sig Sqn and **Sig Mackay** of 70 (EY) Sig Sqn, who both achieved a second place on their Recruits Course at Blandford.

Lt Col Malik presents Sig Hutchins with the best Blandford Recruit Trophy

The CO's Trophy (initially presented by **Lt Col Brown** in 1981) for the Warrant Officer or SNCO who has given extra Service to the Regiment during the previous training year. This year was awarded to **Sgt Lakin** of 68 (ICCY) Sig Sqn. Amongst his key achievements during the year was Top Student award on his Class 2 Trade Training Course.

Finally, the Drapers Cup, which is awarded annually to the Squadron achieving the highest percentage of Fit for Role results at the end of the last training year. This year it was won by 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn. Excellent FFR results were achieved by all Squadrons, but 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn managed to achieve 78% of their soldiers qualified as FFR during the last training year (TY00).

Sig Murray receives the Drapers Cup from Lt Col Malik on behalf of this year s winners, 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn

EXERCISE PHOENIX RECRUIT 2/01

At the end of the latest Regimental Recruits Course, Ex Phoenix Recruit 2/01, a total of 21 recruits managed successfully to complete the course. At a recent Regimental training weekend at Longmoor Camp, the CO took the opportunity to present each of the new recruits with their course completion certificate.

Lt Col Malik presents new recruits with their course certificates after completing the recent Regimental Recruit Training Course

REGIMENTAL VISITORS DAY

The Regiment played host to a variety of visitors during a Regimental training weekend at Longmoor Camp on Saturday 16 June 2001. Military and civilian representatives from a variety of organisations with a vested interest in the Regiment braved the inclement weather to see the unit in action on one of its training weekends.

Lt Alex Downing (right) sports a jaunty helmet whilst briefing Deputy Comd 2 (SE) Inf Bde

MENTORING

At a recent ceremony at Greenwich University **Maj Eric Heritage** was presented with a certificate of recognition for supporting the University's mentoring programme. Each year major organisations are invited to provide staff to act as mentors for black and Asian students at the University. This was the third year in a row that the Training Major had supported the scheme on behalf of the Regiment.

Maj Eric Heritage receives his certificate of recognition for acting as a mentor for the University of Greenwich Mentoring Coordinator, Beverley Crooks

265 (KENT & COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON - BEXLEYHEATH

Sqn Comd **Maj Keith Duffy-Penny**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Stuart McHenery**

ANNUAL CAMP 2001 - EXERCISE MARBLE TOR

Well the day had finally arrived when **Maj Kieth** 'DP' **Duffy-Penny** got the chance to lead the Regimental deployment to Gibraltar, it's a hard life! All and sundry paraded at Bexleyheath TAC on the evening of Friday 14 July with expectation high on the agenda. There were some pale faces on show from **Cpl Paul** 'First time abroad' **York** and **Sig Cassie** 'Do we really have to fly' **Murray**, who were both really looking forward to the flight in the Herc. After chewing the cud, following the mandatory docs check and obligatory on the bus off the bus, we departed for South Cerney Mounting Centre at 2200hrs. (The troops spirits were high as there was no 13-hour drive up the M1 for deployment to Camp).

This was all pretty much new ground to all of us, as the majority had never flown with RAF airways before, although the feeling was that South Cerney didn't really compare that favourably with Gatwick departures, particularly as there was a 4-hour wait. This was soon put behind us after a hearty breakfast followed by a hasty departure to RAF Lyneham. Excitement was continuing to build for the virgin flyers among the party, especially **LCpl Jack** 'Oooh my back' **Stabler** who was concerned whether his feet would be able to touch the floor or not.

Then our fate was put in the hands of the Loadies, with **LCpl Chrissie** 'Do I really sound like Madonna?' **Bienek** doing a sterling medics job in calming everyone down. Ear defenders were at the ready and it was time to go, with many a grimace and **Cpl Amanda** 'Vice Grip' **Susini** holding on to everyone around for dear life. Suddenly in the distance the Rock loomed and we were on the ground. The stresses of work were immediately forgotten as we deplaned into the 32 degree heat and it was down to work unloading all of the kit ably lead by **Sgt Micky** 'I'm too old for this' **Conn**. The remainder of the afternoon was a casual intro to Gibraltar and all that it could offer us for both training and social purposes.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

The next morning it was green kit on and down to business. The first two days had been programmed to refresh the troops in the basic skills that would be required for the forthcoming exercise. This consisted of Tunnel Clearance drills, lead by the Gibraltar Regiment, OBUA drills, Platoon basic tactics and the infamous Rock Run. This gave everyone a chance to sample the climate we were to be exposed to for the following 12 days. The Rock Run was a torturous affair, three miles straight up with no respite, which was a well fought battle between **Cpl Adrian** 'Oh no you don't' **Keeble**, the eventual winner, and **Pte Nick** 'Can't believe I got pipped' **Hanlon.** Once the training was complete it was time to commence the Ex phase, the troops were split into three platoons for the 9-day round robin package, which comprised three 3-day phases.

Phase 1	Admin assistance to 642 Signal Troop, R&R and sports day.
Phase 2	Beach assault, Tunnel patrol, defensive position, OP and OBUA assault
Phase 3	Defensive position, Ops, Occupy & Fortify village, Defend village, beach extraction.

642 Sig Tp couldn't believe their luck, three groups of 30 willing volunteers to use as dog's bodies for a day, for decorating, office clearance and even painting the OC's carpet! The sports day was interspersed with jollies organised by PSAO **Capt Mike** 'Ned' **Kelly**, using contacts from his former 2 Para days to get us thrown about in Chinooks and Hercules. Much to **Cpl Jo** 'Can't believe my luck' **Smith** who landed on the laps of a group of parachutists, waiting to deploy from a C130, after a negative G turn. We're still trying to get the smile off her face!

The beach assaults brought many varied responses from all concerned, especially when it became apparent that the Royal Navy's idea of waist high water was most people's idea of shoulder high. Giving a memorable lesson in ensuring all of your webbing contents are weatherproof **SSgt** 'Stinkey' **Lynch** will soon need to purchase a new Mobile phone as the one he was given for the Exercise was not a waterproof type! **Cpl Amanda** 'Water Wings' **Susini** gave a stunning underwater performance after departing the boat, when just the top of her Kevlar was in view. Once in location patrol orders were disseminated only for **Cpl Barry Morse** to inform **WOI Keith** 'Snoozy' **Wrate** that he couldn't possibly patrol as requested as the relevant part of his map had disintegrated after the beach assault. After days of planning from the platoons it was time for the end of stand OBUA assault/defence, with two platoons battling it out against each other. There were many fine war stories accompanying the three battles, most of which were totally unbelievable. Then came **Cpl Pete** 'Oops' **Young's** finest hour, on approaching a local agent the challenge of Echo Sierra was raised to which he replied, 'Hold on I'll just get my notebook!' much to the dismay of the DS, who gave him a few structured points on where he had gone wrong!

It was hats off to all DS who spent nine continuous days in the field, namely **SSgt John** 'Stinkey' **Lynch**, **WO2 Yof S Jason** 'I'm not a cadet' **Budding**, **SSgt Fred** 'Did you know I'm ex infantry?' **Simkins** and **Sgt Dave** 'Wavey' **Pryke**. At the end of this extremely demanding 9-day Exercise all involved agreed it had been, a successful and rewarding experience as everyone's skill levels have vastly improved. Given the choice for future camps it was agreed that they should all be held in sunnier climes! Many tales will follow in the next issue directly from the performing platoons.

70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON - CHELMSFORD

Sqn Comd **Maj Craig Tallents**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Humphreys**

The Squadron has been through a busy period over the last few months with Recruit Induction weekends, Ranges and ITD's, Regimental Visitors day, Caribbean Exercise and our main Annual Camp in Gibraltar.

Recruit Induction Weekends: The Squadron have nine new recruits who attended the Regimental Induction weekends in May and June 2001.

Range and ITD Weekend: Fifty members of the Squadron went to Pirbright ranges and completed a series of ITD's. During the weekend the Squadron decided to go out to the local hostelry for some well earned R&R. The OC (**Maj Craig Tallents**) could not join his men as he had forgotten to bring civilian clothes with him. He had to stay in and catch up with his paper work. (Ahhh).

Regimental Visitors Day: The Regiment hosted a visitor's day at Longmoor in June 2001 with guests from all locations where the Regiment is deployed. The guests were shown round a number of stands which included military training and communication skills. A superb lunch was laid on for all by the QM and the guests left with a good impression of the Squadron and its capabilities.

Exercise Phoenix Echo: SSgts Jason Barlsey (SPSI) and **Kirk Humphries** (YofS) found themselves attached to our sister Squadron (68 (IC&CY) Signal Squadron) for a two week Exercise in the Caribbean during the month of July. The rum punch stories are still being told.

Exercise Marble Tor: Twenty-four all ranks joined a composite Squadron from the Regiment to attend Ex Marble Tor in Gibraltar during July 2001. The exercise consisting of military training coupled with water sports and R&R in Spain. A full report will be in the next edition with photographs that do not lie.

Finally: The Squadron had its annual Pay and Docs inspection and thanks to a lot of hard work by **Sgt David Gaul** and **Mrs Marget Nutbeam** the Squadron AO, passed it with flying colours.

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

20 ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (200)

Sqn Comd **Capt P. Muir**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. Lawes**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

The Squadron Headquarters would like to send out a special thank you to **Capt Ben Fitch** for the wonderful leaving present that he bought and left for one of the soldiers to assemble. His £10 Ikea shelf will be treasured in SHQ forever alongside all the other presentations that have been made to the Squadron!

ATTACHMENT WITH 20 ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (200)

by OCdt Ewan K Watson

It was from 1-14 June 2001 that I attended my first Potential Officer (PO) attachment with the army, and fortunately it was with the Royal Corps of Signals and 200 Sig Sqn. It was to become a very educational, interesting and enjoyable two weeks. I was lucky enough to meet in Stanstead airport departure lounge, **Lee Chamberlain** who was also on a PO's attachment with 200 Sig Sqn. We immediately got on well together and he was to become a good friend during my time in Germany.

Any nerves I was feeling prior to my first attachment were extinguished upon arrival in Paderborn by two warm smiles, followed by a barbecue and a couple of sociable drinks. The couple of sociable drinks were strangely reminiscent of the familiarisation visit I had with the signals except minus the beams. The next day, instead of an assault course, we spent in the centre of Paderborn, the large majority of it in C&A's in preparation for the superbly organised Rubik's cube party. It was a brilliant night full of food, drink, clothes swapping and German culture. The following morning we were introduced to some more German culture with a visit to Wewelsburg and the old SS castle. On the first Tuesday I was kitted out ready for the FIBUA exercise which was to be the highlight of our attachment. It was a superb experience, learning how to clear rooms, buildings and villages from an enemy but also how to defend buildings through sniper positions, booby traps and other equally ingenious methods.

It was during this week that I had my first insight into the lifestyle and professionalism of the soldiers. A great bunch of lads who provided me with a good education into the skills of soldiering in the short time available. I must thank them for their patience due to my inexperience, although I did seem to prove useful when it came to carrying the heavier pieces of weaponry. When things get tough at Sandhurst it will be these two weeks that I look back on to keep me going, thanks to **Lt Sofia Hughes**, **Lt James Acton** and **2Lt Nilene Hennessey**.

THE PADERBORN PAIR - *by 2Lt Lee Chamberlain*

After having spent only 48 hours on German soil, I found myself at the Officers' Mess Rubik Cube party dressed in the style of the legendary Sir Jimmy Saville! This was an 80's party with a difference and involved wearing any item of clothing as long as its colour was represented on a Rubik Cube. The resulting combination of attire was therefore extremely interesting to say the least. Following a delightful meal, myself and fellow Officer Cadet, **Ewan Watson,** witnessed some of the strangest dancing we have ever seen or taken part in. We jigged along to a variety of 1980's classics whilst at the same time consuming a remarkable blend of suspect alcoholic beverage. What better start could anyone wish for on an attachment with 200 Sig Sqn? Hosted by **Lts Sofia Hughes**, **James Acton** and **2Lt Nilene Hennessey**, we were given the opportunity to spend the first few days of our visit experiencing local life in Paderborn and to absorb the historic culture in the surrounding areas. Personally, the most impressive highlight was the castle at nearby Wewelsburg. Hitler and Himmler intended it to be used by the SS as the Centre for instruction on 'Cult and Terror'. In preparation for the next week of activity, we were issued with kit and then embarked on a Squadron tour conducted by **2Lt Nilene Hennessey** who introduced us to the OC, RSM, all of the SNCOs and JNCOs and many of the Signallers. We also took part in Squadron PT and were able to call in at the MT, LAD and then subsequently receive a thorough brief on the Squadrons fleet of 43s.

The next day, we set off on Exercise Urban Dragon, which was a 7-day FIBUA exercise set in the area of Hammelburg. We stepped aboard our designated Land Rover driven by **LCpl Collins** and went on our way to join an impressive array of military vehicles. From Barker Barracks, the Green fleet convoy then drove the 280km down to the training area. On arrival at the camp, we were allocated a room in the Soldiers accommodation, which provided an excellent opportunity to know them in more depth. We shared living space with **Cpls Dave Nix, LCpl Keith Knox, LCpl John Merrick** and **LCpl Walker** and **Sigs Matt McGinn, Ben Day** and **Mills**. It certainly opened our eyes to the fun and games of Soldier life! During this time, I also observed the professionalism, competence and high level of intelligence of tradesmen in the Royal Signals. It made me appreciate how much of a privilege it would be to command such high-calibre troops.

The Exercise itself was highly organised and the level of instruction offered by 1RRW was second to none. The SNCOs provided expert tuition taught with the priceless combination of experience, knowledge and an endless sense of humour. The package covered Offensive Ops, Defensive Ops, and practical exercise training. As a TA Infantry Officer, I felt fortunate to be included in such a large-scale event. The village, around which the scenario was set, was extremely realistic due to its history as an inhabited area prior to 1939. During the war, it was taken over by the Wermacht to enable them to hone their own FIBUA skills. The roles played by the QRH in their Challenger 2s and the Royal Engineers in their 43s and Diggers added an extra lifelike dimension by providing an insight into the 'All Arms Battle' that would ensue in a real FIBUA environment.

On completion of our weeklong adventure, we arrived back in Paderborn and, yet again, were extremely well hosted by the Subalterns of 200 Signal Squadron. Despite a tiring week, they continued to make us feel welcome and made sure also that we ended our stay as well as it began. Our last night in Paderborn was spent in a local Vietnamese restaurant and a jolly nice meal we had too! I would like to thank all those who made my stay a memorable one and I hope that I will be offered the chance to meet and work with some of them in the future!

ALPHA TROOP - *by Sig Nicholls*

Tp Comd **Lt S. Hughes**
Tp SSgt **SSgt R. D. Burrows**

Now where does this one go? LCpl Donaghy

Firstly the Troop would like to congratulate **Cpl Ian Wilson** on being selected for promotion to Sergeant. They would also like to welcome **LCpl Lane** and **Sig Nicholls** and say goodbye to **LCpl Gaz Collins** who is moving to 7 Sig Regt, all the best for the future. We would also like to welcome back **LCpl Stu Dodge, LCpl** 'Taff' **Barritt** and **Sig Garry Harrison** who have returned from their exploits in Batus, Canada. The recent months have once again been hectic in Alpha Tp. Early June we deployed on Ex Urban Dragon with 1 RRW. This was an infantry FIBUA exercise in Hammelburg that involved us learning both the assault and defence of built up areas (AKA FISH – Fighting In Somebodys House!). After a successful seven days in FIBUA training we returned and then deployed on a Brigade CAST Exercise.

Once again the Troop performance was outstanding as the main complex and received thanks from the Commander down. After a long weekend the Troop was then involved in the Commander's Challenge. After the fun came the work once more and now the Troop are preparing for RSIT and looking forward to summer leave.

COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE
by Sig Karl Hepworth, Cpl ChrisCowley & Sig Pete Armour

The Commander's Challenge was a series of both military and sporting competitions involving all the Units in the Brigade. For Alpha Tp this meant that once again the fit people in the Troop carry the load. The first event was the March and Shoot, the same old faces came to the forefront as **Cpl** 'Mo' **Morrison** along side **Cpl Ross Thubron** put together a team. The event consisted of a 15km march, then the obstacle course where all was going well until we left **LCpl Gaz Collins** (a massive 5ft 4inches tall) as the last man to go over the 12ft wall! Needless to say he didn't make it which meant more penalty points. From there we sauntered to the shoot as the squad began to break up due to fatigue, blisters and general weakness. At the shoot we were down four men, but it wouldn't have made much difference as we may as well have thrown our rounds at the targets. All that said we did complete the 15km march and manage to score a fifty- percent average on the shoot. Well done all of those who took part.

Day Two saw the sporting events take place. The Squadron entered a volleyball team and came third. Also rugby, football and hockey teams.

Volleyball Team
Check us out, are we cool in these shades or what?

Sadly due to the previous day's exploits the performance at all levels was not what it should have been. The rugby team managed fourth, thanks mainly to **Sig Pete Armour** (Alpha) who scored two tries against the mighty 1RRW and also in the plate final against the REME.

Rugby Team - Do you think that we look like male models?

Unfortunately the hockey did not include the star of last year's tournament **Sig Weller**, who with his tremendous girth made an excellent ball stopper. Nevertheless as each team descended upon us and beat us each time, we did by the end of the matches get the hang of the sign language that I'm sure the referee was making up! Despite our poor results we tried our best and did enjoy the day, and one lesson that was learnt was that although new ball stopper **Sig Nathan Fearn** looked like the Michelin man, pads are a must in hockey!

Day Three was the battle run which surprisingly enough saw the majority of the people who did the March and Shoot once again donning combats and water bottles for another run around the woods. A straight race against another team beginning with a 100m Bedford push followed by 3km with a stretcher, 3km with a log, 3km with ammo boxes before a short sprint to the finish. Again Alpha Tp took the lead as the squad was ably led by the scary and at times sadistic **Lt Sofia Hughes**. A good effort by all involved saw us finish with the squad intact (minus a genuine injury) only nine minutes behind the winners 1RRW.

The final day was more of a family fun day and it included a chain of command race and the biathlon where **Lt James Acton**, **Sig Steph Bogart** and **Sig Kev Beavis** put in an excellent effort. The Tug Of War competition was next and bearing in mind that the Squadron has roughly 100 personnel to select from. Half of them are sick, lame and lazy, while the other half now resembled a scene from 'the living dead' after having competed in all the major physical events, the squad was obviously of the highest calibre. The event was an open weight event, which the other five teams all took full advantage of. As the day progressed, however, it proved that our greater strength and technique was the winning formula. After pulling against four teams and only losing one end out of twelve, we progressed to the deciding pull against the heaviest and most powerful looking team, pre tournament favourites the RRW. We beat them with ease in the end winning two to one, thus clinching the Squadrons only win throughout the whole week. Thank you and well done to all those involved

THE SQUADRON SUMMER FUNCTION - *by Sig Al Smith*

The Squadron summer ball took place on Friday 13 July. The theme for the evening was a Hawaiian Beach party. There were the usual no nonsense white chinos and blue shirts from some of the less daring members of the Unit. However, there was a good effort from most people, a special mentions must go to **Sig** 'Flash' **Gordon** who despite requiring a little work on applying fake tan and a serious full body wax, turned up as a convincing beach babe. One that in the right light and after a few beers would set any blind squaddie's pulse racing; **LCpl Gaz Collins** donned a wet suit and **SSgt Russ Burrows** wore a set of fins equal in size to his own height. The function committee clubbed together and managed to all come as lifeguards with personalized T-shirts ranging from 'Big Al' (**Sgt Lee**) to somebody who thought they resembled 'George Clooney' (**SSgt Low**) but we think he looked more like Grandpa Smurf! The function was well decorated with a beachfront on the entrance, a BBQ out the back and the entertainment was excellent. All in all it was a fantastic party.

EXERCISE URBAN DRAGON - *by 2Lt Nilene Hennessey*

Our FIBUA exercise with the RRW and QRH in Hammelburg, South Germany, began on 6 June with a five hour long journey from Paderborn. We arrived at General Heusinger Kaserne and had the evening to sort our rooms and kit out. The first day dawned fine and we set off with webbing, daysacks and rifles in a 4-tonner for the village. What a village! One expected children to dash across the road after a football or people to start making their way to work, it was that big. We were split down into our platoons and taken through the different lessons of section and platoon offensives of a building – how to place mousehole charges, throw grenades, climb up rope ladders etc.

The real fun began the next day, with some section attacks. 2 Section 1 Platoon, led by **Cpl Dave Nix** was the first to run through the river (yes, the river one inevitably runs through at least three times a day, even if it's not in the close vicinity). Thus began **Cpl John Merrick's** trend of being slotted in the first five minutes of every attack. Smart move though, as he lay sunning himself while the rest of us were hurling ourselves down trapdoors. We broke for lunch and then resumed attacks, that afternoon culminating in a platoon assault. One morning began with a 4:30 am, 12km tab into the village. We were very pleased with this news. On arrival at the village we were changing shirts and boots when someone noticed **Lt Sofia Hughes** and **2Lt Nilene Hennessey** had toenail polish on. The RRW and QRH were thoroughly delighted with this example of women in the infantry, and the girls didn't get off lightly. It was after the tab that we experienced a true example of an entrepreneur, when an RRW CSgt produced frozen juices that he had tabbed with, to sell to dehydrated soldiers!

The next day was really hard work, building defences against the enemy. Although we all worked fantastically together as a team, there were the inevitable assassinations by our own men when their leaders lost the plot. Warriors were used to casevac us to the RV where DS were waiting with the TES kit 'god guns'. The final assault of the exercise began at 2am, with a brief tab into the village, and a dawn attack. That was a long day. It was just our luck that the Chief of Staff and the Brigadier strolled past as the enemy surprised us and popped a grenade into the river we were sitting in, thereby killing just about everyone. **Cpl Merrick**, of course, hadn't been in the equation from the start.

After endex was called, the purely onerous task of sweeping and scrubbing the village began. That evening was a barbeque for all and the next morning began the long drive back to Paderborn. It was a fantastic exercise, enjoyed by all, and the Signals, in their efforts, enthusiasm and spirit, proved themselves equal to any of the infanteers.

THE GAP YEAR COMMISSION - *by 2Lt Nilene Hennessey*

Although I have seven weeks left with the squadron (including the month long summer leave) I have been asked to write about my experiences during my Gap Year. Having been labelled the Squadron (or even Garrison) adventure training officer with good reason, I realise that relating my experiences will be both a time-consuming and daunting task. So here goes.

2Lt Hennessey Proof for the RSM that 2Lt Nilene Hennessey did wear her unifrom at least once!

After my four days in Germany before Christmas leave I was horrified at what I'd let myself in for. This seemingly absurd reaction was solely due to the Sergeants to Officers function held in the Nato Mess, the function that was my introduction to Sergeants. However, when, on my return to Germany in January, I was told I was going skiing in Chamonix, I swiftly changed my mind. There I met **Lt Sofia Hughes** and **Lt James Acton**, the two troop commanders I would be shadowing this year. They have been great to shadow, albeit not always doing the conventional troop commander things. When I returned from the Alps **Maj Iain Standen**, our OC, said he would not give me a Troop (as it would tie me down) and, if I wanted to go on any courses, I need only say. He very quickly regretted saying that, as his desk groaned under the weight of my sheaf of adventure training applications. A parachuting course at Bad Lippspringe and a paragliding course in Bavaria swiftly ensued. I felt that learning a bit of German would help and after the Germar. course Easter leave came and went. Weekends to Prague, Berlin and Amsterdam were imperative in improving my education, as were all the dinner nights and squadron functions during the year. The Army Vs Navy rugby match and Corps Dinner Night, followed by the Battlefield Tour were real tests of bar stamina, and after this year university will be tame.

The FIBUA exercise in Hammelburg in June was definitely something to write home about, it was good to have included that in my Gap year. **Capt Phil Muir**, our 2IC, organised two attachments for me in the UK, following my scuba diving course in Kiel. These attachments were with a Gurkha Squadron at 30 Signal Regiment, and 238 Signal Squadron in London. Both were really good attachments, each for a week, and, among other things, I enjoyed numerous barbeques with the Gurkhas and a Garden Party in London. Through careful planning I managed to get back in time for our squadron summer function – it was well worth the effort! Although I had to do an assault course for charity at 9:30 the next morning…The Summer Ball the following evening may be a defining factor in the decision to join the army after university.

To end the Gap year is a competent crew course a few days before I leave for St Andrews. I suppose it's little wonder that my biggest wind up was when **Capt Phil Muir** called me in one day and said that he'd had a phone call from the Budget Officer at Div. He had called to say that our Squadron's entire adventure training budget had been used up thanks to, it seemed, one person, and no one else could go on any more courses…

Probably one of the best things of my Gap Year has been meeting people all the time. I was really lucky to get posted to where I did, as things are always happening and the people are such fun, making my year the success it was. If I could do my Gap Year all over again, I would do it the same way.

BRAVO TROOP - *by LCpl Jones*
Tp Comd **Lt J. Acton**
Tp SSgt **SSgt T. Gibbins**

Yet again another busy few months for Bravo Tp, ranging from CAST exercises to Squadron athletics, and now, just squeezed in to the programme before summer leave – RSIT! With people tasked for JOTES and a Combined Cadet Force visit manpower in the garages has been at an all time low. However, this was not a problem with the usual Bravo Tp enthusiasm, and work was completed in double quick time (the Pads couldn't bear to miss Emmerdale). The promise of four weeks' summer leave fast approaching means morale is also at a record high.

Welcomes go to **Sigs Aaron Young, Andy Mills, Ben Day** and **Matt McGinn**, all straight from the factory. Also new to the troop is **LCpl Brett Merrick** who is ready for some hard work having left the COMMCEN at 251 Sig Sqn for a real unit. Huge congratulations also go to **Cpls Ross Thubron** and **Ray Till** (who is no longer the oldest full screw in the world) on their selection for promotion to Sergeant. Well done to both of you. Finally, congratulations to **LCpl Simon Jones** and his wife on the birth of their first son **Dylan**.

EXERCISE URBAN DRAGON - *by Sig Riley*

This joint exercise comprised elements of 1RRW, the QRH, 35 Engr and of course 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200). The eight day package was designed to teach and train soldiers in the art of FIBUA warfare: building defence, assaulting a building and all the training required to jump through windows, lay booby traps and fill sandbags. The exercise culminated in a final assault involving a battlegroup attack.on the village of Hammelburg, once a real village which was taken over by the German army during the Second World War and has been used for training ever since. The exercise honed and brought out those skills which most may have thought lost forever. From platoon commanders down to the individuals within the sections, everyone who took part in the exercise gained valuable experience, not least of the high attrition rate in urban warfare. The exercise even featured on the BFBS television program 'Scene Here'. However, fame was only attained by one squadron member: **LCpl Levi.** The RRW were surprised to see grit and determination that they had never expected to find in the Royal Signals. The Squadron may never by the same again…

Who are those scary looking soldiers?
....It s 2 Platoon 200 Signal Squadron...

COMMANDERS CHALLENGE - *by Sig Bogart*

Fortunately I was already training for the Nijmegen marches which helped when I volunteered for the March and Shoot competition. The march itself flew by with only one of our soldiers going down with heat stroke. The only advice I can offer is not to wear lycra shorts in high temperatures. Blisters are every soldier's worst nightmare and having learnt from a previous bad experience my feet were taped up and looked like a mummy's.

Wednesday saw the Squadron take part in all the team sports and you could only get out of this one if you had a broken leg. Due to being such a small unit every man and his dog had to take part. Some of us had not played hockey and the other games since being at school and I am sure those sticks were a lot longer back then. The day after the sports competition was a nightmare having been burnt by the hot sun: RSM and tomato are two words that come to mind. I was looking forward to a really good beasting and the Battle Run on Thursday was a great way to get one. Those ammo boxes were a little on the light side though. The few fit people left to compete that were not dying from one form of injury or another were pushing themselves 'to the max'. The team stragglers need to cut down on the pies for next year as the team is only as fast as its slowest member. How nice it would have been to win the battle run. Watch out next year RRW!

Tired and aching I got to Friday and had a biathlon race to look forward to. I wish I had known that racing bikes were allowed on the smooth roads as peddling like a mad woman for forty minutes in top gear at the back was not my idea of fun on knobbly mountain bike tyres. I certainly think when the more experienced people gave me the advice to slow down at the start of the run I should have paid more attention. As when I jumped off my bike my legs felt like they belonged to someone from Pluto and I was certainly pleased to get to the finish alive. We had reached the end and it was great to have a beer at the family's barbecue. All in all given the opportunity to do it all over again along with the other dedicated soldiers in the squadron I would have no hesitation in saying yes.

MAINTENANCE TROOP - *by LCpl 'Tangle' Evans*
Tp Comd **Capt John Lyons**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Bob Low**

There has been a lot happening in the Troop recently, with various arrivals and leaving functions keeping us busy on most weekends, but only when we're not out toasting to our sporting prowess. Of the various inter troop competitions that have taken place in the last few months we've done pretty well, winning the athletics and tug of war, losing the hockey on goal difference, and even though it has nothing to do with sport we were most definitely robbed in the gardening. When added together all these results mean that we have been crowned 'CHAMPION' Troop.

The Brigade recently held a commander's challenge, where, despite being the smallest unit, we still managed to field teams in all events. Our Troop made up the bulk of the tug of war and volleyball teams, with the squadron coming first and second respectively. It should have been two firsts but I think the 'Topgun' volleyball team spent too much of the day trying and failing to look cool!

Farewell to our old Troop Commander, **Capt Gough,** who has left for the sunnier climes of Sierra Leone and welcome to **Capt Lyons** who we haven't seen yet but have been assured that he has been here for a month now. We also say goodbye to **Sgt Brown** and **Sig Richardson** - who now outrank us all as civvies - **Cpl Plant, Cpl Watmuff, LCpl** 'TJ' **Ward, Sig Currie** and **Sig Keen** who have all been posted out (although **Sig Currie** is coming back as a newly qualified medic). Congratulations to

Sgt McFaul and **LCpl Maxwell** who have been promoted and posted.

Welcome to **Sgt Pagett** and **Sgt King** who've been trying to make us all more efficient. Well done to **LCpl Sullivan** and **Sig Pearson** for getting posted half an hour from their old posting in Herford, although with **Cpl Daley** also becoming a PTI we have two too many in the Troop now. Welcome to **LCpl Austin, Sig Wills** and **Sig Malcolm** all from Blandford. Also congratulations to **Cpl Reid** on promotion and **LCpl Boydell** for nearly getting his second but ending up on a three-month bender instead. Finally good luck to **Cpl Trott** on his intensive retraining after a three-month tour in the Squadron bar, if you need any help don't hesitate to ask, we ran the bar for you anyway.

1 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (215)

EXERCISE CANTER TRAIL 21- 25 MAY – *by Sig Berry*

The week began with an introduction to the horses that we would be looking after all week. We were then shown what was expected of us each morning mucking out, grooming and as **Sig Cole** called it First Works The Horse! Ready and waiting, nervously because most of use hadn't ridden before, we lead the horses into the arena we were shown the basic of how to mount up, stop and then began with laps of the school. The afternoon was again another lesson, but the horses were a little livelier this time, with my horse, Denny, doing his own thing and going for a canter around the school, which soon woke up the rest of the horses and riders. Tuesday began the same but **Sig Jack** was given a lazy horse, and despite legs and arms flapping he could not get it going, Houston was not moving. Horses were then swapped which resulted in a more energetic horse and **Sig Jack** doing the wall of death around the indoor riding school and a red bum from his bouncing up and down and a sore throat from shouting stop, much like Rab C Nesbit. This resulted in him dismounting and going for a sulk in the corner, and numerous requests for the return of his Blackpool beach donkey. This didn't stop him from riding for the rest of the week. However, later on in the week while riding Denny the same happened again, this time jumping off into the side of the school. Moving a step on, we then did confidence exercises, which included rolly polys to dismount, and birthday games for **Sig Emma Lawton,** an apple bobbing race with **Sig Lisa Lawton** and her cheeky little horse called Rabbit proving to be stars. The final test of confidence and skill was our attempt to try jumping, with **Sig Cole** proving that his balance and skill wasn't that good in the end. All had an enjoyable week, with even **Sig Jack** saying that he will attempt to ride again despite his fast experiences with different horses.

EXERCISE TIDAL WAVE 24-30/ MAY 2001 - *by LCpl Clarke*

Newquay and Cornwall were the setting for the Run to the Sun festival, the Newquay Surf Festival and 215 Sig Sqn's Adventure Training Exercise. On arrival at Newquay, our new home for the week, we decided it was time for some well earned R&R, so we set out to familiarise ourselves with the local area and the local haunts. On Sunday we attended a Normandy Veterans Association parade at Bodmin, to which we had been invited by **LCpl** 'Swampy' **Libby's** grandfather. A parade that was thought to be a small church parade with a kneeler being dedicated to the Royal Corps of Signals. How wrong could we be? It wasn't until our arrival that the minor details that had been conveniently left out came to light. Being the senior service attending the parade (senior to the RAF and the US Navy) we were told we were to lead it. Our brave IC Exercise **Sgt** 'Phil' **Shawcross** was also told he was to take the parade, so with his drill head firmly in place we began a march through the town centre of Bodmin towards the church where the kneeler was being dedicated. After the parade we were all invited back to the reception to chat to the veterans, many of which were former members of the Corps, and also to exchange 'war stories'. Also in true tradition the members of the corps, veterans included, were first in and last to leave the bar. After charming the catering staff we managed to convince them that the substantial leftovers of the buffet would be better off in our hands. So heavily laden with our new evening meal we set off back to Newquay for the rest of the trip. The following two days included intensive surfing tuition, firstly on the beach practicing our techniques, then let loose on the Atlantic Ocean. After braving the 'tropical' conditions of the water, we picked it up quite quick with a few of us progressing further than the others with instructor pushing us along with more advanced lessons. The prestigious award for the most impressive wipe-out went to **Sig Bobby** 'Washout' **Wisely** for succeeding in making a complete fool of himself in front of everyone, not only the rest of the party and the instructors but also everyone on the beach. **LCpl** 'Ally' **Johnston** volunteered to be the duty chef for the trip (a much appreciated BBQ every night - Thanks 'Ally').

EXERCISE ROAMING LINK

Ex Roaming Link, was a medium range HF Exercise designed to teach and refresh a number of skills including Voice Procedure, Kipling and Antenna erection and siting. Each Det was to deploy with a complete VRC 321 fit, and a PRC 320, so that the newer members of the Squadron would be able to augment their theory knowledge, with practical experience. On the morning of 30th April 4 FFR detachments (one running as excon, in ops), ran a dubiously successful PACER. After completion of this Phase, 3 of the Dets deployed to various locations around the country. The West Det originally deployed North to Colerne under the capable command of **Cpl Sean** 'I've got comms' **Kelly**, with a very long journey (all of one hour). The Northern Det under the command of **Cpl Al** 'I've also got comms' **Taylor**, deployed to Catterick. The Southern Det deployed to Colchester, under the command of **Cpl** 'Yep, comms are still in' **Dunbavand.** Excon was ably commanded by **LCpl Ali** 'What, no comms' **Johnston**! The first road move took two of the Dets a substantial amount of time to reach, so comms were not to be established until 0800hrs on Tuesday morning. Bright and early on Tuesday morning began the second phase of the Exercise, which was to start with an antenna exercise on the 321 and a VP exercise on the 320. After the out dets had speedily established comms with each other, they were able to sit back and wait for excon to come up on the net. So we waited, and waited and waited. What the out dets did not know was that excon had moved location from the Ops Room to the Training Wing. Due to this huge road move (all of 150m), certain faults had been put into the system (namely the antenna), which when found and rectified enabled excon to start directing the serials. The exercises ran fairly smoothly with all members of the dets, including attached Technicians and ED's either trying their hand on the net or helping change the antennas, as directed by excon. The junior Signallers on the dets were able to gain first hand experience of the antennas they had been told so much about in training, and for the more experienced members, some valuable refresher training was taking place. The Antenna exercise involved almost all of the commonly used antennas, but by orientating them in what according to the textbook would be the completely wrong direction and connecting/disconnecting the counterpoise, the Signallers were able to truly experience what works and what doesn't and more importantly, why. The next day involved using the Kipling DED, the equipment that the Signallers had only been introduced to on the previous Friday! Although the serials were not completed, the exercise flowed fairly well. By the end of the exercise, the previously inexperienced Signallers were now almost Kipling experts. Once the serials were completed the dets increased the range involved by moving to their secondary locations. Once in place the serials were repeated and flowed as well as they had done in the previous locations. The Exercise had been a success on all accounts, and all involved from the most senior members to the newest, were able to show each other a trick or two. Valuable lessons were learned that will come into practice once the normal exercise cycle gets back on track after Foot And Mouth.

BATTLE CAMP/CADRE COURSE
EXERCISE BOLD PROTECTOR

This year's battle camp was two weeks on the south coast and combined with the Squadron Cadre Course, as due to foot and mouth we had to cancel the one planned for earlier in the year. It was also the first time that the new OC, **Maj John Botterill** got to see the Squadron in action. The first week was spent doing preparatory training, with the Cadre Course 'Racal Platoon' learning the basics of CTR's and patrolling, under the watchful eye of the RSM. 'Caen Platoon' re-learnt the basic of defending a comms site and turned their hand to weapon handling- with both platoons most unskilfully avoiding the eager drill lessons of the new RQMS, **WO2 Douglas**. The field exercise was the culmination of the week, despite **Sig** 'Where is that CWS and Radio thingy?' **Jack**, trying his best to have endex called early by losing all the kit he was issued. Congratulations to **Sig Podesta** for Top Student, to whit **Sig Tinsley** being Best Field Soldier and **Sig** 'Battlefield Tour' **Haddock** being awarded Best Endeavour.

The second week was then onto the Northern Ireland Ranges and Lydd and Hythe. This package proved to be the excellent, despite the initial set back of zeroing, and **Sgt Manleys** inability to stay standing within the Urban Range due to one or two loud bangs! The week gave the opportunity to practice live firing within close confines.

EXERCISE KIWI LANDING – BATTLEFIELD TOUR ARNHEM
by Lt Damon Taylor, New Zealand Army

On 14 July twenty of us set sail from the United Kingdom, the destination was the sleepy Dutch town of Arnhem. Ex Kiwi Landing (I did not choose the name, contrary to popular belief!), a battlefield tour of the 1944 airborne campaign Op Market Garden was to provide an insight into the mechanisms of war, through the examination of the British Army's last recorded major defeat. The contingent consisted mainly of Signallers and Junior NCO's, with different soldiers giving presentations at each site we visited as to what had occurred there. The standard of these presentations was excellent, and clearly a lot of work had been put into them. After a somewhat touch and go journey to make the ferry sailing out of Harwich (last vehicle on, and the ship cast off before we had managed to get off the vehicle deck) we arrived at Hook of Holland around 1600hrs local time. After some risque driving by **Cpl** 'They drive on the right in Europe!' **Anderson** , and some dodgy navigation by yours truly (never trust an officer with a map I've been told) we finally arrived at our destination, a camping ground on the outskirts of Arnhem. This would have been ideal, had it not been for the weather, which was absolutely atrocious, and saw the contingent putting up their tents in a torrential down pour, and then cowering in the back of the mini vans. Some quick reconnaissance uncovered a restaurant and bar in the camping ground, and it was unilaterally agreed that a nice warm bar was more inviting than a cold tent.

The next morning saw the contingent start the tour proper, visiting landing and drop zones at Ginkel Heath and Wolthieze, before moving onto the Airborne Museum, housed in the Hartienstien Hotel, location of the British Divisional HQ during the battle. It was here that one got a feel for what the campaign involved, the sheer desperateness of it all towards the end, and the amazing courage of the men who fought against overwhelming odds. The afternoon was rounded off with a visit to the Allied Cemetery at Oosterbeek, which is the final resting-place of over 1700 of those who died in the battle. The first thing that struck me on entering the cemetery was the noise, there was none, not even the birds seemed to sing. Walking amongst the headstones proved a moving experience, looking at the age of those who died, many of them not twenty years of age, and some whose inscriptions read simply 'A soldier of the War, known unto god'. All cap badges are represented within the Cemetery, from infantry to PTI's, Signals to legal corp. Also buried here are a large number of allied airman, who showed incredible bravery on the second and third days of the invasion, by flying into drop zones whose locations were by now known to the Germans. Amongst these aircrew are buried the remains of four New Zealand aircrew, the only Kiwis killed in the action. Other nations were also involved in the campaign, the dead from the Polish Parachute Brigade, who were dropped on the wrong side of the Rhine, the Canadians whose engineers courageously evacuated men across the Rhine under heavy enemy fire, and also members of the Australian forces are all represented in the cemetery. The following morning the contingent made its way into Arnhem to visit the bridge itself. The bridge was courageously defended by the only unit to make it that far from the drop zone, **Lt Col John Frosts** 2nd Battalion, and whose men were either killed during the battle or captured by the Germans when the allied forces decided to call it a day. Today the bridge is called the John Frost Bridge, and is just one of the many memorials scattered around Arnhem and the outlying, demonstrating the gratitude of the people of Arnhem to those who fought for their freedom and unselfishly gave there lives as heroes during Op Market Garden.

I arrived in the United Kingdom on 27 May, on attachment to 1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215) from the New Zealand Army as part of Ex Long Look, a reciprocal exchange exercise which sees members of the Armed forces of New Zealand and Australia swapping jobs for a period of three and a half months with their British counterparts. Due to the amount of questions I have received over the past two months from soldiers and officers of my host unit, I have decided to focus this article on the similarities and the differences between our two nations Defence Forces. The first similarity struck me before we had even arrived in the UK, and I must say it is good to see that the RAF, like the RNZAF, has a tendency to break down mysteriously in exotic locations for undetermined periods of time. However, five days in Sydney staying in a barrack room in the suburbs probably doesn't hold the same novelty for a Kiwi as the five days the RAF flight crew spent in an inner city hotel. Funnily enough when it looked like the Tristar was about to break down in Oman, all the stops were pulled to get us out of there as fast as humanely possible. Anyway, the RAF flight crew were very friendly, and understanding of the frustration that many of us were feeling (compounded by being stuck on a plane outnumbered 2-1 by Australians), and we arrived at RAF Brize Norton in the very early hours of Sunday morning. Upon arriving in Tidworth, I was taken back by the size of the Garrison. With approx 5,000 troops in the area this exceeded the size of the NZ Army within the one Garrison. Also having armed soldiers manning the gates on the camp struck home the very real threat of a terrorist attack, something that does not rate quite as high back home on the threat-o-meter. After a quick introduction with the key personalities of the unit, I was taken up to the garages by the units other Troop OC, **Lt Adam Cloves,** and introduced to my Troop SSgt, **Chris Coates**. The first thing that grabbed my attention was **SSgt Coates'** name plaque on his desk, which simply reads' **SSgt C. Coates** AIRBORNE', 'Good god, what have a got myself into?' I thought to myself. I was to be for the duration of my stay, the Troop Commander of Sabre Troop, 1 Mech Bde's Main HQ complex. This was to be something completely new for me.

The New Zealand Army numbers around 4,800 regular force, on paper, and is organised around two 'Land Force Groups'. These comprise of a RF Inf Bn, several Territorial Bn's, and all the CS and CSS that goes with a Bn Group (minus tanks and Army Air Aviation, which we do not have). Therefore a Land Force Group is by no means a Brigade. Also since August of 1999 the, NZ Army has been committed to providing a Battalion Group of around 700 troops to peace enforcement operations within East Timor. This, combined with other UN duties, sees the majority of our Army either on operations, preparing for operations, or on leave following operations, at any one time. Therefore since I have been commissioned (June 1999), our Army has not deployed a Land Force Group into the field on Exercise, hence I have never seen a Formation Headquarters, and now I was to be responsible for a Mechanised ones. As daunting as it seemed for me at the time, an Army is an Army, and it is reassuring to see that some of the problems we have back home in regards to an old and failing vehicle fleet, and old and sometimes unreliable radio equipment are mirrored in the British Army. Also a Troop is still a Troop, with the same amount of soldiers to command, it is just getting to know the job, which proved to be the hard part. My Troop back in NZ is primarily concerned with providing Comms, not with the establishment of a Field HQ, as this task is carried out by our Army's Logistic Units. However, over here I have found that the job is concerned primarily with moving; the setting up, and the running of the Main HQ. Never in my life did I think that as a Signals Officer I would have to site a Field Kitchen!
Two weeks after arriving I deployed on Ex Black Triangle, the Squadron's first deployment since returning from Sierra Leone. This proved to be an interesting two weeks and a real eye opener for yours truly. Thankfully **Staff Coates** was there to point me in the right direction (that is in the opposite direction from paths of the RSM and Ops Team) until I had a grip on what I was doing. Ex Black Triangle proved to be invaluable in preparing the Squadron for what proves to be a very busy exercising period over the month of September, when the Brigade Staff deploy with us for the first time under the new Brigade Commander, **Brig Mayall**.

I have to say that my time in the UK has been an invaluable experience for myself, and has opened my eyes to a lot of different ways of doing things, and different ways of thinking, some good, some not so good. I have also been very impressed with the standard of the soldiers within 1 Mech Bde and Sig Sqn (215), and have not met a more professional and focused group of people anywhere. I believe that as Signallers there is a lot of things that we can learn from each other, and I will return to Aotearoa with fond memories of my time with the British Army.

16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216)

Sqn Comd **Maj Neil Fraser**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. Drew**

Whilst many would have believed it near impossible, the pace of life in the Squadron has increased still further in recent weeks as we have been preparing for our first full Squadron operational deployment. The potential tasking has seen the resources of the Squadron stretched to the limit and has proved quite a challenge for our already pushed Ops Team. However, the possibility of such a deployment represents a tremendous opportunity for the Squadron and Brigade to prove its ability in an operational environment. Along side all this planning and preparatory work the past two months have also seen the Squadron deploy on two Brigade exercises a troop level training exercise and also conduct a Squadron adventurous training package.

EXERCISE GREEN TALON - *by Sgt Bruce Thornton*

Ex Green Talon took place in and around SPTA over the period 11-15 June. It was primarily a 3 Para Bde exercise, however, Brigade HQ used it as an opportunity to exercise the Brigade TAC elements. Such a shakeout had not been undertaken since the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak. It was also the first opportunity for the new Bde Comd, **Brig White-Spunner**, to jump with Light TAC HQ, and hence get a feel for what the TAC elements of the Squadron have to offer him.

First there was an airborne insertion of the Brigade Light TAC HQ on to Everliegh DZ. Following this Light TAC HQ went through their set up and established communications to a rear link team working with 3 PARA (lead by **LCpl Thorpe**) and via TAC SAT to the exercise FMB. Whilst the Brigade staff, Squadron hierarchy and Light TAC HQ

operators from C Tp were involved in this shake-out exercise, the Brigade TAC Medium Stress Platform (MSP) rigging team was working hard preparing for the heavy drop which was to be undertaken on the next phase of the exercise.

After a great deal of spanner bashing the MSP riggers managed to get the platform ready for the insertion, although they did have problems fitting all the kit on to it. I was amazed that it came in well under the weight limit. It certainly was quite an achievement considering that it took **LCpl Blackmore**, **Sig Sherrington** and myself most of the first morning, just to load all of **Cpl Finn's** rations on to the side stores.

The next phase of the exercise was the Parachute Insertion of Light TAC HQ and Brigade TAC HQ. The weather conditions were excellent and all went well. On arriving at the MSP we saw that our vehicles had made the descent without any major damage.

Following the heavy drop Brigade TAC is de-rigged for deployment

However, the same could not be said for the HCR Scimitar that landed upside down close to our MSP. This was a sight that did not seem to please the Bde Comd! After a quick de-rig we moved off to establish Brigade TAC HQ, then took control, after which the Bde Comd visited to see at first hand how his TAC HQ operated in the field. From there Light TAC HQ completed their tour of Salisbury Plain and were recovered to the FMB. The exercise proved to be an excellent run out during a period when there had been so few real exercise opportunities, following the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease.

Brigade Light TAC rallies on the Drop Zone

EXERCISE PUIN TIGER - *by Capt John Griffiths*

The aim of adventure training is to develop character and teamwork by putting people in challenging and arduous situations and environments. This was obviously at the forefront of everyone's mind as approximately half of the Squadron deployed to Penhale Camp, near Newquay, in gorgeous June sunshine. Traditional activities such as trekking, climbing and kayaking were mixed with surfing, mountain biking and orienteering to provide a busy but not too frantic ten days.

Sgt Nash Wainwright and **Cpl Al MacKay** from JSSU Digby kindly accompanied us to provide a high level of instruction for the canoeing and climbing activities, whilst other members of the Squadron middle management dusted off their various qualifications to ensure they secured a good week and a half in Cornwall. Any preconceptions that the expedition was going to turn into nothing more than a holiday were cruelly dashed at 0630hrs on the Monday morning when everyone paraded for a jog down to the beach and a quick enforced dip in the sea. Luckily no one had ventured into Newquay the night before and so everyone turned up feeling ready for whatever the day could throw at them. This early morning swim proved to be such a popular idea that the DS were forced to continue the tradition for the remainder of the exercise. **Sgt Eglington** and **LCpl Hodgetts** provided further evidence that the week wasn't going to be the rest period that some were expecting. **Sgt Eglington**, limping into the cookhouse, expressed an interestingly original vocabulary when it was suggested that the trekking wasn't too arduous. Meanwhile, **LCpl Hodgetts** managed to find a holidaying pensioner to ride his bike up the hill whilst he tried to chat up the hapless gentleman's wife. Further entertainment was to be had at the climbing site where some people displayed a curious lack of enthusiasm for attempting the Tyrolean traverse set up across a yawning chasm. **Sgt Smith** showed that not all paratroopers, especially those from Hereford, are fearless when it comes to heights. However, to his credit he did get across with only a few whimpers.

Preparing to go over the top
The abseiling stance on Exercise Puin Tiger

The orienteering proved to be an excellent opportunity for **Cpl Stojanovic** to top up his suntan as he completed his arduous task of setting groups off orienteering and then meeting them at the pub when they finished. His role did take on a slightly more serious aspect however, when it appeared that **Sgts Greenwood** and **Makings** needed a paramedic crash team to resuscitate them when they finally completed the course. Fortunately, **Cpl Stojanovic** was on hand to administer two pints of fluid each that seemed to revive them sufficiently before being bedded down for a few hours rest. Incredibly, they had both made a complete recovery in time for that evening. The surfing day kept everyone amused, especially when local lad **SSgt Goldsworthy** pulled out his 1980s wetsuit and took on the mantle of translator for communications between 216 Sqn and the surfing instructors. These blonde haired and blue-eyed radical guys and gals, all of whom seemed to have been employed as extras in 'Point Break', did their best to instruct Colchester's finest in the art of 'riding waves', 'catching tubes' etc. Predictably, most of the Squadron decided to concentrate on perfecting 'wiping out' instead. **Sgt Dimmock** proved to be particularly proficient at this manoeuvre.

Sig Shaw manoeuvres his kayak to pose for the camera

EXERCISE CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Ex Charlie's Angels was a Troop level exercise undertaken by C Tp, whose primary role is to provide the Brigade HQ for the ABTF. It took place mainly on Crowborough Trg Area, though outstations were located at Colerne and Colchester in order to anchor HF nets. The exercise was designed to give Brigade TAC HQ elements a challenging shake out and also to practise specific skills such as air skills, contact drills and the use of the manpack rebroadcast station. On 3 July the Troop set off for Crowborough Trg Area and, following a full recce, established Brigade Tac HQ. The HQ was probed during the night to test extraction drills before embarking on an air movement phase using a Chinook the following day. Following this, the vehicle borne Tac HQ practised the establishment of a hide whilst Light Tac HQ, which is based on man-packed sets, maintained communications to the outstations. This then led into an HQ movement phase with the vehicle borne Brigade TAC HQ and Light TAC HQ being alternately bounced around the training area. An enemy force ambushed both elements in order to practise contact drills. The Troop then moved into a man-pack rebroadcast station shake out phase designed to test the use of this vital ABTF asset. The exercise finished with a 10mile tab before the Troop returned to Colchester feeling much better prepared for whatever it is to be faced with in the future.

AIRBORNE OFFICERS' DINNER 2001

This year's Airborne Officers' Dinner coincided with the 60th Anniversary of Airborne Forces. The occasion was appropriately marked by an impressive gathering of personalities from the past and present at Caythorpe; the home of the 1st Airborne Div Sigs during the latter stages of World War II and the location of the annual reunion pilgrimage, which is sponsored by 216 Sig Sqn. The evening began with an update by the OC 216 Sig Sqn, **Maj Neil Fraser**, on the Squadron's activities and an overview of the many significant issues with which it is faced following the formation of 16 Air Assault Bde. This was followed by a group photograph in front of Caythorpe Court. With the light fading fast everyone then moved to the bar to catch up on old times and to enjoy some well needed throat lubrication prior to the start of the dinner itself. The evening was a magnificent occasion, superbly organised by **Maj Steve Clarke** and **Capt Mark Rouse** (who wasted no opportunity in selling the wares of the Squadron PRI). The role of head-waiter was admirably performed by **SSgt J. J. Walker** whose call of 'dinner is served' could be heard across the county. He steadfastly carried out his duties until 0430hrs when the last of the guests left the bar. It is hoped that this event will continue to be so well supported in the future. The Squadron looks forward to meeting a good number of the guests at the annual Caythorpe weekend in September.

12 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (228)

Once again the newest Brigade HQ & Sig Sqn in the Corps lived up to its reputation of exercising hard, working hard and playing hard. Ex Ace Flush and the ensuing CAST saw the full Brigade HQ deployed onto SPTA making sure that the Foot & Mouth restrictions hadn't affected our skills of communicating moving cross country and living in the field. No sooner were we back than the mammoth task of cleaning all our vehicles for quarantine in Ludgershall began. This is to ensure that we don't take Foot & Mouth with us over to Canada, the last present the farmers on the Canadian Prairie would want from us! At the same time, a large part of the Sqn was back on Salisbury Plain supporting the Welsh Guards on Ex Wessex Warrior.

Once the cleaning was over and all our vehicles were sat in quarantine in Ludgershall the weapons and the low level tactics refresher training began. This was led and controlled by **WO1 (RSM) Ian Carter** and the Training wing team, **Sgt Barker**, **Cpl Berry** and **LCpl Chorlton**. The aim of this was to get every soldier in the Squadron qualified up to stage 4 field firing in preparation for the Special to Arm training in BATUS. This will include a live fire defence of the Brigade HQ, a fire team obstacle course and live pintol mounted GPMG firing whilst on the move.

Many of the Squadron used their advance weapons and tactics training to good effect at the 'Wild Wild West' Summer Ball. After a healthy campfire supper of sausages and beans, the cowboys and cowgirls settled in for a long night of drinking, Rodeo riding, line dancing, all interspersed with showdowns, gunfights and fast-draws. The whole Squadron made an immense effort, from **SSgt** 'Dicky' **Dyer** and his A Tp Gang who organised the whole thing, to all those who turned up in costume. A special mention should be made of **Sig** 'Call me Susan at weekends' **McGeorge** who was undoubtedly the Belle of the Ball.

EXERCISE ACE FLUSH/CAST

Ex Ace Flush was a 4-day Squadron beat up on SPTA. It was a challenging exercise in which we rehearsed the more adventurous aspects of armoured life. The highlights have to be driving Battened Down, using periscopes as our only form of vision, and tearing down in 3Romeo – a very sweaty experience. All squadron members gained a lot from it, especially **Cpl Chris** 'PTI' **Bonham** and **Sig** 'Weener' **Grochowina,** who got geographically embarrassed and threw a track about 20kms from where they should have been.]

A special mention must also go to **Sgt Ray Pendrich** who liked driving Battened Down so much that he carried on for 30 minutes after the order had been given to lift hatches. The exercise then led into the Brigade CAST which ventured away from the normal building at Warminster onto SPTA (something that hadn't been done in a long time). The aim, to give the Brigade Staff and the HQ support elements the chance to conduct a CAST whilst injecting the realism of movement and logistics.

The Squadron was tested on their military skills, receiving further NBC attacks and an infiltration of the HQ by the Royal Navy on a map exercise. No one noticed the dummy they had deposited within our complex until the following morning when **SSgt** 'Dicky' **Dyer** asked why **Sig** 'Ricky' **Martin** was leaning against a wall instead of getting his head down. Only their mothers could tell them apart! We were then joined by an elite squad from 249 Sig Sqn, many thanks to **Cpl Wilcoxon** and **Sigs Woodward, Whitelaw, Moorley, Polhill** and **Thompson** who were a credit to their unit. We also had support from **Sigs Best** and **Gallagher,** representing the COMSEC monitoring team and 3 Div who provided Radcon and Ptarmigan – Thank you for your hard work. After the Brigade Endex was called, the Squadron embarked on a cross-country trek to the washdowns where we entered stage one of the vehicle prep for BATUS (and fitted in a few beers around a bonfire).

The exercise provided to be a total success and was made even more memorable by a visit from the CDS who flew in to see how the Army's newest Brigade was getting on.

EXERCISE WESSEX WARRIOR

Never tiring of Exercises, a mixed group consisting of members of all three troops deployed on Ex Wessex Warrior exactly five days after returning from Ex Ace Flush. Thursday 14 June saw the group gather and deploy to Westdown Camp. Everyone was happy to be non-tac, apart from **LCpl Jess Limbert**, **Sig** 'Bof' **Walker** and **Sig** 'Drunken' **Dunkin**, on HQ BSG who deployed fully armed and cammed up. Once the Radio Room was set up and tested the exercise settled down into routine. The Staff came and went as only Staff can do and dramas such as, 'Where are the brews?' and, 'Can you get my HF radio to stop making this hissing noise?' were dealt with easily enough. Thanks to **Cpl** 'What's the problem?' **Bonham** for running Comms Ops without breaking sweat. Out on the plain, **LCpl Al Booker**, **Sig** 'Burny' **Burfield**, **LCpl Gemma** 'Rover-Queen' **Treen** and **Sig Dan** 'The Man' **Tasker**, all on the rebros, spent their time avoiding the battle groups and the re-supply rover. At least someone was working hard! The battles progressed, the Battlegroups fought, the Staff planned and we stagged on. Another task completed!

CANADA WASHDOWN

In preparation for BATUS and in the current climate of Foot and Mouth Disease, it was decreed that all of the Panzers must be cleaned. Not just cleaned but ***cleaned***. To that end, on Tuesday 12 June, bright and early, the squadron paraded in coveralls and goretex, well armed with cleaning materials to begin the wash down. **Capt Joe Cox** was in overall control and launched everyone off to begin the mammoth task. Although we all thought that we were fully prepared for the enormity of cleaning every single bit of dust from every vehicle, we were not. Canada's stringent entry standards required the vehicles to be completely free from dirt. As the fortnight progressed and as the working weekend passed, Groundhog Day really set in. Teddies were thrown and senses of humour lost. However, the task was accomplished, all the standards were met and the Squadron lent back and surveyed its handiwork. Every armoured vehicle, DAF, FFR and trailer stood lined up and gleaming. A hard job achieved with humour and determination. Well done everyone!

Sig Thomas starts on the underside of his umpteenth DAF

TRAINING FOR WAR

by LCpl Andy Middle, Cpl Gaz Little and Sig Frankie Collins

After a long hard two weeks of solid washing down vehicles all day every day, we started our pre BATUS range package. The first part of the training involved the Squadron deploying to the local training area and practising pairs fire and manoeuvre techniques as well as fire control orders. The first lesson of the day was given by **Cpl Jim Berrey** and **Cpl** 'Trig' **Hunter** on Fire Control Orders. After a lot of umming and arrring and short bursts of enthusiasm it all came flooding back. The award for the best fire control order in our view would have too go to **Sig** 'Skip Rat' **Lynch** after deafening us all with a very loud but not so precise order. The rest of the day was spent sweating running up and down the area practising Pairs Fire and Manoeuvre.

The next two weeks involved us all doing lessons on LAW 94 and Grenade. The practise of the grenade throwing was the highlight of the lessons, which involved us setting up a mini range on the grass just outside Montgomery Lines. After a textbook display of accuracy from **Sig Phil Williams** everyone then had a go. **Sig** 'Dead Eye' **Collins** was by far the worst, on his first attempt almost taking out the civilian population on the road outside camp. When asked to post a second grenade, he crawled up to a tyre and managed to get the grenade to bounce back out next to him. The LAW 94 lessons went well and the newest arrival in the squadron **LCpl** 'Huckleberry' **Minza** showed just how well people coming from training can adapt to ever changing and varied training in the busiest and newest squadron in the U.K.

Then followed the Fire Team Assessment. After a nice little guided tour of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst which including local facilities and attractions by **Capt** 'and on your left…' **Rodger** we set of up the range. It soon became clear that we needed to employ more of The Marksmanship Principles after a blinding display from **LCpl** 'Couldn't hit a barn door' **Bailey**. Further training was provided for those who needed it. The rest of the training saw us going back onto the ranges to complete GPMG live firing. This was new to us all, as most of us have never fired one before and we are all looking forward to the real thing in BATUS.

ARMY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION TOUR OF BRAZIL

by Cpl Collins

On Wednesday 23 of May, players and staff of the Army FA embarked on a journey of a lifetime to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Out of the 30 tour members there were seven representatives from the Royal Signals. These were **Capt Alan Higgins** 2 Sig Regt, **Sgt Paul Alford** 6 BN Reme, **Sgt Dean Boughen** 642 Sig Tp, **Cpl Joe Collins** 12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (228), **LCpl Wes O'Connor** 238 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Brian Moffat** and

Sig Barry Rizza both of 7 Sig Regt.

The tour comprised of six football matches against various levels of opposition in which we won three and lost three, Scoring 23 goals for and conceding ten. When the team wasn't playing or on familiarisation training on Copacabana Beach we managed to fit in some valuable sightseeing. The main ones being a trip by cable car up the Sugar Loaf mountain approximately 300m in height to watch the sugar loaf sundown, a sight never to be forgotten. A day out at the Maracana Football Stadium to watch the Rio Cup Final in front of an amazing 90,000 + crowd between Flamengo and Vasco De Gama in which Flamengo won the game with a last minute free kick. We then visited the world famous Cocovado (Jesus Christ) statue, which was an ideal chance for photos not only of the statue but also the excellent views of Rio.

Personally for me, the most interesting day out was after we had played a match against a local team called Viva Rio. This was a team made up of 16-21 year olds from the local Favela (slum area) with which the local government would pay the families of these youngsters to place them back into school. After this match we were escorted up the Favela, which they called 'Little Vietnam', by the police to see where and how these people lived. A BBQ was put on and we had a chance to meet around 100-150 youngsters on this scheme. All in all this was a trip never to be forgotten especially the 3 tour members who where held up at knife point, **Sig Rizza** being one of them, and not only for the different style of football but also for the different style of culture.

ASCENSION ISLANDS - *by Sig Brewster*

As a member of 12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228) I was happy to accept a project in the Ascension islands. The task we were given was to replace a 500-meter length of fibre optic cable that was kinked with a new cable and also to terminate the ends and four other joints along its lay. This would have been easily achieved if not for a few major problem that occurred firstly the late flight.

The trip started at Brize Norton where I met up with **SSgt Laverie** and five other Telemechs and Installation Techs from 252 Sig Sqn Bruggan Tp. On arrival to Brize I was told that the flight was delayed by 26 hours due to technical problems, and I was sent back to Montgomery lines. 26 hours later and back at Brize I discovered that there was another delay by 14 hours and a stay at the Gateway house awaiting me. Finally we left the UK after a 40-hour delay and landed at the Ascension islands at midnight almost two days late.

Work started at 0800 hours on Wednesday with the stripping out of the old cable that was kinked and we started to replace it with another cable of a different make. While this was going on a team was sent up to the antenna site to terminate the cable there. That night after a thirteen-hour workday and lack of sunlight we stopped to visit the local bar. On Thursday we finished installing the cable into the COMCEN and started to terminate it to the equipment. With the far end at the antenna site terminated the team doing the splicing moved down to the next joint and started to terminate it. We finished off that day also with a visit to the local for a few jars. Friday started out badly with the information that that the splicers were set at the wrong setting for the temperature and the constant wind was blowing sand into the joints. This meant that the joints done out side had to be redone. However, Friday night is a night to relax so at about seven we headed off to the capital of the island, Georgetown, a small American base that housed the majority of the Americans posted there. Being the capital it consisted of a police station, a few shops and a bar called the VC. With about one thousand people staying there the pub was full and lively, and as ambassadors of the Corps we soon all joined in. Saturday morning was set aside for fishing but it was soon discovered that the idea of fishing in rough seas while hung over was a bad idea. This is probably why nothing was caught but plenty of half digested breakfasts went overboard. By Saturday afternoon and feeling only slightly better we started again with the splicers. This soon stopped when it was discovered that one of the splicers had stopped working due to a battery problem. This meant that the last splicer had to be used in shifts all though the night and beyond, until Sunday afternoon when we had to stop and pack up for the trip back to the UK.

I found the project thoroughly enjoyable and a change from the usual task of laying cable on exercise or repairing faults with radio systems. Even with the project unfinished it was still an achievement to have done as much as we did in the little time made available to us and after the problems that occurred.

238 (LONDON) SIGNAL SQUADRON

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Sqn Comd	**Maj Ian Seraph**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Melanie Crowther**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Neil Stewart**

The Squadron never really got chance to breath in June with a blur of Ceremonial parades and rehearsals, ending with a major recruiting event. All in, we were involved in four parades for the Queens Birthday Parade, two parades for the Official visit of the President of South Africa and Mrs Mbeki and two parades for State Opening of Parliament; all within a three week period! June ended with the high profile Redbridge Town/County show, with over 25000 visitors per day over the weekend. Amongst the many exhibitors there, the Army was represented by the RA, RGJ, Infantry recruiting team, RLC and our own 238 (London) Sig Sqn recruiting team. We did a good job of impressing the stand judges with our variety of kit, from Ceremonial Visor Radios, CNR and Mould to the Green Harley's and Service Despatch Bikes; Good enough to win first prize for best Exhibitor, which came with a couple of well received bottles of bubbly!

Breakfast time!
(L-R): Cpl Chris Bain, Cpl Baz Park, SSgt Tommy Burns and WO2 Mel Crowther

July is the time of Royal Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace, we also fitted a Squadron social day into the calendar. Starting with a very informal cricket match won by the Ops Officer's, **Maj (Tfc) Carl Storey**, team. Following that we had a BBQ, video horse racing and a disco to round the evening off! The end of July saw 238 (London) Sig Sqn deploying on the first of two Adventure training exercise's, this one to Scotland. 12 intrepid volunteers set off on Ex Tartan Cockney to Blair Atholl, Perthshire. The whole week was excellently supported by the 2-man Admin Team, **Cpls Chris Bain** and **Baz Park** who cooked, served, shopped and drove us around.

There were nine trekkers from Chelsea; **Capt Andy Wilson**, **WO2 Mel Crowther**, **SSgt Tommy Burns** and **Ian Tait**, **Sgt Mandie Eardley**, **LCpls Jay Dine**, **Dave Stevenson** and **JP Thomas** and **Sig Matt Pegg**. The tenth trekker came in the form of **Sgt Marie McChesney**, from 2 Sig Regt. With **LCpl JP** 'About 1km to go - honest' **Thomas** due on his Mountain Leader course immediately after the exercise, he was given responsibility of group leader, with **SSgt Tommy** 'WJSMEL, done it all before, twice' **Burns** and **Capt Andy Wilson** watching from the rear. After the long drive up to Scotland on Friday, we had two 'warm up' 1-day routes over the weekend, returning each night to the very comfortable Blair Castle Caravan Park. Early Monday morning we set out on a 3-day hike, covering over 60km of isolated terrain. It had become apparent during the 1-day routes that **LCpl JP** 'head down and TAB' **Thomas** was incapable of setting a 'scenic' pace that all could enjoy, so he'd been banned from physically leading the group. Unfortunately Day One still proved very gruelling, as we had to negotiate a large section of valley that had become a boulder field after some previous landslide activity. Next time **SSgt Tommy** 'This wasn't here eight years ago!' **Burns** will insist on a more recent recce. The group walked back into Blair Castle Caravan Park very tired on Wednesday evening, but soon found energy when thoughts turned to the evening ahead in the local watering holes!

On top of the World!
(L-R): SSgt Ian Tait, LCpl Jay Dine, Sig Matt Pegg, Capt Andy Wilson, LCpl Dave Stevenson and LCpl J. P. Thomas

MIKE TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt (TOT) Kevin Wilson**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Andy Cannadine**

Mike Tp would like to say good luck and farewell to **Capt (TOT) Bob Nicol**, who's off to civvy street, **Sgt Cory Pennicott** to Corsham and **LCpl Aeysha Muhammad** who is off to sunny Cyprus. The Troop would like to welcome **Capt (TOT) Kevin Wilson** who has come to us on commissioning as the new Troop Commander from 3 (UK) Div, **Sgt Christine Giles** who has joined the ACISG workshops from Corsham, **Cpl Lorraine Dorrian** who has also joined the ACISG workshops from 243 Sig Sqn and also **Cpl Angela Thicket** who will be arriving soon fresh off her T1.

The PA Team enjoyed the Queen's Birthday Parade slightly more than the rest of us, as they watched the event from the comfort of the SO2 G6's office sipping champagne while the rest of the military representatives got a little wet in the extreme weather conditions. As the ceremonial season has almost finished it has been a period of chilling out, with many of the Troop going on leave, courses and adventure training. **Cpl JP Thomas**, **LCpl Jay Dine**, **LCpl Aeysha Muhammad**, **Sig Tim Peacock** and **Sig Sam Robinson** have all completed their Riggers course. Who said there were no masts in London? **Sgt Andy Carnegie** and **Sig Andy Milne** have been seconded to the RLI project team and will be on the road until November.

Unfortunately Radio Troop have failed to organise any sports in the last couple of months, have they finally realised they cannot beat us at anything? So no prizes to mention here.

Tp Comd	**Maj (Tfc) Carl Storey**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Mandie Eardley**

A warm welcome from the troop is given to **Cpl. Richard** 'Richie' **Applegarth** who comes here via 7 Sig Regt and first action will be to prise the Bergen off his back and to issue him a set of green army slippers. A sad farewell also goes to **Cpl Annette** 'Ches' **McChesney** one of the 'quieter' members of the Troop, who is going off to sunny JHQ with 16 Sig Regt. She would like to mention all the guys and gals who attended her leaving drinks and who did not try to resuscitate her after she was carried back from the local hostelry at 2000hrs and put to bed, she knows who you are! She missed a very good night by all accounts. As there are only six military personnel within the Troop not much has been happening. **Sgt Mandie Eardley** has been in the YofS chair for the past few weeks and already the hair loss is kicking in with all the pressure of the job, but she is cutting down to 60 fags a day! 238 Sig Sqn are mounting expeditions to (Blair Atholl) Scotland and (Halifax) Canada. The very very lucky sole representative from the handbag contingent within the squadron is **Sgt** 'Can I go sir please please please sir can I go please, and can my whippet come as well she is airplane trained' **Eardley**. She will be using the hills of 'Scotia' and 'Nova Scotia' to train for her up and coming Sergeants course (cue scary music).

243 SIGNAL SQUADRON

ROYAL SIGNALS BASKETBALL TOUR
AUSTRALIA 15 JUNE – 2 JULY 2001

In November 2000 at the Intercorps Basketball Championships the question was put to all players whether they wanted to go on tour in 2001. After some discussion on individual responsibilities it was agreed by all that a tour would go ahead with the location TBC. The location for me had already been set as Australia and all that would be required was support from my in theatre Australian Army contacts. My first port of call was to **Lt Col Tony Cotton**, whom I had coached along side at the State and National championships in Australia. During the intervening period **Tony**, to my surprise, was now the president of the Australian Defence Force Basketball Association (ADFBA), hopefully life would be easier. Next, the tough decision of which level of competition would be appropriate for the Corps Team. I requested an invitation to a State Inter-Service Tournament and it was suggested that Victoria State would provide the necessary challenge, being one of the stronger state competitions. The Victorian State Committee sent the invitation and we duly accepted, rude not to. Now to sort out, who would be available for the tour? Even after all the discussions that had taken place during the last Inter-Corps Championships, some players still failed to reply in a timely manner or not at all, some individuals would definitely not be going.

At this point, I would like to thank all units for the support they gave to the players, both acknowledging that this was a chance in a lifetime for them and the funding without which I have no doubt that some would not have been able to attend. It was finally agreed and the numbers settled out at ten men, nine women, flights paid for and everything set in stone. Well, this so called stone suddenly became molten as one male and female player withdrew at the ninth hour. **LCpl Chloè Cowan**, decided that her Class 1 course was more important, **Sig Sam Hayward** was the second to withdraw. The final numbers were now definitely set, nine men and eight women were already for the tour.

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt Andy Wilson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Mark Brooksbank**

All is fine in the Troop and we must welcome **Sig Chris Reeve** from 21 Sig Regt, and congratulations to **LCpl Grant Mockett** for his recent promotion. Now that the Ceremonial season is coming to a close, we can take a few paragraphs to reflect on the success of the events. Firstly the Queen's Birthday Parade, was the event that gave birth to the Radio Tp synchronised Swimming Team. With the rain falling in sheets, it gave the Troop the opportunity to get the No1 Dress washed for free, However, all went well and the Troop carried out the task as efficiently as always.

Ceremonial Splendour!
LCpl Shaun Dinsdale, getting wet on the Mall, during the Queen s Birthday Parade

The Second event was the visit by the President of South Africa and his wife, this was held in Windsor, with again no problems and weather that was a lot more pleasing. Another event we did was the State opening of Parliament, this took the normal form, that happens every October, but as this was a General Election, it happened in June. The weather again was quite nice, especially grateful were **Sgt Bob Garlick** and **Cpl Shaun** as they were 200ft up Victoria tower in the Palace of Westminster, it could have been quite cold. With three Palace garden parties done, the Troop has been really busy, but still we managed to fit in the usual banter, with the Troop rest room designed and painted by Lawrence Lewelyn Parker!

We were flying out of London Heathrow at 0630hrs with a check in time of 0430hrs so accommodation was booked at the London transit centre, RAF Uxbridge. All players, except for **Cpl** 'Jonah or should we say Warren' **Jones** who arranged train passage direct to LHR, arrived at RAF Uxbridge early evening and we used the few hours prior to departure to reunite old ties. It has been at least ten years since the Matless twins, **WO2 (FofS)** 'AJ' and **SSgt** 'RC' **Matless** had been on tour together. This meant that only three out of the party of 17 had seen them together. This would be a lesson in recognition for the remainder. 0400hrs transport departs for LHR. As we arrived at Terminal 2 the waving arms of **Jonah** were clearly seen. 'It's OK Coach I know where we have to check in, I confirmed it with that guy at the desk, check in starts at 0525hrs.' We queued for the next hour, thing is there was no indication that our flight company was at these check in desks. It was no surprise that when check in started we were told, 'Sorry sir but you have to check in at the desks further up,' good start **Jonah**. Flying with Lauda Air, the route consisted of a short hop to Vienna, a change of aircraft onto Melbourne with a splash and dash at Kuala Lumpa.

We arrived in Melbourne at 1530hrs Saturday 16 June, local time, to be met by **Capt Kurt Rezek. Kurt** caught the ball when the committee dropped it during the organisation of the tour, it has to be said, that without **Kurt's** intervention we would not have been going on tour. He handed out arrival packs to all players and we were escorted to the coach that would transport us to Puckapunyal, a military garrison approximately 1fi hrs from Melbourne.

The journey saw a number of players taking this opportunity to catch a little shut eye. That was until we arrived at Pucka when everyone got his or her first glimpse of the Kangaroos. As expected a comment on how cute they looked as they bounced across the ground and settled down to graze. One thing about roos is you must not let their appearance lead you to think that they are cute and cuddly, because these vermin can do some serious damage if you get too close, which the Team would be briefed on

shortly. An admin brief on Pucka by **Lt Pete Moore** who made everyone aware that Pucka was a safe haven for roos where normally they would be hunted as vermin. **Pete** also informed all that because of this they were braver than normal. This meant they had a habit of residing close to the buildings for better grazing. One thing to note if these animals square up to you, you take an alternative route because they will lean back on their tails for balance, pull you in close with their upper arms and kick out with their hind quarters. The result being the individual loosing their stomach on the nails on their feet.

Sunday, the first day of training in preparation for the inter-services tournament commenced at 0900hrs. A number of drills were run to place everyone into the right frame of mind for the tour ahead and to get rid of the cobwebs, especially for those players that have not picked up a ball since last November. The training session was warming down in preparation for lunch, when, Snap, pop, Arrrrgh and we picked up our first injury of the tour. **Capt (TOT) Nev Smikle** was on the ground writhing around doing his impression of Sally from when Harry met Sally. The Team displayed true concern when it happened as his Team shouted, 'Don't just lie there pass the ball!' Seriously though, **Nev** snapped his Achilles, which meant surgery and hospital food for his period in Australia, 'Sorry **Nev**.'

Tuesday saw the players turn up for training in a positive mood if not slightly jaded, the sky was blue but the gym Baltic, never in my years of entering a gym have I been in a gym as cold as this one. Winter in Victoria has temperatures below zero at night with temperatures in the high teens during the day. We also bade farewell to **Nev** as he was carted off to a hospital in Melbourne for his surgery to reattach his Achilles. Tuesday's training was constructive, analysing the mistakes made the night before and questioning why are we not as quick to the ball. A new incentive was introduced to encourage more concentration on the shots taken during training. A total of sixty shots were taken by all players, batches of ten from six different positions, if a player failed to hit any of his/her ten shots, 0 from 10, it would cost them a pizza slab. That evening saw the male and female teams compete against pick up teams from around the Pucka area. The ladies made up for their previous loss with a resounding win. The guys on the other hand were playing against a team that gave them space to control the rotation of the ball and therefore make the correct shot selection. However, they snatched their shots and the ball rotation was slow and uninventive. The guys lost the game but lessons were learnt. The Wagoners failed to open that evening so the Team settled for a block party. Wednesday saw training intensify, with only a morning session all players committed themselves 100% preparing for that evening's games. After lunch the Squad visited the quaint Australian

Some of the team relaxing in KL lounge on route

The afternoon training session was a bit low key as the impact of **Nev's** injury hit home. The session passed by with no further injuries. That evening saw the team contemplating the loss of **Nev** over a few wets.

Nev relaxing after a traumatic morning

Monday saw the teams preparing themselves for the evening games. Two training session were held, one morning, one afternoon, things looked good..... How wrong we were, that evening saw the Seymour Blasters take to the court as our opposition. These are what are classed as a Country Town Team. However, their Team had the majority of players from the state Under 18's Squad. A shell-shocked performance by both teams as the Blasters displayed some serious youth and speed. After two very hard fought games both the men and women lost. After the game our opposition were invited to attend the post game refreshments at the 'Wagoners' which is a local bar on camp. However, the numbers were limited due to the age of our opposition and the fact that the player's parents were there to take them home. We arrived at the 'Wagoners' in a down beat mood after our defeat, but **Kurt** and **Pete** were there lighting the log fires awaiting our arrival and after a few 'Coldies' the evenings games commenced. The children's play area became a source of fun for all present. The Squad bonded well that night as the games progressed but according to AJ & RC we did not bond as well as they would have liked?

country town of 'Seymour'. Now Seymour is like a town from the Wild West except they have tarmac roads and paths not sand/dirt and wooden boardwalks as in the Wild West. This town had a few shops, which interested all especially the sports and clothes shops. That evenings games were against the Military area base teams, the ladies competed hard and ran out winners again, the guys on the other hand carried on from where they left off the night before. Thursday saw the squad with a day of relaxation, no training, no games, well no basketball anyway. With a kind donation from an ex-corps member, **Mr. Ed Massey** we ventured on a tour of the local winery or two. On behalf of the team I would like to thank **Ed** for his donation. The tour would consist of visiting four vineyards, whose history varies from a few decades to over a century. Australian wines are making an impact here in the UK at the moment so this was an ideal opportunity to taste some of Australia's top exports.

The Squad sampling the delights of one of the winery's

Hopefully now we are able to tell our Semillon (a light to full-bodied wine with a crisp aroma of subtle grassy overtones) from our Sauvignon Blanc (an aromatic dry pungent aroma with a crisp asparagus like scent, slightly tarty), white wine for the uneducated. Or the Grenache (a fruity full-bodied wine with a peppery rounded flavoured) from the Merlot (aromas and flavours of plum and black cherry with a lingering finish). The other members of the tour were more interested in consuming as many different wines as possible. At the end of the afternoon everyone

had enjoyed the delights of the Australian Red and White, and for some of us it flowed across a more informed pallet. The final vineyard of the day was the 'Tahbilk'. Established in 1860 it is Victoria's oldest winery and vineyard. Now the wines on offer had little or no difference to the others, maybe our nose and pallet had numbed. However, it did have three ports of outstanding quality, those who tasted these ports were actually taken back by their quality and some of us now own a bottle or two. The afternoon went well and all this was a warmer in the bank for the evening's activities ahead. We returned to the barracks with enough time to eat, shower and shave (including the ladies) prior to jumping back onto the transport and heading for the bright lights of Seymour. Now remember what I likened Seymour to earlier, the Wild West but with a tarmac surface. The recommended night-spot was the 'Prince'. The evening ended with a few individuals in fine song and required a nudge to keep the noise down once we had entered the barracks. **Capt Angela Aylward** has a fine voice and felt she should share her vocal talents with all nationalities regardless of time or location.

Friday morning saw a number of player's rise with bleary eyes and not looking forward to the coach journey to Maygar Bks, Broadmeadows, North Melbourne. We arrived at the barracks and immediately off loaded our kit and headed for the city. The Team divided up and carried out the tourist thing, taking in some of the spectacular sights and shops on offer. After an afternoon of sight seeing and shopping we had arranged to meet **Kurt** at the start of the walk way into 'Colonial Stadium' to see an Australian Rules football game. Colonial stadium is one of Melbourne's many sporting stadiums, in-fact it was the same stadium in which the Lions were beaten by the Wallabies recently. The game was watched by all with little or no comprehension of the rules but the 'Collingwood Magpies' resoundingly beat 'The West Coast Eagles'. Onto post game entertainment, some of the team who had over indulged the night before were now feeling the effects of lack of sleep and slipped away to catch some shut eye, the others headed for the bright lights and spinning wheels of Australia's biggest casino, the 'Crown'. Mixed fortunes for all that visited the casino.

Sunday 1200hrs we climbed a bus and headed off to RAAF Williams in Laverton, a SW suburb of Melbourne. This was to be one of the turning points in the tour. The RAAF along with the Army in Victoria has historically been strong and we were visiting one of the major stations in the state. We arrived two hours prior to the game and the guys were up first. 1fi hrs prior to jump ball and the guys started to warm up, now traditionally the Corps Team's warm up has been short and sweet but on this occasion our warm up started 1fi hrs prior to the tip off. This early start had a positive effect on the mental approach to this game. The team was quietly pleased when an invalid hopped through the front door to watch the games. We all were happy to see Nev having not had his company since he had his operation. From the tip off the guys ran the floor with a belief not seen within the team for a number of years, all players rotated through and all had a positive influence on the game. The RAAF Team ran hard against us but our strength on the boards and speed on fast break was consistent and we completed the game with our first win. The ladies on the other hand were up against a team that consisted of players who all could dribble and shoot. Within the first few minutes of the game **Vicki** rolled her ankle and was ruled out for the remainder of the game, luckily this was just a twinge but this had a positive impact on forcing the players whom had less belief in their skills to utilise untapped resources. The ladies fought hard but unfortunately lost. Sunday night saw everyone in a subdued mood, primarily because of the night time activities over the previous week was catching up with them, so a night at the pictures was in order. Monday 0730hrs we were collected by **ABSIG** 'Fletch' **Fletcher** a naval guy for our visit to HMAS *Cerberus*. On route we visited the construction yards of Tennix the contractors ship-yard, where we looked at the communications that were to be installed into their new stealth ships and that was utilised on their current fleet. We then continued our tour of Naval establishments by visiting different elements of HMAS *Cerberus*.

The Squad at HMAS *Cerberus*

The afternoon games against HMAS *Cerberus* had mixed results. The guys again were up first and within 12 minutes the referees had seriously upset the coach (who was getting some game time and oxygen from the medics at each end just in case.) by handing out four fouls in quick succession. This resulted in the teddy's head being thrown in one corner, dummy in another and his own body to the floor behind the mats, not a pretty sight. The guys lost this one handsomely, but this brought home the requirement for them to maintain discipline, keep their heads in the game and not let the referee's pysch them out of their game. The ladies enjoyed the game and continue to show their killer instinct by hammering the Naval Ladies Team. These mixed results required some light refreshment post game to analyse what went wrong.

The ladies team after their thrashing of the Naval ladies

Tuesday was a day of total rest prior to the tournament. Day One of the tournament, two games for both the male and female teams, the ladies were up first against the Army. A hard fought game by the ladies during which the forwards defended well and capitalised on strong rebounding. Credit has to go for this to **Capts Terri** 'I own the boards' **Downes, Angela** 'If you come inside I'll bounce you out' **Aylward, Cpls** 'Burty - I like lycra' **Burtenshaw** and Ross 'Don't double dog dare me' **Beattie, Sig Steph** 'My wisdom teeth are the reason I look like a chipmunk' Jackson. Once the boards were secured the speed and agility of the guards ensured that the game stayed in their favour as they ran out winners. Credit for speed and agility must go to, **Cpl Vicki** 'I will chase you down like a terrier' **Moran** and **Emily** 'My legs naturally do that when I run' **Letchford, LCpl Fiona** 'I'll see my rellies') **Murphy**.

The guys were up next against the Squad who beat them on Monday – the Navy. The Navy team had lost a couple of their players but this did not take away from the resounding win the guys had over them. The Army and RAAF were watching the game with interest as they got an indication of what the weeks previous training and games had achieved – a team that is committed to each other with belief in themselves as a team. The second game for the ladies against the RAAF was a copy of Sunday's game where although the ladies competed hard the RAAF had a more complete team that meant they lost. The guys' last game of the day was against the Army. Earlier in the day the Army and the RAAF competed in a closely fought game in which the Army were winners by a big margin, after witnessing our destruction of the Navy. The Army came out aggressively and physically hard trying to intimidate within the paint. In the pre-tournament games we played the majority of the Army players, on two occasions and we were convincingly beaten on both occasions, so the Army were rightly confident of their ability to beat us. However, this did not concern the team, this was a new game with new tactics, the game was hard fought. There was a feeling that our opposition did not want us to reach the final, with a possibility of becoming the Inter-Service Champions. All players were outstanding and played a hard physical game finally overturning the Army by nine points, another good win. Both the ladies and men's teams were through to the finals regardless of the games scheduled for the following day. That evening all the squad headed to the bar in high spirits after a successful days play. At this point in the diary, I would like to thank all members of the Squad for the heart felt gift you presented, it is a gift that will remain with me for many days to come and the ball has already found itself a place on the sideboard. Due to **Ms Paltrows** entry thanks could not be expressed, MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL. Our hosts/opposition on the other hand had something to reflect on and quite a few of them did not join us in the bar for the evening's festivities but took themselves to bed in preparation for another day's competition.

It was just before the first game that we had to say farewell to **Fiona** as she had to return to the UK for a wedding, **Fiona**, you don't know what you missed out on over the next two days. Another absentee was **Nev**, by all account he and the padre were out visiting some local churches to take in a brass rubbing or two and discuss some of the stain glass windows on display in the locality. The men were up first on the last day of the tournament against the RAAF.

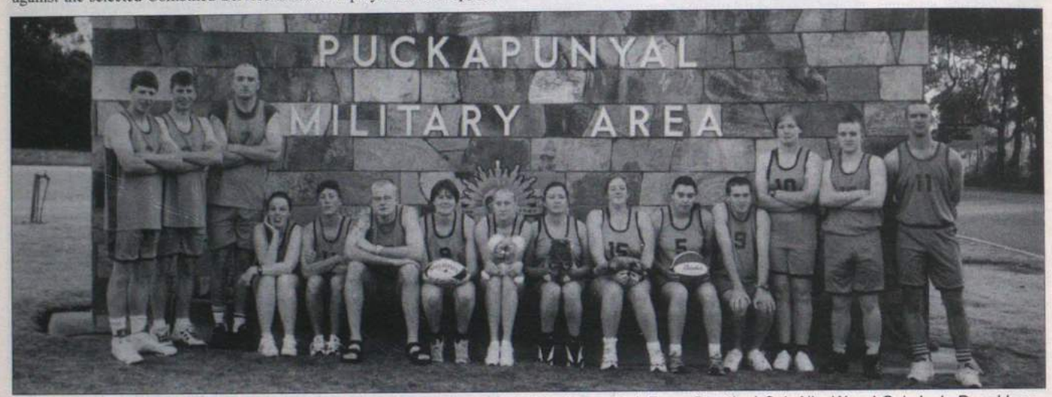
The RAAF had already lost to us once and were obviously looking to over turn our last encounter. They had also been told about our game against the Army and were taken back when they were told that we had beaten them. Psychologically we had the upper hand but they had brought in a few fresh faces, or were they supposed to be ringers.

All the players relished the physical challenge that this game presented and once we had a lead did not look back running out winners by a few baskets. Onto the finals and the ladies were up first against a supplemented RAAF team. The ladies started off extremely well competing hard for the boards and restricting the RAAF to outside shots, the only thing that the ladies lacked was there shots dropping for them. They fought hard throughout the final but the RAAF broke our ladies back as fatigue set in and their fast break and full court press became very successful. UNLUCKY LADIES but you did us proud and you will never meet a team like that at the Inter-Corps. The guys were up next against the Army. As the players took to the floor the atmosphere could have been cut with a knife and the ladies along with Nev, were outstanding in their vocal support for the guys. The Army as with the ladies RAAF team had additional players turn up for the final. From the tip off the guys ran

the floor hard displaying our prowess as a fast break team, complemented in and around the boards with hard physical blocking out. The lads were actually instinctively looking for a man to block out before hunting for the ball off the rebound or collecting it from beneath the basket as it falls through. In the first half the guys put a 12 point margin up very quickly then after 4 very quick fouls Jonah was sitting on the bench for all but the last five minutes of the game. The Army over the remaining minutes of the first half clawed their way back into the game and at half time we were 34 points apiece. The second half was a classic and historically the Corps Team would have started slow, gone down by a number of points and then would have failed to recover from a poor start. However, this was a different team from the tip off in the second half the team competed and even when they went down by nine points stayed calm and controlled as they came back to beat them 65–59. The players celebrated a most notable win and in the excitement the girls' disappointment was forgotten as all squad members sang 'Championee, championee'. The evening saw all tournament players celebrating a very hard fought competition, but the comment that will stay with me for many years to come was, 'Your Team turned up and after the first few warm up games we actually questioned whether you had the ability to compete with us in this tournament, Your players played hard and deserved the win and this now gives us something to think about prior to the Combined Services Championships in September.' The evening lasted long into the night.

The final day in Pucka saw both the male and female teams competing against the selected Combined Service teams. All players turned up, but after the win the day before this game did not have the same appeal and this showed in the performance both teams went down to heavy losses. After the games and the closing speeches we retired to our rooms to clear things away and mount the coach for our journey into Melbourne for the teams last night in Australia. All said their farewells and expressed sincere gratitude to Kurt for all his efforts in the organisation of the tour. We left Pucka for the last time on route to Melbourne the accommodation arrangements had been hidden from the players and when we arrived at the front foyer of the Holiday Inn, a 4 star hotel at the centre of the city, there were a few wide mouthed gold fish around.

The following day was our last look around Melbourne prior to departure. The flight seemed longer and more uncomfortable this time round probably because we were on our way back to reality. On return and absolutely jet lagged the confirmation came through that Nev and Steve would follow in a couple of days. As it turned out their return was with Quantas and first class all the way. At least you got one perk from your trip down under Nev. As a parting note I would like to thank the players for fronting all costs when requested, which enabled the timely booking of flights, all before the promised funding materialised. Support to individuals came from individual units and the Army Sports Control Board, to them many thanks. With the excellent results from the tournament we have already been invited back to defend our title next year. Is this a viable venture and will the Corps support us this time round? Questions to be answered. Watch this space.



Standing (L—R): WO2 (FofS) AJ Matless, SSgt RC Matless, Cpl Jonah Jones, Cpl Ross Beattie, LCpl Ally Way, LCpl Jock Donaldson
Sitting (L—R): LCpl Fiona Murphy, Cpls Burty Burtenshaw, Jae Binnie, Capt Terri Downes, LCpl Emily Letchford, Cpl Vicki Moran, Capt Angela Aylward, Sig Steph Jackson and LCpl Steve Miller

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON
(ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE MOBILE FORCE (LAND))

Sqn Comd **Maj David Hudson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Shean Dewar**

It has been a hectic summer and everyone is thoroughly looking forward to block leave. The comings and goings of personnel has slowed to a trickle, a welcome to the Squadron goes out to **LCpl Drabwell, LCpl Maybank, LCpl Steward** and **Cfn Yorke**. Welcome back **LCpl Lovell** – you must have really liked it here to get posted back! Goodbye and thanks to **Sgt Brown, Cpl Wilcockson** and **Sig Bailey** - all off to Germany and cheerio to **Sig Nicholl**. Big congratulations to **Cpl** 'Baz' **Botwright, Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson, Cpl Cleworth, Cpl Walsh, Cpl Meek, Cpl** 'Steph' **Stephenson** and **Cpl Kenny** for their recent selection for promotion. We must also say a sad farewell to our illustrious leader **Maj David Hudson**, he's done us proud, good luck in your next appointment – you are welcome back anytime!!

NVQ ACHIEVEMENTS - *by SSgt (YofS) M Holden*

The Squadron is committed to providing educational training for our soldiers and has had some success in the NVQ field. The NVQ assessment for operators takes approximately a year and consists of interviews, written tasks and a practical assessment. It is now a common sight to see soldiers wandering around the Squadron lines clutching NVQ questionnaires, hoping to badger their Troop Commander into signing certificates of competency. Recent success includes **Sig** 'Got out' **Gamgee, Sig** 'Willie' **Whitelaw** and **Sig** 'Tommo' **Thompson**, who have all passed their NVQ level 3 in communications, gaining them a trendy 'Modern apprenticeship in communications'. Well done.

CROSS TRAINING VISIT TO RAF KINLOSS
by Cpl 'What rank am I today' Robinson

After some 13 hours drive through the bleakest parts of Scotland we arrived tired but happy at RAF Kinloss. Several well deserved beers later we retired to our beds in preparation for the next three days cross training.

Tuesday started with a brief on 201 Squadron RAF, their role and a familiarisation to the base. Then it was on to the pan to look around a Nimrod, where we had a walk through/talk through of the various pieces of equipment and the jobs of the members of the crew. After lunch we visited Simulator Squadron and were given a demonstration of the Nimrod simulator 'The best video game north of Newcastle'. All of us had a go at flying and landing - testing the patience of the Senior Engineer, **John Allan**. Particular mention must go to **Sig** 'What's this button do?' **Rockett**, who managed to fly through a thunder storm and **LCpl Rich Hewitt**, who not only landed with two engines on fire, but also lost all hydraulic systems. However, the best landing of the day has to go to **Sgt Nev** 'You Brits are killing me' **Donohue**, our resident Aussie on Exercise Long Look.

Wednesday saw us visit Air Traffic Control and 81 Signals Unit, to check out and work all the comms kit. Needless to say all the operators now want to transfer as there are no frequency changes, antennas are fixed and require minimal maintenance, and on top of all that they only work a four-day shift and then get four days off! After dinner the lads took off to Elgin to sample the delights of Joanna's Bar, the local night spot, frequented by some of the local delicacies, needless to say grab a growler was the order of the day.

On Thursday we took to the skies, or at least 200 feet of it, to fly with 201 Squadron, tracking subs and merchant vessels, dropping sonar buoys, taking lots of sneaky photos and watching **Sig Nick Hanraty** fill lots of sick bags. Some eight hours later we all landed safely and hit the bar in order to say thank you and our goodbyes. Special thanks must go to TSU for getting us the slowest mini bus in the world, the Squadron MT for the agency card that didn't work, and especially **Sgt Si Holden** at 201 Squadron, for organising the visit and hosting us all so well.

On patrol above the Irish Sea — top cover for Search and Rescue

FREEFALL PARACHUTE COURSE – *by LCpl 'Pez' Perry*

On Sunday 1 July seven members of the Squadron and **2Lt Mander** RLC, left Bulford to participate in a two week Basic Freefall Course at Bad Lippspringe, Sennelager, Germany. Pre-course expectations were high, we all thought that we would be budding freefall experts by the end of week two. How little did we know?

The first couple of days involved ground training, how to enter and exit the aircraft safely, how to steer and land, and relentless calls of look, locate, peel, punch, pull, arch . Our nerves were to get worse as on the first lift Rifleman Barton missed the drop zone and landed on a factory roof, sustaining minor injuries to himself and minimal damage to the roof. Eventually it was our turn, on one lift myself, **Cpl** 'Blind as a bat' **Robertson** and **Sig** 'Peppy le Peau' **Wildman** all sat anxiously. 'Peppy' was first out of the door with his face full of fear, but out he went, as did the rest of us with just gravity and landings to master. After a few jumps we still all thought we would graduate from static line to free-fall, but the weather turned for the worse at the weekend. While **Sig** 'Grey man' **Heritage, Cpl Robertson** and **Cpl** 'Admin' **O'Donnell** sampled the seedy tourist attractions of Hannover, the rest of the course made do with Paderborne.

Following the weekend the weather was still bad, so we spent the day playing sports. The footballers were staying clear of **Lt** 'Chopper' **Fayers** whose enthusiasm and lack of skill had left several of the opposite side with some serious bruises. After a number of days lost we eventually resumed normal parachuting. By the end of the course we had all managed to get in nine jumps (of the parachute variety), with **Sig** 'Grey man' **Heritage** the only one to progress on to freefall. We also managed to master parachute packing, with those lovely bungees (or elastic bands to the rest of the world) which was a major problem at the beginning of week one. All in all it was a very rewarding two weeks, which was only made possible by the enthusiasm and patience of the parachute instructors and assistants, our thanks to them all.

ARMY EXPEDITION FOR SCHOOLS AND KAPE TOUR
by Cpl P. Robertson, Oscar Troop

On Thursday 7 June 2001, 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L) deployed their elite recruiting team to Scotland on a ten-day AES (Army Expedition For Schools). The team included **Cpl** 'Colgate' **Robertson, LCpl** 'Diesel' **Perry, Sig** 'Funky Chicken' **Lawson** and not to forget **Sig** 'Talk A Lot' **Crumbley**. The drive to Scotland was in two phases, first was a stop over in Catterick and then drive up to Aberdeen on the Friday morning. The convoy to Catterick was interesting with **Sig** 'Talk A Lot' **Crumbley's** dodgey driving, nearly taking out car after car (licence check please). Not to mention the potential PTI gag he pulled on the OC. Friday morning we had to drive up to Aberdeen along with the MRT (Main Recruiting Team) from Blandford.

The elite Recruiting Team
(L-R): Sig Talk a lot Crumbley, LCpl Diesel Perry,
Cpl Colgate Robertson and Sig Funky Chicken Lawson
(Hard work or what lads)

The accomodation was first class in Aberdeen, we were sharing student lines, on suite single rooms (superb). We took it easy on Friday night (honestly) as Saturday was our first set up for the hungry civies. Saturday was very successful for the Squadron, managing to get a lot of interest from potential recruits.

The next stop was to be the capital city of Edinburgh, were we had a three day expedition for the schools, we didn't do too bad as far as recruiting went in Edinburgh either, but it wasn't easy having young 16 year olds all over us. The night life in Edinburgh was to prove an eye opener to the lads from south of the border, as they couldn't believe just how good a Wednesday night could be, just watching **Sig** 'Funky Chicken' **Lawson** dance was entertaining enough for me. With **Sig** 'Talk A Lot' **Crumbley** gasing non-stop, I couldn't wait to cut my ties with him, only one problem, were in the same Troop (nightmare). Once the Edinburgh recruiting phase was complete, it was off to the East End of Glasgow. On the Saturday we had an Open Day at Glasgow Green. The public didn't seem as keen as they had been in Edinburgh, therefore I decided to take the lads to see the mighty Celtic Park, mostly because **LCpl** 'Diesel' **Perry** said that Derby County's ground was bigger. I soon had him gasping in disbelief at the sheer size of the stadium. All in all the recruiting went very well from a Squadron point of view, with a work hard play hard mentality all the team had a quality time, surely we had done enough to retain the recruiting pennant for the second year in a row?

251 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj** 'Wally' **Drain**
SSM **WO2 Gary Smith**

HAIL AND FAREWELL

A warm welcome goes out to the new OC Sqn, **Maj** 'Wally' **Drain** and his family who join us from 7 Sig Regt and farewell to **Maj (TOT) John Oakes** who leaves us to join HQ Land Command Wilton. Also a farewell to **Capt (Retd) Katie Munnoch** who leaves the Squadron after nine years service. Best wishes also to **Sgt Stu Sanderson** who has left us for 242 Sig Sqn and **LCpl Ruth Harkness** who leaves us for sunny civvy street.

EXERCISE CHATURANGA, 23 -30 JUNE 2001

Once again this year 251 Sig Sqn took part in the International Assault Course Challenge at Tournai, Belgium. This year we entered a mixed and an individual male team. Visiting Belgium were, **WO2 (YofS) Billy** 'You're not getting me up there' **Cardwell, WO2 (SSM) Gary** 'Popeye' **Smith, SSgt Rick** 'Sexy Body' **Owen, Sgt Pam** 'I'm not drunk' **Mitchell, Sgt Loz** 'Balance Monkey' **Moore, Sgt Stu** 'Far too excitable'

Exercise Chaturanga

Sanderson, Cpl Russ 'I'm not knackered' **Craig, LCpl Mark** 'Where am I?' **Igo, LCpl Steve** 'Omelette again' **Davies** and, **LCpl Brendan** 'Loser' **McIlduff.**

The exercise got off to an eventful start on the first night when **LCpl Mark** 'TheWanderer' **Igo** spent all night trying to get back to the barracks after inadvertently getting a taxi to another town 15 miles away. The teams then got straight into an arduous training schedule that consisted of seven hours a day on the assault course. That punishing regime was mirrored in the evening's activities in the town centre. After completing a confidence course on the Wednesday morning we visited Ypres Battlefield sites and the Commonwealth War Graves as part of an excursion organised by **WO2 (YofS) Billy Cardwell** and **SSgt Rick Owen** who also acted as our guide for the day. Our male and mixed teams were both entered in the competition on the Thursday. Our mixed team went off first at 0930hrs. They completed the course in 22 minutes and came a very respectable second in their competition. Our male team kicked off at 1130hrs and finished with a highly commendable time of 27 minutes, this put them in the top half of an extremely competitive international line up of Police SWAT and Special Forces entrants.

A special mention must be made of **LCpl Bret** 'I AM A PTI' **McIlduff,** for unnerving accuracy with his shooting ability and winning the best sniper trophy. We left Tournai, and a few broken hearts on the Saturday, stopping off on the way for one bottle of wine and twenty cigarettes each, them home to sunny Aldershot.

OC's DINING OUT AND THE 2IC's LEAVING LUNCHEON

The Squadron dined out **Maj (TOT) John Oakes** at the WO's and Sgt's Mess on 13 July. This was an all ranks and civilian personnel occasion. The evening was a highly enjoyable one in which the Squadron showed its appreciation and wished **Maj Oakes** all the best at Wilton. The Squadron and friends had a very entertaining afternoon on the occasion of the leaving of the 2IC, **Capt (Retd) Katie** 'Loadsamoney' **Munnoch**. The meal took place at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot on 21 June.

HEADQUARTERS 4 DIVISION - FUN DAY

The Division held its annual 'Fun Day' on Thursday 19 July. The day's events included an 'Assault Course' suitable for non-military personnel, various fun activities and finished off with a tug-of-war competition. A pleasant and enjoyable day was had by all.

259 SIGNAL SQUADRON

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS - *by The Chief*

Sqn Comd **Maj J. H. Fraser**
SSM **WO2 D. Tredwell**

First a welcome to the new **YofS Chris** 'Who loves you baby' **Green**, (who said Kojak was dead), and his wife **Sarah** and daughter **Bethany**, fresh from sunny Blandford. The old Yeoman, **Clint Barker** has just completed his HOTO and now ONLY has two months to sort his personal admin out before heading off with wife **Jan** and daughters **Emily** and **Kaliah** to 2 Sig Bde, all the best for the future. The new 2IC, **Capt Angela Aylward** has felt the pressure of work from the OC and is presently on a sabbatical in Australia with the Corps' team; the **SSM Dick** 'The Ref' **Tredwell** is also feeling the stress and is presently in Jordan, refereeing at King Abdullah II's rugby tournament. It's a hard life! The Squadron's athletic team has just returned form our first trip to the Morrison Cup in Blandford. Led by the coach **Sgt Kev Joyce**, the team can feel justly proud of their efforts and enthusiasm. The Squadron now looks forward to a busy forecast of events, leading up to battlecamp in November.

AIRFIELD TROOP - *by Sig Adam Holley*

Tp SSgt **SSgt D. Cain**

Airfield Tp would first like to say a big welcome back to **LCpl** 'Mogsey' **Morris** from his six-month Class 1 course in Blandford. A well deserved slap on the back for **Sgt Kev Waring** on passing the FofS entrance and completing his RSSC all in one go. We would also like to congratulate **Cpl** 'Roll a twincab' **Atherton** on his new found twincab display skills. Also **Sig Pete Goddard** on his recently acquired rock-climbing qualifications. Now he may be able to scale his own head with a climbing party. The mighty fighting Airfield Mechs would like to let the world know how our Tech Dept are getting on. The fault response time is now down to just two weeks, not bad lads. So a big round of applause for the following, **Sgt Kev** 'Big Boy' **Waring, Cpl Steve** 'Little Boy' **Bilby, Cpl Paul** 'Rock'n'roll' **Creeley** and finally **LCpl Tim** 'You've not seen me' **Berry**. Finally a big shout out to our lads who represented the Squadron in the Morrison Cup in Blandford, well done lads, nice one.

DHEKELIA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt C. Alexander**
Tp SSgt **SSgt T. Bryant**

The last month or so has seen Dhekelia Tp excelling in various activities. At the beginning of the month, the inter-squadron basketball/volleyball competition was held at Episkopi. The Olympic standard team consisted of **LCpl Piers** 'Grandad' **Daw, Sig Jim** 'Julian Clarey' **Wirght, LCpl David** 'Polly P Pant' **King, Cpl Graham** 'The Wedge' **Dorward, Sgt Tony** 'Cessac' **Cecil** and **LCpl Martin** 'Loser' **Bagshaw**. We proceeded to thrash our opponents into submission with little effort and claimed the trophy. Next was the basketball where the team consisted of the above players with rolling subs of **Sig Ben** 'Speedy Gonzales' **Mitchell, Sig John** ' My dads airborne, I think?' **Dent** and **Sig Kieran** 'Youth Worker' **Johnson**. Despite **LCpl Dave** 'Cat weasle' **King** sustaining a lethal thumb injury and being stretchered off the court, the team slam-dunked their way to victory. On the social side of things, the beginning of the month saw **Sig Gareth** 'Shotgun blues' **Davis** getting married to **Xenia**, breaking down the barriers in Soviet/Welsh diplomacy. Congratulations to the pair of them. Good luck to **Cpl Kurt** 'David Essex' **Molden**, who is currently loving life in sunny Blandford, on his Det Commanders course. Other news includes **Cpl Gaz Watson** who has recently taken up a new hobby...namely 'naked shopping'! Also, a big hello to new boy, **Sig Derek** 'War Stories' **Burness**, posted in from 30 Sig Regt and to 81 'Dads Army' Sig Sqn who arrived recently for their yearly holiday in uniform!

EPISKOPI TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt K. L. Milner**
Tp SSgt **SSgt G. Mathieson**

First of all we would all like to say a big Cyprus hello to **Sgt Steve Lewis** who first experienced Epi Tp on a call out at daft 'o clock in the morning. Also to **Cpl Kenny Purdie** who has already experienced the brilliant nightlife in Limasol by going with the lads on one of their mid-week drinking sessions.... Did you leave your alarm clock back in N. Ireland though **Kenny**?! For some reason while **Sig Steve Baxter** was at his mates wedding in Dhekelia he decided to try and apply for stunt masters when a articulated wagon drove over the front end of his car and totally deformed his shoulder. He is out of hospital now so get well soon **Steve** and get some work done!

Sgt Joyce and Family

A 259 Sig Sqn family has experienced their second brush with danger in just over a month when they came close to losing their home in the Episkopi fire last Thursday. It was only last month whilst enjoying a family day out at Mount Olympus that they were attacked and their pet dog Sammi savaged by wild dogs. During the Episkopi fire, **Kevin** and **Andrea Joyce** and their two children **Steven** (9) and **Sarah** (8) could only flee to leave their possessions in the hands of station fire-fighters battling to stop the raging fire from engulfing homes on the new Lionheart estate. Flames licked within metres of their married quarter at 41 Sherwood Lane as they were evacuated to safety.

After finishing work as usual at lunchtime, **Kevin** had driven home to join the family preparing for daughter, **Sarah's** eighth birthday celebrations the following day. **Kevin** says 'Whilst indoors we heard what sounded like gunfire outside, **Sarah** went into the garden to investigate and moments later raced back in terror screaming fire, fire! Going into our garden I could see enormous flames advancing in a crimson wall across the Bondu toward us, trees and shrubs crackling and exploding in the intense heat, the children were terrified. Firefighters were already at work behind 1 KORBR accommodation building and some of them had to avoid the fire circling them as the wind changed direction and drove the flames across areas where men had stood seconds before. Realising we had little time, **Andrea** and I quickly closed all the shutters and doors and were preparing to leave when the police arrived and told everyone to evacuate to the area of the NAAFI, we gathered up the children and Sammi and ran to safety.

As he left the house, **Kevin**, who has recently served in Northern Ireland maintained the presence of mind to quickly collect a bag containing all the family's important documents. **Kevin** explains that it is common for service families in the Province to keep a 'grab bag' handy, containing the essentials in case of a bomb scare. It is just something he decided to continue here in Cyprus having heard reports of how quickly the Paramali estate was engulfed in 1998. It was six o'clock in the evening before the family was able to return to their home and **Kevin** was called in to his unit for fire fighting duties. After all the excitement, **Sarah's** eighth birthday celebrations passed without a hitch. She got an inflatable dingy from mum, dad and **Steven** and spent Sunday a welcome day at Watermania in Limassol.

MORRISON CUP 2001 - *by Sgt Kev Joyce*
WHEN SUNSHINE CAME TO BLANDFORD

With cries of, 'You ain't a man if you ain't got a tan,' and, 'What's all this grey cloud stuff?' the Squadron Athletics Team made its Morrison Cup debut. The team consisted of:

WO2 (SSM) Dickie Tredwell	-	3000m Steeplechase
SSgt Danny Cain	-	440m hurdles/ 400m relay
Sgt George Henry	-	Discus
Cpl Steve Bilby	-	400m/400m relay
LCpl Rich Berry	-	Long/Triple jump
LCpl Steve Hudson	-	100/200m
LCpl Phil Parish	-	400m relay
Sig Kenny Campbell	-	800m/400m relay
Sig Mark Findlay	-	Shot/javelin
Sig Keith Forman	-	110m hurdles/5000m
Sig Adam Huber	-	High jump/pole vault
Sig Gav Prigmore	-	Hammer/1500m
Sgt Kev Joyce	-	Team Captain/coach/driver

Team selection was based on the 'pulse and pound' principle; if you've got a pulse you're in, and the heads and tails on a pound coin determined who did the pole vault and 5000m. Special mentions to **Gav Prigmore's** efforts in the 1500m, which he led for the majority of the race before falling foul to a last minute spurt from another and came in a highly creditable second place. Also to **Adam Huber** for his have-a-go attitude towards being coined for the pole vault, a completely new event to him. Overall, of the four minor units competing, we finished a resounding last place. However, we returned to Cyprus with a number of things in tact, our tans, the knowledge that we have the basis of a good team for the future, and the moral victory over the minor units closer to Blandford, who hadn't the courage to enter. We now look forward to the All Island competition in Cyprus, in September, with a view to returning next year, better prepared and ready to win. No longer will we hear the cries of 'losers from the WSBA' – WE WILL BE BACK!

259 SIGNAL SQUADRON
WINS A RAFT OF TROPHIES AT CESSAC BEACH

Dhekelia Tp of 259 Sig Sqn took major honours at this year's Annual 62 Cyprus Support Squadron Royal Engineers All Island Raft Race by rowing off with three of the six coveted trophies including best overall raft, at CESSAC Beach, Dhekelia on Saturday 23 June. With five rafts, 259 Sig Sqn fielded the largest single unit entry in the competition with vessel designs ranging through Titanic (which was appropriate), human anatomy, a catamaran and Jimmy's floating bed to a pink Barbie car. Based on the design of last year's entry, the Dhekelia Tp winning 'best male' 'A Team' raft was crewed by **Cpl Graham Dorward, Cpl Hugh Taylor, LCpl Martin Bagshaw** and **LCpl Piers Daw**, who were dressed as Hannibal, BA, Face and Murdoch. According to the crew, the raft, which was made from cardboard tri wall MFO boxes, was a very last minute affair, but they did have the benefit of **Cpl Taylor's** dad **Guy** being a boat builder by trade. During the race, the raft did suffer some structural damage and was taking on water by the end but water proofing gaffer tape and gloss paint helped keep it together. The Dhekelia Tp lads say they are amazed and proud to have taken the Holy Grail of rafting accolades, 'The Shipwreck Trophy'

Dhekelia Troop wives; Amanda Bryant, Nicola Foster, Emma Readhead and Carol Purvis dressed as very fetching Barbie dolls picked up the best raft design trophy. They decided to enter the raft race and throw down a challenge to their old archrivals; the Episkopi wives. Dhekelia wives' pink Barbie car design was finally decided upon after two meetings and several bottles of wine and was subsequently put together from bits and pieces found in and around the married quarters. The Barbie raft came in fourth beating the Episkopi wives 'Jimmy's Babes' into fifth place. The challenge is still on for next year so look out Cyprus, 259 Signal Squadron have got their sails set on a course to sink the rest and take every trophy in 2002!

101 LOGISTIC BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS & SIGNAL SQUADRON (261)

Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Baines**
OC (des) **Maj Matt Fensom**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) C. J. Udell**

A LONG HOT SUMMER!

The Squadron is now fully up and running and has been exceedingly busy throughout this summer, providing support to both 101 and 102 Logistic Brigades. **2Lt** 'Caz' **Wootten** led an advance party to start setting up theatre communications in Oman for Ex Saif Sareea II in May.

The winning raft builders
Cfn Dixon, LCpl Wright, Sig Chowdhry, LCpl Marshall, Sig Shields and LCpl McGuckin

The OC, Maj Mark Baines in a break between sandstorms

Meanwhile **LCpl** 'Ironfists' **McGuckin** and **Sig Jordan** 'When do we get to use the GPMG?' **Gray** escorted the vehicles on the Sea Centurion via various bars in Sicily. **Foreman Sue Spencer** moved so fast her boots famously melted on the dockside at Salalah – this was a sign of things to come! The JFLogC Forward HQ then moved up the Jebel to Thumrait where **SSgt Al Dummer** supervised many a nocturnal tent building party. The sandstorms then came in to blow away many of the 18x24 tents, not great for morale. Exasperated, **Capt Sarah Pedder** then escaped from theatre to get married, returning later as **Capt Morshead** – much to the confusion of the Staff of 102 Log Bde, who were still melting in Thumrait. Meanwhile, the guys still waiting to deploy kept each other amused doing leadership training. **LCpl** 'Bendy' **Skeggs** proved it was easy to fall off logs and **LCpl Cole** proved he could swim like a fish after doing well in the raft building competion.

Cpl 'Simmo' **Simpson**, **Sig** 'junior' **Simpson**, **Sig** 'I'm the boss' **Fielding**, and **Sig** 'Don't you throw those spears at me' **Bromhead** all did an excellent job of helping the local Cub pack and ensuring the OC remained totally surprised by his dining out in the WOs and Sgts Mess.

In July the 'A' Team deployed into the middle of the Omani desert for a spot of cross country driving. On offer were the normal Landrover, DAF and DROPS vehicles. **Cpl Jo** 'I would rather be behind my desk' **Hammick** particularly disliked the hill starts – typical clerk.

Cpl 'Stinking Tech' **Rhodes** saw his dull life flash before his eyes when he almost toppled a DAF. He did this under the 'careful' supervision of **Cpl** 'Taff' **Lean**. **LCpl Tom** 'The Whinging Welshman' **Hanks** won the concurrent activity – a left-handed throwing competition. He obviously played it for a geek, a good day out of tentsville.

Sig Watson modelling Shemagh and issue goggles

As this goes to press **WO2 (YofS) Pat Smith** and **WO2 (RQMS)** 'No more heat casualties' **Alger** continued with the thankless task of building the huge JFLogC MAIN HQ at Camp South. 'South Park' will by now have seen most of 4 Armd Bde and 1 (UK) Div pass through it – what a lovely place. **Cpl Ronnie Cuthbert** and **Sig Chowdry** were late contenders in the sandbag filling championships, but came nowhere near beating **Cpl** 'who turned the lights out' **Lean**!

LCpl 'Rommel' **Beerling** won the shaped hat competition and **Sig** 'Santa's Helper' **Shepley** was voted man most in need of wearing a Shemagh.

ALPHA TROOP

June was a busy month for Alpha Troop with the remaining equipment being out-loaded to OMAN on the new RAF C17, plus more members of the Troop were dispatched to help the troop OC **2Lt** 'Caz' **Wootten**. That completed we thought we would get on with some military training and chill out, however, this was not to be the case. The Brigade Commander was so impressed with the Squadron effort on JOTES last year he decided to pass the task once again to the OC, **Maj Mark Baines**, who in turn passed it to Alpha Tp, which was now down to 15 of a possible 43, with no equipment. Easy task, get some: tents, portable toilets, a DC generator, C+E drivers, three mini-busses with drivers, four site escorts, four guards and don't forget to disinfect everything.

Ring, Ring, Alpha Troop Sir! 'Chico' it's 'Pat' **(WO2 (YofS) Pat Smith)** JOTES! Yeah! I need seven operators and some radios. What like the radios that we don't have? Yeah! Okay, no problem, leave it to me. A task for **Cpl Andy Carr** me thinks. Here comes the Top Hat and Magic Wand trick.

Ring, Ring, Alpha Troop Sir! Do you run the Squadron Football Team? Yes sir. Good the Brigade Commander wants to put a Brigade 6-a-side Competition together and the Squadron is to enter two male and one female team, can you sort it out? No problem, what day? Monday 25th! The day before we deploy for JOTES? Yeah! Great!

Ring, Ring, Alpha Troop Sir! Fancy getting involved in painting a Special Needs School in Portsmouth, bit of KAPE? Sure Chief, when? Next week before JOTES! (Can't say no to that can we), Okay. It doesn't rain but it pours springs to mind! Off to Futcher School we go to tackle the KAPE task first. Simple job, 'anything outside that don't move, paint it'. The work was carried out with enthusiasm and vigour, only interrupted by 5-a-side football with the children at their break times. **Sig Liam Frater** impressed that he could weave his way through the wheelchairs to score, sad. After two days we had painted the play area, bins and 600 meters of metalled safety railings in school colours. Task complete, we were invited to attend the school assembly where army baseball caps and pencil cases were handed over to the head teacher. Secondly, the football competition, to be held in Colchester. Kick off at 1000hrs best leave here at about 6am then. Team arrives at the coach less **Sgt Shaun Fardy**. Oh! no here he comes with his 'jim-jams' still on rubbing his eye's chuntering something about breakfast. The Teams faired okay considering we were up against regiments. The Squadron first team came runners up in the plate, with the second team happy to come fifth, and no not out of five. The female team also faired well gaining a lot of support, especially when they had to change their shirts on the pitch to stop a clash of colours. Our thanks go out to **Pte Cathy Ferguson** on a fine display of control.

Then on to JOTES, kit assembled from around the Brigade, transport ready to go, Alpha Troop in the starting blocks with **Cpl** 'Tommo' **Thomas** at the helm. Mission, set everything up, conduct the training, tear it down, move location, set it up again, conduct the exam, tear it down and go home, and don't cock it up as the Brigade Commander, COS, OC Sqn and Bde RSM will be there, no pressure then, what's a career anyway.

Finally, hatching, matching and dispatching. Congratulations go to **Sgt** 'Chico' **Towers** and wife **Maria** on the birth of their third son. Good bye to **LCpl Ross Sutherland** who has seen the light, all the best mate. Welcome's to **Sigs Colin Corry, Mick Keating** and 'Simmo' **Simpson**, all from the factory, enjoy your time here.

A LONG HOT AUTUMN?

Sgt 'Chico' **Towers** has been left holding the baby and the fort with a small rear party. **Sgt** 'time for a run' **Thwaite** has taken over the Training role, so there's lots of good stuff to look forward to when the unit eventually returns to Aldershot. Several other new faces are eagerly awaited over the Autumn and most can look forward to a spell in the sun.

The Squadron will see most of the Corps passing through Oman this year – we'll be the guys with the suntans who have gone totally native! Meanwhile **WO1 (RSM) Udell** has got the boxing training in hand and the cross-country and football teams have plenty of sand hills to train on. This year is a high readiness year, so is next year, and the year after……..so come and join the fun

280(UNITED KINGDOM) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Jim Harris**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Craig Kearney**

Life in sunny St Tönis has continued at a blistering pace as the move to RAF Brüggen draws closer and the commitments to NATO firm up. Despite this the Squadron has found time to enjoy a very successful athletics and football season, conduct adventure training and foster our strong Anglo-German ties.

CSS

IC Sect **SSgt (FofS) Paul** 'Skippy' **Stevens**

Life has been as hectic as ever in Comms Support since the last time of writing we have all been having so much fun! Time has been spent getting used to the fast moving pace of NATO and getting new feet under old tables. A lot of experience has sadly moved on to pastures new, yet with the introduction of **Cpl Sarah** 'Swimmer' **Finney** and **Cpl John** 'Doc' **Savage** the section hopes to carry on the good work. Busy times are ahead for the section with various exercises to support and courses to attend. Although we are extremely busy, for a small section there is always time for sport; with athletics, swimming, golf and basketball to mention a few. All members are now looking forward to the proposed move to Brüggen, none more so than the golfer in the Section.

JULIET TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Jim Barber**

As always, the introduction should begin with the voluntary contributions of the new members to the Troop. A warm welcome to **LCpl Trevor Carter, LCpl Louise Hallsworth** and **Sig Vikki Seymour**. Also it is good to see that **LCpl McAlpine** has enjoyed the taxing endeavours that Kosovo threw at him. It has once again been a relatively busy time within the Troop and the Squadron, mainly on the national side though. In early July the Squadron conducted an excellent ITD camp at Bockenberge Camp utilising some of the instructors from within the troop. **Cpl Nikki** 'Should be RD' **Roberts** and **LCpl Esther** 'More DKP 1, RSM' **Humby** ran (literally) the much dreaded NBC stand very well. The Troop OC eventually managed to visit the 5-man O&M team in Banja Luka to find the usual suspects enjoying their time there. We would all like to pass on our best wishes on to **LCpl Martyn** 'Errol' **Flynn** who is up and walking again and also to his wife, Michelle, as they are expecting their first child at the start of August.

KILO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Sarah Covey-Crump**

Kilo Tp is going strong with more new additions than departures, which is always a bonus. Firstly our two new technicians **LCpl** 'Fingers' **Egerton** and **LCpl Hutchinson** who has taken up position as the resident Golf Pro. Also welcome to **Sgt** 'Andy' **Butterfield** and his wife **Cherrie** and **Cpl** 'Blondie' **Shepherd** who recently arrived from nearby 16 Sig Regt. Sad goodbyes to two of our Corporals **Cpl** 'no leave passes' **Cunningham** and his wife Liz and **Cpl** ' Sniffer' **Grant** both departing for the UK. Congratulations go to **LCpl** 'Richie' **Ingram** who recently married **Carolyn**, best of luck to both of you and to **Sgt** 'Paraglider extraordinaire' **Cattle** on your promotion. Finally good luck to **Sgt** 'look at me' **Walsh, Cpl** 'dangerous driver' **Harrison, LCpl** 'Wire brush' **Booth, Sig** 'not all there' **Rolf** and **Sig** 'I never get drunk' **Pollock** who are off to Bosnia, hope you have a good tour, don't worry if you get bored you've got our visit to look forward to.

SUPPORT TROOP

QM **Capt Mark Schofield**

Comd 1st Sig Bde and Rhone Garrison — Brig David McDonald presents WO2 (RQMS) Innes with his Warrant

A warm welcome to **Capt** 'Mark' **Schofield** replacing **Capt** 'Steve' **Toms,** things will never be the same again. **WO2** 'Dutch' **Holland** has arrived all the way from 7 Sig Regt to replace **WO2** 'Kev' **Innes** who is off to warmer climates in Kuwait. Prior to his departure **WO2 Innes** was presented with his Warrant from Comd 1st Sig Bde (SOinC(A) Des), **Brig David McDowall**. Congratulations (to both of you!). **SSgt Mark Sala** has arrived from 21 Sig Regt who has taken over the vacant job of Sp Tp Staff Sergeant. The brothers in arms **LCpls Paul Denham** and 'Mase' **Mason** have arrived from 12 Mech Bde and **John McMahon** and **Sig** 'Dav' **Evans** from 7 Sig Regt. We say goodbye to **Cpl Mark Sibbald, Cpl Craig Straughan** and **Sig** 'Whippet' **Roberts.** Finally congratulations go to **LCpl Gavin Beatty** on his marriage to **Brigida**.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS

Presentation to the HPZ Special Needs School, Forstwald

The Squadron has always enjoyed close links with the local community and played a full part in fostering good Anglo-German relations. This period has been no exception and has seen members of the Squadron present money raised during the Berner-Distantz March to the HPZ special needs school and take part in the annual Schutzenfest. Fortunately for **Capt Sarah** '12 bore' **Covey-Crump** she didn't shoot down the commemorative bird and win the dubious honour of becoming the 'Schutzenkonig' (Shooting King) and the associated costs - £2000 for two years! The Schutzenball turned out to be an unforgettable experience, especially for **Capt Fraser** 'Waltzing Matilda' **Reid** who demonstrated his prowess on the dance floor.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

After an eight-hour drive in a minibus we arrived at our lodge in Bavaria all geared up to get cracking with a week's Adventure Training. After our arrivals brief that covered every rule known to man we gathered in the bar. We were all dull and depressed until we started playing nails, having a few drinks and staggering the short distance to our bunk beds.

Day 1: Bright and early in the morning we were up in the store to be met by **Camp Dave** our climbing instructor, after collecting our equipment it was a short drive to the rock we were climbing. **Camp Dave** set a very difficult climb that we all completed apart from **LCpl** 'Cliffhanger' **Hurdman** who showed us his moves as he proceeded to do some disco dancing on an underhang. That wasn't as funny as seeing the faces of **LCpl** 'Dj' **Seymour** and **Sig** 'Gaz' **James** before they did an abseil, but we all came home with a smile on our face.

Day 2: Not too happy this morning 'cos we had a day Hill walking which everyone loves, NOT! The highlight of the day was walking down a track and hearing bells ringing in the distance. Slowly the ringing was getting louder and faster when all of a sudden about 30 enormous cows came stampeding at us down a field, we were chased for about 500metres until the end of their field, very amusing.

Day 3: The boys were off River Kayaking with **SI** 'Mandy' **Mason** who thought she had a group of competent Kayakers! We set off down the river and it was obvious **LCpl Seymour** and **Hurdman** had exaggerated about their previous experience. After being briefed up on our capsize drills **Dj** got it a bit wrong when shouting capsize himself whilst tipping over and running out of breath underwater, we had never seen anyone get out of a Kayak as quick in our lives.

Final Day: We went white water rafting in Austria and on the down the river we had wars between boats which spiced it up a bit. Apart from **Sig** 'Sandancer' **Rolf** nearly drowning the SI, but apart from that it was very good fun, a special congratulations to **LCpl Seymour** for getting the prize scalp of **Cpl** 'Ears' **Roberts** out of her raft and making everyone's day. Then it was the return journey to camp after one last night on the town, all in all a good week.

PARAGLIDING - *by LCpl Denham and Sig Sinclair*

On 2 July a group of crazy maniacs embarked on a ten-day course to the Bavarian Alps where they would undergo their most terrifying experience ever known to mankind Paragliding! The head honcho, **Sgt Daz** 'The Awesome Sky God' **Cattle** lead this group of warriors down to the Alps to experience something that he has been doing for the last 18 months. The first three days many of the students spent more time chewing grass then achieving anything else, this was because of the almighty strength of the Glider pulling them through many acres of fields face down, with only there two front teeth to stop them. The student who perfected the two teeth stop to a tee was **Cpl Yan** 'knows everything about nothing' **Nicholas** who later redeemed himself to be worthy of the name 'Sky God'. Days 4, 5 and 6 were the most tiring of days, because of constantly walking up and falling down the steepest hill God created. After many attempts we started getting higher, (higher than the fence in the next field) and before long, personal skills started to take over**. Cpl Ben** 'Runs like my gran' **Permain** was probably the overall best student at the launch (NOT) and **Sig Adam** 'Ostrich Legs' **Sprogis** did very well too after his Para glider collapsed on one side at a very high altitude (About 20 feet). Days 7 and 8 we were rained in, and consequently grounded for one evening. All of us felt like our wings had been clipped, with not much to do except theory, except for one evening when **Sig Donna** 'Trash the bathroom' **Beardsley** found alternative entertainment. Days 9 and 10 were make or break days for the pilots, as the top 5% went to the mountain and the remainder went to God's hill for more re-medial flying. Out of the first group there was only **LCpl Neil** 'The Fan Man' **Haggar** who although ready to go was unable to launch due to bad weather. Every one who attended the course had a fantastic time and managed to pass as elementary pilots, but the question on everyone's mind was would **LCpl T** 'Terrified' **Turner** launch himself off the mountain?

ATHLETICS SEASON 2001

280 (UK) Sig Sqn's recent success in the Minor units Athletics enabled both the male and female teams to compete in the Army Athletics Championships held in Aldershot on 25 July 2001. The season really all started with the Inter Troop Athletics Competition that took place at Krefeld on 25 April 2001. We were able to select a squad to represent the Squadron in the BFG Morrison Cup that was run by 1 UK ADSR in Herford on 29 May 2001. This was our first taste of success with the male team finishing runners up in the competition out of a field of 15 Squadrons from various Signals units across Germany. The female team proved their worth with some excellent results and a bag full of medals in the ladies individual competition. The achievements were well deserved

especially because they had to compete against regimental opposition.

It was here we had our first experience of the new Sqn YofS, **SSgt Tim** 'Hurdling' **Tomkinson.** He arrived in the unit on the Monday and was representing the Squadron at the event on the Wednesday and all because he mentioned that he had hurdled a few times before. Being the modest sort of chap that he is, he failed to let on that he had hurdled at combined services level. Subsequently **Tim** was our lethal weapon in both the 110m and 400m hurdles and high jump, guaranteeing a win every time. Our distance runners consisted of **Cpl Matty** 'lapped again' **Baber** in the 5000m and **WO1 (RSM) Craig** 'This Is The Last Time' **Kearney** in the 3000m steeplechase, proving we could hold our own at this level. **Capt Lindsey** 'Can Only Do Long Distance' **Calderhead**, proved to be our secret weapon in the ladies 3000m, winning in convincing style. The 4 x 400m relay dream team came to fruition consisting of **SSgt Tim** 'Hurdling' **Tomkinson, LCpl Dai** 'PT Corps to be' **Jones**, **LCpl Chax** 'The Tamworth Smooth Boy' **Chacksfield,** and **Sig Glen** 'I'm better than you' **James.** Due to course commitments **Cpl Daz** 'Legionnaire' **Rickard** stepped into the role of **LCpl Jones** and ensured the dream team maintained their status as a force to be reckoned with. The ladies 4x100m relay team also proved to be no slouches as the team consisting of **Sgt Mandy** 'Bite your bum' **Mason**, **LCpl Marie** 'Smile please bobby' **Moore**, **Sig Sarah** 'Brickhouse' **Kimberley** and **Sig Angie** 'Social Hand Grenade' **Fewster**.

The Squadron Athletics Team
Looking fresh before their night out in Bournemouth

Our next port of call was to take part in the UK Morrison cup. Crammed into two minibuses we made the formidable journey from Krefeld over to Blandford. Everyone was full of optimism and raring to go after our recent triumph in Germany, or was it due to the promise of a night out in Bournemouth that was raising the enthusiasm. Whatever the incentive the results spoke for themselves as the male team again finished runners up and the female team finished in fourth place after seeing off various major unit teams. It was here that **LCpl Moore** was all smiles, as she jumped at the opportunity to run the 5000m for the girls and relinquish her 1500m and 800m roles. **Sig Kimberley** found her new vocation in athletics as she stormed around the track in both the 400m and the 400m hurdles. **Sgt Mandy Mason** donned her Nike lycras to attempt an unwelcome sprint in the 800m and **Capt Calderhead** finally managed to sneak away from lessons to pick up valuable points in the 1500m. **Sig Fewster** managed to drag herself away from her cigarettes and put in good performances in the 200m and the high jump. **Sig Sharon** 'I can't do the 1500m' **Young** made her own way from leave to meet up with the team and provide us with some speed in the 100m. **Sig Gareth** 'Can't Get A Word In Edge Ways' **James** provided consistency in the 200m whilst his namesake (no relation) **Sig Glen** 'Limp Wrist' **James** showed he could cut the mustard in the 400m. **Sig Bri** 'Woolly Back' **Parrington** held his own in the 800m and Sig **Dave** 'Pencil Neck' **Kruczek**' kept up the good work in the 100m. **LCpl Neil** 'Orange Peel' **Gritt** leapt at the chance to represent us in the long jump.

On returning to Germany we were again gearing ourselves up for the forthcoming BA (G) Major and Minor Inter Unit Team Athletics Championships in Sennelager. Exercise and operational commitments forced many units to pull out at the last minute. The lack of competition did not diminish the enthusiasm or the team spirit in any way and it was quite apparent as we took both the male and the female winners trophies back to Krefeld with us. More importantly this was our qualifying ticket to the Army Championships in Aldershot. It was a close run competition with the outcome resting on the 4x400m relay. The 'Dream team' again provided the goods with a convincing win on the day. Both team's performances in the field was fairly consistent with **Sgt Barney** 'Velcro back' **Barnett** hurling his hammer, **Cpl Andy** 'Jacko' **Jackson** throwing his shot and **LCpl Rees Hughes** letting off steam by throwing the javelin and the discus. **Cpl Ritchie** 'Silver fox' **Brown** used his speed power and easily won the triple jump and came within tenths of a second to finish second in the 100m. **LCpl** 'Chax' **Chacksfield** regained his bottle and composure to give us points on the board in the pole vault; a discipline where for some reason everyone appeared to shy away!

The ladies field performers included **LCpl Ester** 'Quiet As A Mouse' **Humby** throwing the discus and the javelin and **Sig Jo** 'I can fit my fist in my mouth' **Gill** throwing the shot. **Sig Julie** 'Where's My Car?' **Kavanagh** leapt for joy in the long jump and **Sgt Mandy Mason** showed off her APTC talents by triumphing in the triple jump. **Sig Vicky** 'aka Colin Jackson' **Seymour** showed her hidden talents in the ladies 100m hurdles, a bit of coaching from the Yeoman will have her well sorted for next season. With both teams qualifying we were whisked back to UK to take part in the Army Championships in Aldershot. A no expenses spared air- conditioned coach made the journey a little more bearable, although the video packing in as we pulled out of camp didn't help – time to sleep!

The competition in Aldershot was of an extremely high standard. The male team finished third in the minor units and the girls finished sixth in the combined major and minor units ladies competition. Although we were competing against incredible opposition the teams again put in 100% effort. **SSgt Tim Tomkinson** again provided us with three wins in the hurdles and high jump. **LCpl Jones** managed to get a day off from his PTI course and jump to success in the long jump and slot back into the 4x400m relay team to help the 'dream team' run another superb race. **Sgt Steve** 'book me a late scoff' **Templeman** was by now our 1500m candidate and ran a hard slog in very warm conditions. **LCpl Louise** 'New Girl In Town' **Hallsworth** put points on the board in the long jump and triple jump for the girls. **LCpl Sally** 'Biker' **Hubble** bravely volunteered to run the 5000m due to our previous runners being unavailable. This was the first occasion during the season where at the prize giving we did not receive any awards. It was a valiant effort in a competition where as a minor unit we can safely say we held our heads high. The season certainly proved we have the capability to compete at all levels. For a small Squadron who has varying commitments to NATO we managed to enter a male and female team in all competitions both in Germany and UK.

FOOTBALL SEASON 2000-2001 - *by Maj (Retd) Bob Lockwood MBE*

The Squadron football team had an outstanding season that culminated in a 1– 0 win over 7 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn in the League Play Off Final. The Cup final versus 24 Regt RLC was played at Rheindahlen Stadium, after the first attempt at Sennelager was snowed off, and resulted in a 1– 0 win after a thrilling match which went into extra time. In between the Cup and League Finals the Squadron travelled to the UK to play 42 Independent Survey Sqn RE in the Semi-final of the Army Cup (UK Section). After an excellent game, which included extra time, the Squadron were beaten 4–3 on penalties. The lads took the defeat in a sporting manner and wished 42 Sqn the best in the Final at Aldershot. The Football Officer and Team Manager, **Maj (Retd) Bob Lockwood MBE**, would like to thank all the players, staff and the Squadron support for making the season one to remember.

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT FALKLAND ISLANDS

OC JCUFI **Maj Ashley Stocker**
USM **WO2 (SSM)** 'Rennie' **Renshaw**

JCUFI CHARITIES FEBRUARY-AUGUST 2001
by Sgt (UQMS) Dave Howe

The two nominated Charities for 219 Signal Squadron's roulement were MIND and the Galactosaemia Support Group. JCUFI and myself, as OIC Charities, set out to outdo all that have come and gone before us. On 5 May, **Cpl** 'Si' **Brewington, LCpl** 'Mark' **Beal, JT** 'Touchy' **Feely** and myself organised a Fancy Dress function with a Raffle, Rank Slide Auction and to round it all off, a sortie in a F3 Tornado. **LCpl** 'Butch' **Richardson**, Line Section won the sortie and the rest of the lads from the Section were amused by the thought of an underslung load going supersonic. **Cpl** 'Cazza' **Johnstone** and **SAC** 'Mickey' **Brogan** paid for the privilege of taking charge of Charlie Tp. **LCpls** 'Mat the Boy' **Lutkin** and 'Stav' **Consdanti** out bid all to become USM and OC JCUFI for the day. **2Lt** 'Pasty' **Stevens** entertained the party when she had her head shaved (No 3 after a little goading from the crowd). A good night was had by all with over £1000 being raised by those who took part and attended.

On 15 June, the JCUFI 'St Trinians ably escorted by **Sgt** 'Tony' **Hartley**, visited all and sundry in Mount Pleasant Complex with their collection boxes. No door was left unopened or avenue or alleyway visited. The girls were kept under strict control by Headmaster, **PO (RS)** 'Thomo' **Thompson**, who had them pose for pictures and the like. The girls conducted themselves in true lady-like fashion despite the cruel weather conditions and had a great time in the process. The girls raised £1100 between them. My thanks goes out to the 'Staff' and in particular to **Cpl** 'Cazza' **Johnstone, LCpl's** 'Helen' **Caplin** and 'Penny' **Edwards, WOM (C)'s** 'Carrie' **Smith,** 'Beccy' **Manning** and 'Karen' **Pratley** and **Sigs** 'Beccy' **Greenhalgh** and 'Mel' **Rudkin**. Well done the girls. Friday 13 July came and went with all the usual superstition; **SSgt** 'Eve' **Eden** was left nursing a dislocated shoulder. For a select group of Officers and SNCOs, it meant the count up of the votes for a public 'Gunging' organised by **Sig 'Beccy' Greenhalgh**. Sharkies Bar was full of last minute voters and those eagerly awaiting the result. The USM, **WO2 (SSM)** 'Rennie' **Renshaw** was well in front, on a personal note, I had no votes but **Lt** 'Jay' **Croslegh** insulted his Line Section, by mentioning it was now 'a girly trade' and with that, went any chance of avoiding the slime. **Cpl** 'Cazza' **Johnstone** and **LCpl** 'Stav' **Consdanti** emptied the first two buckets over the OC Charlie Troop and it was left to **Sig 'Jules' Grieves** (Line section) to finish the job, which he did with style. A big well done to **Sig** 'Beccy' **Greenhalgh** for organising the event, raising £250 and thanks to those who volunteered to take part.

Throughout the last few months I ran a £1 'Lucky Number' Draw, which was drawn on Fridays in Sharkies. I managed to raise nearly £400 for the Charities and made the lucky winner over £30 better off for the weekend. My thanks goes out to all those, past and present who supported the venture. During 219 Signal Squadron's tenure as the Army Element of JCUFI, we managed to raise the 'Princely' sum of £6500 for our Charities, the gauntlet has well and truly been laid down, that's if any future Unit, dares to take up the challenge of matching our efforts?

UNIT HEADQUARTERS
OC **Maj Ashley Stocker**
USM **WO2 (SSM)** 'Rennie' **Renshaw**

LIFE AT THE SHARP END - *by Cpl 'Carol Smilie' Johnstone*

2 February 2001, 219 Sig Sqn eventually landed in MPA. JCUFI UHQ was quiet, like a Wild West ghost town, then. **Maj** 'David Beckham' **Stocker** took the kick off and things have not stopped happening since. The USM, **WO2** 'Rennie or STAND UP' **Renshaw** took control of Sharkies and PT ('I want them bleeding from their eyes'). The admin cell (Cell being the correct word) was then given a face-lift by **Sgt** 'Shaney Boy/Hand Grenade or Chiefy-Keeky' **Carnell** and was professionally run by **Cpl** 'Carol Smilie' **Johnstone**. Due to the fact that 'Shany' boy could only handle three months working with 'Carol Smile', his replacement was sent all the way from Sunny Shape, **Sgt** 'It's a Muppet or Chieftain' **Moy**. Not forgetting UHQ was a combined service environment, the 2IC's post was gapped for a few weeks and then the arrival of **Flt Lt** 'Straight Jacket' **Bevan** arrived and was a ray of sunshine to UHQ. The 2IC A Flt was another valuable asset to UHQ, **Flt Sgt** 'How we laughed or GPMG' **Edwards**, filling our days with stories about how he was attacked by Sealion's and survived to tell the tale. Not forgetting **2Lt** 'Pasty' **Stevens** who worked as the Ops Officer/IC Day trips, three times a week, for four months. The crowd is on the pitch, they think it's all over, **'IT IS NOW'.**

UQMS DEPARTMENT - *by Sgt (UQMS) 'Dave' Howe*

After only a few days in theatre, it became apparent to **LCpl 'Gaz' Warner** and myself that the routine, uneventful tour we both had expected was not about to materialise. What followed was 6 months of hard but rewarding work, with plenty of time for laughs along the way. 'Gaz' Warner had the day off to go flying around in a C130 Hercules and ended up examining the inside of an in-flight sick bag, he was supposed to be hanging out the back of the plane but felt more secure sat down!

The highlight of the tour for the both of us came during Exercise Nimble Ram II. As a department, we were given the job of the enemy force for the exercise with **LCpl 'S10' Kumar** and **Sig 'Si-Frenchman' Fry** from Charlie Troop. I don't think four people could have been as less welcome during a week's exercise as we were. At 'our' End-Ex, we had a good laugh at the thought that everybody else would be 'Stood to' when we were getting our admin squared away or our heads down. Sorry folks, it's a rotten job but someone's got to do it.

ALPHA FLIGHT
OC **Flt Lt Paul Croft**
Flt Sgt **FS Rick McCall**

RADCON - *by Cpl 'Cal' Calam*

It has been a time of change during 2 Sig Regt's tour of the Falklands, and on 16 May the Theatre Command net was shut down leading to the closure of the two hilltop Rebro sites, Adam and Campito. This in turn led to the closure of Radcon and the opportunity for some of the guys to go home early. Before this could happen Radcon had to fit in three exercises along with clearing kit from the Radcon inventory, a task carried out with no little effort by **LCpl** 'Di Don't be so rude' **Turner**.

The first exercise Nimble Ram 2 was a JCUFI exercise practising comms and defence training. Lessons learnt from this exercise were:

1. If you've got 28 maps out of 29 then the one your missing is the one you need,
2. Red lights fixed to masts on the horizon don't usually count as a threat to your location.

Ex Cape Petrel is a BFFI wide exercise held regularly to practice the defence of MPA, fortunately Radcon weren't playing this time, as we were busy closing down the Rebro sites. We did, however, have to provide comms and sent a three-man det to exercise control with **Cpl Jono** 'Easy Son' **Hanes** leading the way. Given that he was working at Excon you'd think **Cpl Hanes** would be aware of any intelligence but no, not our 'Jono' his lack of password knowledge led to him being lifted by the RMP. Still he was better off than **Sig Mickey** 'Sar Bals' **Thomson** who just happened to be passing the guardroom, when the enemy attacked. He was pulled over and, despite his pleas of not playing was slotted without compassion. Endex was called prematurely although contrary to popular belief this was not because **SSgt** 'Shaky' **Peters** had failed to pack his comb in his bergen. After the exercise it was time to say farewell to another of our number who had managed to escape the Falklands and the regiment. After postings to 14 and 2 Sig Regt **LCpl Jay** 'The one we didn't mind getting away' **Jones** was posted to 11 Sig Regt and with postings like that **Jay** must feel truly popular.

By now days to do were getting very few. For some of the guys at least. The last major mark on the calendar was Ex Purple Strike, an exercise of confirmatory training for the resident infantry company. Once again we deployed a detachment to exercise control, this time headed up by **SSgt** 'Scouse Pleased to meet you' **Peters**. A man who's inimitable telephone-style ensured that the exercise was administered smoothly. Also deployed was **Sig Chris** 'What I don't know about anything you can write on the back of a stamp' **Woods** who was lucky enough to go for a bimble with the ACOS. Although after endex 'Woodsy' did get to rest his feet as he and I borrowed some quads to ride up the mountain. Unfortunately we managed to find some terrain too tricky for the quads and spent a good 45 minutes digging them out. During the exercise the secure HF was provided by **Sig Thomson,** whilst steadying the ship during Radcon's last stand were **LCpl Chris** 'Taxi Driver' **Storey** and **LCpl Al** 'Can you send the last 10 minutes of the battle again?' **Allardyce.** With that exercise over and everything squared away the coast was cleared for people to go home and the remainder to move over to Syscon. Just time for a quick goodbye to **Al Allardyce** who's posted to Northern Ireland as his sidies were too long for him to go anywhere else. So to all at Radcon, leaving or staying WELL DONE. We can all move on now be it to Syscon or home happy in the knowledge that Radcon's been left in the capable paws of Stumpy the cat.

RADCON locks it's doors

BRAVO DIVISION
OC B DIV **WO (RS) 'Mac' Mckie**

The handover of the Army element in B Div takes place in August after a successful tour by a mix of three separate Royal Signals units, headed up by 219 Sig Sqn. The contingent included personnel from 14 Sig Regt and C list celebrity **LCpl Monk** from 30 Sig Regt tagging along. The entire Army element benefited from working Tri-Service, although some people took more time adjusting to it than others did. We are all in for a big culture shock when we get back to our Regiments as it means the end of our 2-hour standard RAF NAAFI break. Throughout the tour B Div personnel managed to get involved in wide range of interesting events. These included Hercules flights with the RAF, which entailed hanging off the back tailgate dropping sandbags at targets and a bit of flying practice over the South Atlantic. There were also several range days organised by the infantry where several appalling Rambo impressions were carried out firing a GPMG from the hip. The 2 Sig Regt lads would like to especially thank the ginger werewolf **LCpl Lavin** and kebab salesman (I ate all the profits) **LCpl Condstanti** for attending, as that is about all they managed. **LCpl Condstantis'** main contribution was the raising of Troop morale when he deprived **Sgt** 'Always second' **Davidson** of victory in the B Div Go-Cart grand prix. We would also like to congratulate **LCpl** 'The whole worlds out to get me' **Russell** on his promotion to full Corporal. A special mention goes out to **Cpl Gaz Edmondson** who joined us late from RADCON. We'll enjoy that slab. From a COMMCEN point of view thanks must go to **Sgt Tony Hartley** for the magnificent day when St Trinians invaded MPA, he managed to encourage most of the JCUFI females to dress up and parade around the messes and bars as St Trinian schoolgirls, ably assisted by the Headmaster **PO(RS) Greg Thomson** RN, all for charity of course.

CHARLIE TROOP
OC CTp **Lt Jay Croslegh**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Eve Eden**

By 1 February 2001 the training was complete and the waiting was over, the time had arrived to take the long haul flight to the South Atlantic, in order to relieve 7 Sig Regt after a job well done, for a well deserved rest. After a week of handover/takeover we found ourselves on our first exercise of the tour – Ex Nimble Ram. This was a confirmatory exercise which involved a number of injects from **WO2 (FofS) Hubble** (Who had been here so long the locals had issued him is own wooly hat) to assess whether we had picked up the knowledge that would be required in the next six months. The exercise went well, 7 Sig Regt handed over the keys and returned to BFG. The 188 days away from our loved ones had begun. After the initial 2-week period everyone had managed to adjust their body clocks to the South Atlantic, all but **SSgt** 'Wide awake at 0430hrs' **Eden**. So six weeks later when we entered into our second exercise – Nimble Ram II **SSgt** 'Wot no sleep' **Eden** was used to having little sleep. The same cannot be said for **Sgt** 'Is that a mattress attached to my back?' **Stoneman,** who was seen at startex and then again at endex. By which time he was suffering from withdrawal symptoms having not touched a PC for five days. Yet again JCUFI adapted themselves exceptionally well to the comms injects and to defending their AORs against **WO2 (USM) Renshaw** and his enemy task force. Ex Cape Petrel was our next milestone to cross. In comparison to the build up training in Nimble Ram I and II, this proved no problem for either Charlie Tp or JCUFI as a whole. As all our reporting chains had been tried and tested as well as all other procedures and contingency plans. JCUFI once again came up trumps when put up against it. All in all it has been a successful tour for the current members of JCUFI, lets just hope that when 3 Div arrive next week, that we can guide them in the right direction so that the highest of standards that we have set are maintained throughout their tour. Enjoy Christmas 259 Sig Sqn.

LINE SECTION - *by Sgt D. A. Cascarino*
THE END OF AN ERA

As August approaches at a rapid rate of knots, all thoughts seem to be on the impending departure of 219 Sig Sqn back to 2 Sig Regt at York. Not so at Line Section! During the tenure of the fighting 219th, Line Section has comprised of personnel from no less than six different Royal Signals Units. This has to be a first in the history of Charlie Troop JCUFI. In all, 18 Line Section personnel have, at different times, been welcomed with open arms by 219 Sig Sqn, all in the last six months. It has been a busy six months (12 months for the author!) and a lot has been achieved. We have totally rewired the accommodation blocks, and spent a lot of time sorting out records for the impending Project Lambeth. All of this achieved in addition to assisting in two major fibre optic projects. It must be said that all of this could not have been achieved without the guidance and help of OC C Tp - **Lt Jay Croslegh** and his 2IC - **SSgt Carl Eden**. - There is no truth in the rumour that commanding Telemechs is the kiss of death! Thanks must also go to the 219 Sig Sqn Admin team comprising of, **Sgts Shane Carnell** and **Duncan Moy**, and of course our 'Pay Chick', **Cpl Caroline Johnstone**. **WO2 (USM)** 'Rennie' **Renshaw** has also been allocated a special place in Line Section member's hearts, due to his limitless patience and advice! Certainly an occasion to celebrate, never before have so many individual Units contributed to JCUFI Line Section manning. Once again, heartfelt thanks to all members of 219 Sig Sqn for ensuring that we all felt like 'one of the family'.

FITTEST TEAM - *by LCpl Wilson*
Section IC **Sgt Shyam**

After a highly successful period of providing comms, fixing phones, maintaining vehicles and making brews it was time for JCUFI's finest - Charlie Tp to let off some steam at the go-karting track. Pride and ego's were at stake here none more than **WO2 (USM) Renshaw's**, who decided to add a touch of 'war of the monster trucks' to the occasion, by completely driving over the kart of **Cpl Gil** 'Robbie X' **Gittins**. This shunt seemed to inspire **Cpl Gittins** into getting his own back, unfortunately his chosen victim was **LCpl Scott** 'Dog' **Wilson**, who was viciously rammed into the crowd of quickly scattering spectators. This event seemed to effect **LCpl** 'There's something up with this car' **Wilson's** confidence as he slipped away to last position to be crowned 'driving Miss Daisy'. The final was a highly tense affair with **Cpl Si** 'Coulthard' **Brewington** leading all the way only to be pipped at the post by **LCpl Gaz** 'The Storeman' **Warner**. Who needs Monaco when you've got the Falklands? Next in line was the fancy dress night in Sharkies, each team nominated someone to draw the their respective theme. The FITTEST Team got Romans. Much to the appreciation of everyone, UHQ got St. Trinnians, which meant the USM and all of the Squadron Officers and SNCO's had to make themselves look like school girls, not as difficult as you would imagine. The night went well and everyone who took part enjoyed themselves, especially the Sergeant Major who played his part a bit too well complete with a hockey stick and pony tails.

Ever since JCUFI was taken over back in February, a lot of money has been raised for different charities, this is due mainly to the work done by the charity committee headed up by **Sgt Dave** 'Do I really have to give all this money away?' **Howe**. One night in particular springs to mind. The idea was a simple one, but as far as having a good time while raising money goes, is still to be beaten. **Sig Becky** 'Well I am blonde!' **Greenhalgh** put in a lot of hard work and thankfully it paid off, literally. The night that would culminate in the utter humiliation of a prominent squadron figure started off with people paying a pound to cast a vote. The person with the most votes got gunged. All was going as it should, with the USM getting the most votes, until **Lt** 'Did I say that out loud?' **Croslegh** said that Line Section were a bunch of girls. Line section put their plan into action and basically bought the gunge buckets by casting an overwhelming amount of votes for OC C Tp. He got gunged.

IT CELL - *by LCpl Lutkin*
Section IC **Sgt Stoneman**
NEW YEARS EVE (FALKLANDS STYLE)

Like everything in the Falkland Islands things are done differently to the way they are in the UK. Firstly you have to get used to Tri-Service slang then you have to get used to the weather and the southern-hemisphere. Being that June is the middle of winter in the Falklands it seemed only right that we should bring in the New Year again with another party which was to raise money for charity. It was decided that the party should be fancy dress and that every section should have a different theme. After a lot of deliberation and thought eight themes were thought of varying from the village people to clowns. Unaware to the seniors **LCpl** 'I'm arctic trained, the best paid Lance Corporal in the Corps, private job, etc, etc' **Lutkin** had been attending a Paul Daniel's master class and rigged the themes so that UHQ pulled out St. Trinians. **USM Renshaw** looked very fetching in a skirt (photos available). The night went swimmingly with plenty of things to talk about and look at the next day. A big thank you goes out to all the people who helped organise the event, and congratulations to the IT Cell for best dressed section (which wasn't a fix honest) as the boys from YMCA. All the boys camped up for the role, some more convincingly than others, notably **Cpl** 'Don't call me Ginger' **Waterworth** and **Cpl** 'I'm smoking a fag' **Brown** were more than accurate as the YMCA workmen. **Sgt** 'Mick, but that's a story for another day' **Stoneman** (our illustrious leader from 15 Sig Regt) dressed as the YMCA cowboy, the only flaw in an otherwise damn fine plan would be that most people couldn't remember there being a cowboy in YMCA. The only person missing on the night was **LCpl** 'I'm from Birkenhead' **Edwards** who was far too busy sunning herself on her R and R (finally) in the Ascension Island. With just over a month to go all the IT geeks are eagerly awaiting a return to York and a well deserved computer free break.

POWER SECTION - *by Sig Hilton*
IC Power/ MT **Sgt Davies**

Power Section consisted of **LCpl Kumar Limbu**, **Sig** 'Butch' **Hilton**, **Sig Del White** and headed up by the all-important **Sgt Dylan** 'Shadwell' **Davies**. Power section has also gained an extra member, **LCpl Gaz Warner**, who was attached to the section from the **UQMS** department on an everyday release basis. The Section entered the Falklands on a mission, in true ED style. The going got so tough that half way through one man had to be replaced, exit **LCpl Kumar** enter **LCpl Morris**. From that point onwards, standards began to slip, as well as **LCpl Morris's** clothes, say no more. **Sig** 'Victor Meldrew' **White** has become well renowned throughout the Falklands for having an excellent relationship with his chair, we think he has actually taken root. The MT in all its many busy moments has a saying, 'Can't move for wagons, what colour do you want?' The MT has been on a few good jollies. One of these was a day with the Resident Infantry Company, this involved firing every weapon that they had available, these included the Browning 9mm, SA 80, GPMG, Sniper rifle and the massive 50.cal (nice). We also had a demonstration of how they would perform a section attack on several enemy positions. We ended the session with a tactical flight back on a Chinook. Another involved hanging out of the back of a Hercules while it was flown far to close to the ground for anybody who happens to enjoy his or her life. In addition, we have had many a visit to Port Stanley.

JOINT SERVICES SUPPORT UNIT DIGBY
RAF DIGBY

EXERCISE TYROLEAN TROT
19 MAY—04 JUNE 2001

Army and RAF personnel from JSSU Digby recently participated on ExTyrolean Trot 2001, a major expedition conducted in the Hochfilzen area of the Tyrol in Austria. The exercise took place in two phases, each comprising of 12 participants. Those personnel taking part were as follows:

OC Expedition — **Capt B. J. Spiers**

Week One	Week Two
WO2 (FofS) Mick Murphy	**WO2 (RQMS)** 'Smudge' **Smith**
CT Al 'Two Scoops' **Thorpe**	**Sgt Steve** 'Tommo?' **Marshall**
Sgt Roy Ellis	**Cpl Kyah** 'Was that my Suitcase?' **Dick**
Sgt Bob Gillis	**Cpl Martin** 'Shaven Monkey' **Sweeney**
Sgt Rick 'King Cobra' **Sugden**	**Cpl Daz** 'Innuendo' **Thorpe**
Cpl Daz Bartleet	**Cpl John Roberts**
Cpl Craig 'Spiderman' **Ednient**	**Cpl Kelly** 'Heidi' **Fitzgibbon**
Cpl Mark 'JB' Hutchings	**LCpl** 'Arfur' **Daley**
Cpl Graham Rowell	**LCpl Charlie McNally**
LCpl Mark Cinnamond	**LCpl Ben MackIm**
JT Ian 'Village' **Bentley**	**LCpl Tommo** 'Let go Naked' **Thomson**
JT Andy Crowther	**LCpl Becky** 'Cheesey Grin' **Wyatt**

Both weeks undertook training as a virtual mirror image of each other. Here is a short diary of the events:

Saturday & Sunday — The Journey Out: On completion of a somewhat marathon journey, taking us to Dover, through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and finally Austria, we arrive as a rumpled, travel weary 12 person team to be welcomed by the expedition organiser, **Capt Spiers**, and the staff at our accommodation. A rest and a quick sleep was the order of the day, to ready ourselves for the week's activities.

Monday — Mountain Biking: This involved a mammoth cycle ride amongst the beautiful scenery of the Tyrol, up mountains and down the other side at breathtaking speed, covering a distance of 40km, which included lunch at a mountain lake retreat. The evening consisted of local hospitality at Adelweiss, a nearby Austrian watering hole!

Tuesday — Climbing & Body Experience: Tuesday saw us about to start on the real confidence testers! We split into two evenly matched teams. Indoor climbing walls, a must for those novices amongst us who needed to learn the knots and safety aspects required. Then out to the body experience, which included a death slide, confidence swing, command tasks and a purpose built 40m tall concrete tower. On a high, we headed to 'Bunnys', home to the local Australian expats this time, for an extremely rowdy night of games and singing.

CT Al Thorpe shows how it s done
while Capt Barry Spiers looks on

Wednesday - Paragliding & Advanced Climbing: There were some sore heads and delicate stomachs around as we took on some extra curricular activity - namely paragliding. Our tandem pilots' took us up the mountain in the ski lift where they strapped us into harnesses. Time to jump off a perfectly good mountain!! An incredible feeling - floating 300ft up in air so still and quiet you could easily hold a conversation. On nearing the ground the pilots treated us to some spins and spirals — lovely! The afternoon saw us take on some difficult climbing routes, a traverse involving safety lines and an abseil, an excellent progressive learning curve. In the evening some managed another night out, this time in 'Cheers', however, the majority were glad of an early night.

Thursday – Canyoning: This day saw us donning very unflattering wetsuits and helmets for a day of canyoning - basically following the course of a mountain river downstream. This involved a lot of scrambling on and off wet rocks, jumping and sliding into pools and abseiling down waterfalls. This took a few of us well out of our 'comfort zones' with people bravely overcoming their fears of heights and water, as well as some accidental mishaps - for example running Out of rope while still ten feet off the ground! Also, the instructors took great pleasure in making us linger under freezing waterfalls for photo opportunities. At the end of the day a hungry, cold and tired but happy group headed back for dinner and another early night.

Friday — Mountain Trekking: Another worrisome day for some - the mountain walk. Of course the weather decided to turn at this point and we manage to have rain at the lower altitudes and as we reach 2000m this turned to driving snow. Despite this some of the crazier individuals decided to have a dip in the lake, in waters so cold that claims of polar bear sightings in the water seemed quite plausible! Then we had a choice - an easy walk to one of the summits, or a harder one encompassing two. Evenly divided, we set off. On the harder walk we spent a lot of time on all fours scrambling along spurs with precipitous drops on either side - again a test of personal fears for some. Jokes and banter stopped as our Austrian instructor warned us to concentrate on what we were doing. However, our reward was to reach the summit on which stood a crucifix. We reached the second Summit in a blizzard, which we were all keen to get out of, then hurriedly headed back to the cafe, where we found the other group getting friendly with a bottle of red wine! Later we made the most of our last night out by going to Bunny's where a very good live band was playing, and having a very rowdy night out.

Saturday - White-Water Rafting: Another set of sore heads got into the bus for the long drive to the white water rafting area. The long drive got even longer as due to some dodgy directions we ended up in Italy! Some were happy to jump outjust to set foot on Italian soil, whilst the rest of us contemplated pizza and wine. Finally we arrived and dressed in wetsuits, life jackets and helmets, looking uncannily like we were about to be fired out of a cannon, we got in to our boats. Four people opted for the smaller boat, which promised a scarier ride - which they certainly got. Not long after starting, the boat capsized, trapping an intrepid adventurer underwater, but skilled boatmanship was the order of the day and all found themselves safely on board eventually. The bigger boat, to our relief, was much safer - still we were all ready for a calming beer afterwards. The evening saw us packing and saying goodbye to our excellent instructors **Marcus** and **Riccie**, and our kindly hostess **Christa**, before a BBQ and another round of games. We challenged each other to table and blow football as well as some messy games involving flour and water. We were aware though, that a long journey was to follow, so we retired early.

Sunday - The Journey Home:Most of the team slept a lot on the way back, but the stop off at the PX was a welcome break, with the opportunity to make a few purchases. In a way we were all pleased to be back after the long drive, but we still had our memories of a fantastic week. Many thanks go to the QM, **Capt Barry Spiers** for organising what was probably the most activities packed adventure training any of us have seen or will see for some time to come.

1 SQUADRON - *by WO2 (Supvr R) P. Sandford*
Sqn Comd **Maj T. M. P. Mountford,** Royal Signals
SSM **WO2 (Supvr R) Phil Sandford**

Well, the one thing that appears to remain constant within 1 Sqn is quite simply that nothing ever remains constant. We've seen a lot of comings and goings within the Squadron and will take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to our outgoing OC, **Maj** 'Monty' **Mountford,** who departs at the end of August for a stint at Shrivenham. 'Mont'y brought a unique and forward thinking aspect of management to 1 Sqn, (he went through four 2IC's in the space of a year) which has certainly left us in a better position to cope with the changes currently being experienced within the Unit. His replacement, **Maj Andy Barrow,** will be joining the

Squadron towards the end of October and will have the distinct misfortune, and uphill task of sorting out the chaos created by Monty during his reign. Both the Flt Cmdrs and the OpsWO are currently completing an MOD sponsored holiday in the Balkans. Their posts are being ably covered by **SSgt Paul Dunn** recently arrived from Ireland, **SSgt Daz Winfield**, and **SSgt Rob Hare,** that's when they can find the time to actually do some work in between the Corps and Station Cricket, rugby and golf that they all play.**COMMISSIONING OF WO1 KELLY**

On the 6 July, **WO1 Andy** 'Bear' **Kelly** made his last trip to the Sgt's Mess at Digby, for a final breakfasting out. At high noon, he was delivered via Bear cage to the front of Officers' mess and signed over by Sgt's mess CMC, **WO Neil Smith RN** to **LtCol Sharman.** There was a slight deliberation whilst we looked for the key to the cage, and Bear was momentarily faced with the prospect of lunch-in-cage. Fortunately for Bear, **Maj Bob Hodges** 'found' the key, allowing him into the bar to maintain his alcohol level. The Officer's mess subsequently dinned him in during the Officer's summer lunch that afternoon, where we also said goodbye to **Capt Charlie Roberts,** who is off to take over Corps sailing at Blandford, and show up occasionally at C2W wing. By an incredible feat of endurance, Bear was last seen in the Cross Bar Club at 2300hrs, although he claims not to remember anything after 1600, not so much of a surprise when you consider what he had been drinking. We all wish Bear the best for his new job at 660 Sig Tp (EOD).

Lt Col Sharman and Gp Capt Kiralfy congratulate Capt Andy 'Bear' Kelly on receiving his commission.

1 (ROYAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS)

Sqn Comd **Maj S. Gregory**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. Scott**

IN BRIEF .....

The early summer months has seen the usual array of training, trials, travelling interspersed with the relentless but welcome line-up of operations and exercises. The end of July marked the completion of SC Course 1/01 and as such the following five `survivors' are both congratulated and welcomed into the Squadron: **Sgt Sid Cleworth** from 249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn, **Cpl Al MacMillan** from 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn, **LCpl Timmy** 'Medallion' **Samuel** from 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Tony Burton** and **Sig Ceri Taylor** from 21 (AS) Sig Regt. July also marked the latest round of equipment user trial for the unit war role capability project. The overall results prompted a reaction of cautious optimism from **WO2 (FotS) Chris** 'Ted' **Carl Heath**. The trials were preceded by a working visit from GOC 4 Division for a series of briefings followed by a tour of the Special Projects Unit and meeting some of the team.

The Squadron bids a warm farewell to the following members who have recently headed far pastures new. They are **Sgt Darren Podosere** on promotion to DISC Chicksands, **Sgt Simon Marvel** on promotion to 3 Div Sig Regt, **LCpl** 'Mush' **Neal** on promotion to AFNOR7N and **LCpl Lee Kemp** to try his hand outside the wire. All are wished well. In addition to the Last Special Communications Course, **SSgt Dave Churchward** and his family are welcomed in from JSSU(AN) in addition to **SSgt Jo Morton** and **Jannette**.

August represented a reasonably healthy month for promotions for which credit and congratulations to several of the Unit. Promoted to Sergeant were **Cpl Mick** 'The Bomber' **Peace** and **Cpl Sid Cleworth**. **Cpl Sean** 'Saga' **Avis** was also selected for promotion. **Mr Chris Hicken** took promotion to CAO. Promoted to Corporal were **LCpls Sonja** and **Al MacMillan** (in which order?) in addition to **LCpl Craig Neal**. **Sig Burton** is congratulated on his promotion to Lance Corporal.

EXERCISE GLOBAL LYNX JANUARY 2001 – *by Cpl Gaz Woolley*

The end of course exercise for SC Course 1/01 was a comms test exercise based in the UK, ESBA Cyprus and the Northern regions of South Africa.

Sig Taylor briefs SANDF Generals on BCC39

The base station was quickly erected with a co-located comms Ops and Excon in Dhekelia which supported all communications systems used on the exercise. The field detachments soon followed and after they had set-up and enjoyed their first of many cold South African mornings the Communications phase of the exercise began with **Sgt Marvel**, **Cpl Avis** and **Cpl Woolley** generating traffic and maintaining a constant pace for the field detachments. This initially proved difficult with localised problems with one of the field detachments in Pretoria. The problem was soon resolved and it wasn't long before a comprehensive synopsis was generated detailing the best frequencies for each field detachment through a 24hr period. This proved to be beneficial later in the exercise when the field detachments were moving and comms needed to be established quickly. The Base crew then enjoyed a few days R+R which mostly involved sunbathing and enlightened **Sgt Simon Marvel** on the dangers of sun bathing with a bandanna on (nice tan line across the forehead). No plan survives contact with a 250 Watt Amp and following some necessary head scratching, the two field detachments executed a thoroughly unconfusing and seamless move of locations. The teams were tested in communications specific serials that culminated in a series of technical briefing and presentations to the SANDF Staff to whom thanks must go for their support throughout the whole exercise.

LCpl Burton tries his hand at HF and snake-avoidance

EXERCISE MOUNTAIN LYNX

Somewhat closer to home this time, 21 members of the Squadron dashed up to North Wales led by **Lt Anne Williams** for a welcome weekend of hiking, rock-climbing and white-water rafting. The plan featuring 'we'll walk different ways and swap keys in the middle' actually worked and the walkers enjoyed a hearty trek across the Welsh 1000 Peaks Race route headed up by OC 633 and **LCpl Evans**. The slabs of Tryfan set the venue for some top-roping and leading under the keen eye of **SSgt Dave** 'Pro' **Churchward**. After a couple of hours, the Welsh weather couldn't resist an appearance and so the climbers headed into the Plas-Y-Brenin indoor wall to tackle the archway challenge. An astonishingly good chili from the AO left the team with an uncanny thirst that could only be quenched by a number of tonics in the Capel Curig metropolis. A last down the river marked the end of a successful and most enjoyable weekend.

81 SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

Sqn Comd **Maj Craig Tillotson TD**
SSM **WO2 Innes Penman**

For those uninitiated 81 Sig Sqn (V) is formed from 12 Officers and 170 OR 'Specialist' volunteers with an annual commitment of 19-days. We recruit UK-wide from the telecommunications industry i.e., BT, Vodafone, one2one, Nokia, Cellnet and others. Four days military training are completed at a UK Camp and the remaining 15 days on deployment working on live cable and exchange projects in theatres such as Cyprus, Falklands, Ascension, Gibraltar and possibly next year Brunei. TeleMechs/Installation Techs or SETS leaving the service? Feel you may have something to offer? Then why not contact the PSAO, **Capt Ian Dudding** on 01225-81-4799. The Squadron welcomes our new Honorary Colonel, **Brig Martin Roberts OBE** (late R SIGNALS), the PSAO - **Capt Ian Dudding** and **WO2 Eddie Kingston**.

SOCCER GLORY FOR THE SQUADRON

Belated News - In December last year the Squadron played its first competitive football match. The team beat Exeter UOTC in the final of the South West District TA Football Competition. Goals from **Sig John Vincent** and **Sig Dave Flynn** (2) were enough to lift the cup. The Team went on to represent the District in the semi-final of the TA National Championships. Unfortunately 203 Field Ambulance beat us by 1- 0, a creditable result that gives hope for next year.

OUT OF CAMP TRAINING (OOCT) - ALTCAR 2001

The four-day camp at ALTCAR forms the mandatory training skills requirements for Squadron personnel. ITD's, vaccinations, medicals, documentation, planning and social functions are put to the test. God bless our clerks, Medical Officer and Chefs! Members of the Squadron appear from all corners of the country including Northern Ireland by 'Hire Car', 'Plane', 'Taxi' and 'Train' and in one instance, from Scarborough, by HM Taxi service driven by our new PSAO! The Squadron settled down into, what is now, a well-practised and rigorous routine of military skills training. The pre-planned and robust schedule of events prepared by our illustrious 21C, **Capt Ian Calvert**, was executed with much aplomb and proved to be highly successful with a 100% pass rate. Our OOCT visitors this year were **Col Laurence** the Deputy Commander 2 (NC) Sig Bde and our new CO ACISG, **Lt Col Simon Leigh** R SIGNALS who also attended our Officers Mess Dinner Night. During the dinner we dinned out a number of long serving members of the Squadron, our Hon Col, **Col Richard Marriott OBE**, the past PSAOs, **Capt John Harris, Capt Matthew Yates, WO1** 'I have been here for ever' **(FofS) George Johnson MBE, SSgt Ian Johnson** and **Sgt Geoff Mann**. We wish them all well and hope to see them return with the Old and Bold.

Col Marriott and Capt Harris 'mmmmm' I still think I did the right thing

854 TROOP

Like the rest of the Squadron the soldiers of 854 Tp come from all over the country. However, 854 do have a strong Liverpool contingent so ALTCAR is right on the doorstep for many. Last years winners of the internal 'Selectors Trophy' could only manage 5th this year. Not disheartened at seeing the trophy awarded to 786 Tp and the prize of 'a chance to win a signed championships darts board' they consoled themselves by organising a pool championship during the Squadron party, ensuring their win by only allowing 854 Tp members to enter!

Being a specialist Troop it sometimes takes time to make an impact with such a short training period. Full marks to **LCpl Kang** who wasted no time in being first to be late on parade! **OCdt Mike Reynolds** has to be mentioned for his shout for help from the fire trench. It was clear that his plea to search his burgeon for his ear defenders would prove fruitless to any onlooker! They were on his head! **Lt Kennedy** will live to regret his impatient call to the operator of the target in lane one. 'How hard can it be?' was his cry when the target was raised at last. He then took his turn in the butts and managed to be the last to raise his target on each occasion!

The range staff added a colour blind test and mosaic training to the ITD's as many of the soldiers where clearly confused by the three colours used on the targetry. One soldier seemed to have written his name on the target. However, it is unclear which one as he even got that wrong. The training worked and the targetry was restored to its former glory.

856 TROOP

It was great to have the Troop back together for the first time since our successful deployment to Gibraltar during 2000. The new training year also brought with it some key personnel changes and in particular **OCdt Tom Bond** ('shaken but not stirred!'). Whilst the Troop passed their zeroing shoot (with plenty of room for improvement) we once again excelled in the singing during the CFT, fast becoming 856's strongest event (I mean ITD). Whilst the rendition of 'Who let the dogs out' every time we passed another Troop did get a little repetitive. Despite not collecting any silverware this year, the Troop excelled with the premier showing of the Troop video. The film was shot at this winter's 856 social gathering in the hospitable town of Newcastle.

EXERCISE APHRODITE - CYPRUS - 7 MAY /9 JULY 2001
854 TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Steve Clout**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Marty Allen**

Once again 854 Tp deployed to Cyprus over a three-week period to provide expert telecommunications support to 259 Sig Sqn at Episkopi. Under command of **Capt Steve Clout** and **OCdt Mark McKnight** the 32-strong team of volunteers were based at either Episkopi or Dhekelia Garrisons. Arriving by VC10 from a cool Brize Norton to the blistering heat at Akrotiri. The Troop got down to the task of upgrading the 'Bucks' and 'Pine Trees' test huts. The 'Pine Trees' upgrade was a fairly straightforward task however; the 'Bucks' upgrade was not and tested the expertise of the team to the full. The Troop started work at the break of dawn each day in order to at least beat some of the blistering heat. Most days we averaged a solid ten-hours non-stop. For one, **Matt Bevan**, working all the hours he could (UK mode) was sadly under the misconception he was going to be paid 'overtime'! The old adage -'you're in the Army now' comes to mind. The support received from all departments within 259 Sig Sqn was once again excellent. Many a strong friendship amongst fellow tradesmen was rekindled and the effort shown by both Regular and TA IT and SET in completing all tasks was outstanding. During the late afternoon there was time for play. The Troop made best use of the facilities offered by 259 Sig Sqn and the Island itself. Together with the Telemechs of 259 Sig Sqn, the lads got together for a 'Telemechs convention'. This involved a 'Crane Bungee Jump', Jetskiing, Windsurfing, Banana Boating and, would you believe it, a Giant Donut' ride at the rear of a powerboat! All this for the costly sum of £10, Blackpool eat your heart out.

856 TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Andy Kennedy** 'Fantastic'
SSgt **SSgt Richie Forster**

Following on from 856 Tp's successful deployment to Gibraltar last year, the Troop was once again to be deployed under the care of **FofS Phil Murnane** and **Sgt Al Rosser. Lt Andy Kennedy**, supported, or rather hindered by **OCdt Tom** '007' **Bond**, led the 26 strong team of telecommunications specialist TA soldiers to Sunny Cyprus to complete a major cabling project. The main tasking for 856 Tp was the provision of a 100pr cable over a pole route across Happy Valley to Paramali, which was severely damaged during a huge Garrison fire in the summer of 1998, and had been repaired with a temporary cable. The route comprised of the most treacherous terrain and the tunnels and cliffs encountered on route provided a spectacular backdrop for the work under the direction of **Sgt Eamon** 'Superwoman' **Reid** and **Sgt Tony** 'Shaft' **Blatcher**. Despite the hostile conditions such as soaring temperatures in excess of 32°C, and the SBA Security Exercise, the job was successfully completed to the usual high standard associated with 81 Sig Sqn. Due to the professionalism of all the soldiers in 856 Tp we were constantly ahead of schedule with the projects, and so the lads willingly took on extra work. Our deployment fortunately coincided with the visit of **Lt Col Simon Leigh** to Cyprus. After walking the route and meeting members of the troop he was delighted with the quantity and standard of work being produced. 856 Tp are renowned for the 'work hard, play hard' policy. Following their outstanding work efforts, the lads let their hair down in a night to be remembered. Following the success of the 856 Troop Bad Taste Night in Gibralter last year, a mission to go one better was undertaken. Month of covert email, phone calls and recce's on fancy dress shops would determine the success of Super Heroes Night. As the date came closer tension began to turn to panic buying at women's and hardware shops all over Cyprus. Work for the day was complete; stores and work tickets closed down. Finally, the big night was here. Costumes began to be released from their hiding places, makeup/body paint was applied and the five minute photo call bellowed through the block. Three, sorry two Supermen and one Superwoman (**Sgt Reid** played the part of a woman with uncanny enthusiasm!), two Zorro's, Braveheart, Indiana Jones, a Musketeer, Rambo II, Rocky III, Fred Flintstone, Shaft, Bob the Builder, Dennis the Menace, Bruce Lee, Super Scouse, Kevin and Perry, plus two

blokes in wigs and the Invisible man who nobody saw came out of their rooms for a ten minute photo session. Then beer in one hand and beer in the other, on the bus and off to our destination. Looks of shock and horror on the drivers going in the opposite direction only added to the atmosphere on the bus. More by luck than anything else, no crashes were reported! Parking space found, we de-bussed, and the charge for the bar only caused chaos amongst the crowded streets as everybody stopped to stare and laugh. Both Supermen battled for Superwoman's affections, Bob the Builder entertained/scared the kids, Zorro 1 and 2 duelled in the street joined by Braveheart and anyone else with a suitable prop. Rocky III and Rambo II discussed which was Sly's best film, a debate that no one could win. After that things get a bit cloudy and I can't comment any more for fear of recriminations. A fantastic time was had by all - bettering this one will be hard!

FUTURE 2001/2002

In September this year 854 Troop deploy to Gibraltar, October 786 Troop deploy to Germany (possibly for the last time), in January 2002 and 857 Troop deploy to the Falklands and in May/June 2002 two to three troops may deploy to Brunei for a project currently in the planning stages.

600 SIGNAL TROOP

HAIL AND FAREWELL

The Troop is bidding a fond farewell to several key members, with **Cpl Jase Wells** and **Sig Sadie Kennedy** off to Civ Div. We wish them well and thank them for their hard work within the Troop, and also for the support they gave to Troop social functions. **Sgt Paul Green** has defected to UKNDA along with **Mrs Sandra Sheppard,** who had until recently been the RSIT clerk. We hope all goes well for them in their new high tech building, a mere half a mile from the Troop! We wish good luck and congratulations to **WO1 Mark Harris**, who has been selected for a commission and is shortly to take up his position in Blandford. Amongst other things, **Mark** managed the JSU Corsham football team, inspiring them to win the league and reach the cup final this season. Not bad considering that he is a Coventry fan. Finally we wish good luck and congratulations to **WO2 (FofS)** 'Sensei' **Bob Wymer**, who appears to have won the lottery, since he has been selected for promotion to WO1, achieved a black belt in karate, secured a posting to Cyprus, and prior to turning up for duty, is getting married. He says of his new MQ in Cyprus, '…its got loads of room so if you are ever in the area…' See you late August then, Bob! New arrivals in the Troop are **SSgt 'JC' Cordery**, who has taken over the reins as the Troop Staffy, and **WO2 (FofS) Ian Walling** who replaces karate kid **Bob Wymer** as RSSST Foreman. We also have another druid in the Troop, **Mr** 'Taff' **Rowles**, who is the new ES Team PTO. Welcome to the Troop, and we hope you all enjoy your time in Corsham.

A hearty hello to **SSgt Dave** 'Leave Pass' **Doody** who has arrived in the Troop from leave. We wish you and your family a successful tour in Corsham. RSSST(UK) have recently been allocated two 'technicians' straight from the factory. On hearing this from the OC, a bar brawl broke out in the RSSST Team office, and after the dust had settled, **SSgt Dave** 'Leave Pass' **Doody** and **SSgt Ian** 'Arkela' **Munford** emerged victorious. They now look forward with glee to the joys of having their boots cleaned and uniform pressed daily instead of monthly! Congratulations are in order to **Cpl** 'Trigger' **Smith** on his marriage to **Martina,** he has also been selected for promotion to Sergeant, and the jammy geezer is posted to Cyprus! All the best for the future and see you in seven years time in Blandford as the new Corps RSM! Stay off the cockernelli wine! We bid farewell to **SSgt Dave Doody** who is off on leave again - probably.

DOWN UNDER (AGAIN)

The OC, **Maj Ron Kirkwood**, seized the opportunity to escape down south, for a second time, under the auspices of yet another ABCA (American, British, Canadian and Australian) Planning Conference. The destination this time was New Zealand (the hosts being an associate member) and **SSgt (FofS) Gaz** 'I can do that' **Walton** drew the short straw, and accompanied the boss as technical adviser and chief bag carrier. This was much to the annoyance of **WO2 (FofS) Bob** 'You're posted to Cyprus, what do you want to go to New Zealand for?' **Wymer**, who had previously been earmarked for this task and subsequently, had to return his unused flight tickets. Good planning with the travel arrangements provided the UK IET (AKA 600 Sig Tp) with two free days (jet-lag recovery period) prior to the conference. This free time was put to good use and enabled some sightseeing to take place. The arrival of the remaining UK delegates provided us with the opportunity to complete the 600 Sig Tp v HQ Land G6 golf challenge match (which had previously been cancelled due to Foot and Mouth restrictions). **Gaz** 'The Bandit' **Walton** completed a stunning first nine holes and **Maj** 'Pancho (he was also a bandit)' **Kirkwood** put together an equally impressive all-round performance to complete 7 – 6 victory (for non-golfers that equates to seven holes won with six holes to play) against **Lt Col Silk** and **Maj Mark Cornell.**

The conference began on a cold grey morning, with the delegates being treated to a Maori welcoming party, which included the 'HAKA', singing and the typical Moari greeting of 'touching noses'. The two main conferences (CID BOREALIS PC3 & 9th QWIG CIS) progressed well, with the five nations IET's running a background conference to resolve the technical issues. All five nations cooperated well, and taskings for each nation during the exercise (which is taking place in Ontario, Canada in 2002) along with general exercise format were agreed.

The two conferences were intertwined with social events to help foster good working relations, two rest days and ANZAC Day. The social events included a 'meet and greet' icebreaker, a visit to a winery and an evening of traditional Maori entertainment, whilst the rest days afforded more sightseeing opportunities and a boating trip to partake in some whale watching. ANZAC Day, on which the Soldiers of Australia and New Zealand are remembered, falls on the 25 April (the day of the Gallipoli Landings). Whilst ANZAC Day is very similar in many respects to our own Remembrance Day it's format is slightly different. The day begins at 0530hrs with coffee and rum followed by a dawn parade at 0600hrs. Upon completion of the parade breakfast is served and the Bar is opened. Many of the delegates took this opportunity to visit the local RSA (Returned Serviceman's Association) NZ's equivalent of the British Legion. The conferences drew to a close and many thanks were passed to our hosts for the excellent hospitality, facilities and administration. Roll on October 2001 when ABCA PC4 takes place in Des Moins, Iowa, USA

OPERATION SILKMAN - PROJECT IZAR
26 MARCH - 27 APRIL 2001 - *by SSgt Kev Wosika*

Project IZAR is the commercialisation of the communication infrastructure in support of JTFHQ, based within the Sierra Leone Army HQ in Freetown and Benguema Training Centre (BTC), replacing 30 Sig Regt's communication equipment. The project utilised Cable & Wireless satellite bearers and Promina equipment, which is used on Project MYRA/CLEO in the Balkans, providing DFTS/PATRON and data circuits including Internet via the Corsham Hub.

The project began way back in January 01. The three comms containers were fitted and tested by BAE Systems Christchurch and then handed over to the Military, where prior to deployment an operational readiness test was carried out by CPD and 600 Sig Tp. Once that was completed an installation team was assembled from 30 Sig Regt, CPD, ALPO, HQ Land and two lucky guys from 600 Sig Tp. On 29 March we packed our sun tan lotion and the strongest insect repellent and departed UK from Brize Norton with an overnight stop in Dakar, and then finally landing at Lunghi Airport. While waiting for the briefing plenty of water was issued and this was to be our companion throughout the month. It was then onto the vehicles on our intrepid journey to the docks via a mexi-float and a 1hour crossing. Our accommodation was first the RFA Sir Percival then the RFS Sir Tristram where the air conditioning was a 'god send'.

Travelling each day to JTFHQ was an experience in that the base was on the other side of Freetown, which was about 5 miles away, and taking one to two hours on a good day to get there. What with small streets, open sewers and overcrowding driving was very nerve racking. **Cpl Steve** 'Drive that minibus' **Mottram** did his best, and I am sure a few grey hairs started to appear. **SSgt Kev** 'Yorkie Bar' **Wosika** did have the use of a DAF and it was amazing to see how people and vehicles got out of the way. Anyway work was intensive and involved installing ducting and a huge amount of wiring around the complex. The conditions were very hot and tiring but it was a credit to the amalgamation of Telemechs and Techs that work was completed on schedule. **Maj** 'Laid Back' **Pritchard** overlooked the work whilst **Capt** 'It's my train set' **Hazelwood** and **Capt** 'I'm off to Gibraltar' **Woolaston** worked on the hand-over documents and many other 'interesting things'. Days off were given and so it was off to the beach to get some rays. Once we found our base on the beach the local traders swamped us with all the trinkets and the only way to get rid of them was to buy. **Mr Chris** 'Claims Direct' **Ashcroft** suffered from sunburn and so spent most of his time in the shade. The Telemechs were on their, '…must get a really good tan so let's use the chip pan oil.' The sea was warm and the beach was great, not a bad way to spend our days off.

Comms containers arrived and **Mr Chris** 'Powerman' **Ashcroft** checked them for task-worthiness. Circuits were installed and tested by **Sgt Paul Landregan** and **SSgt Kev Wosika**, apparently both known as the 'Chuckle Brothers'. After initial little problems the system was commissioned and all Staff were pleased with the quality of comms. BTC was the next task, once again infrastructure was in place by the time the comms container arrived and a welfare internet cafe was set up, lucky 1 LI. However, we did have a problem with finding the satellite, the question raised was - Is the satellite on that bearing because our backs are killing us and it's damn hot? Banging heads we found the wave-guide on the wrong orientation (Who did that?), once that was sorted the path was established. The comms container did have a hiccup in that a power fault had occurred but that was only temporary and soon overcome. **Mr Chris** 'I'm not going near it' **Ashcroft,** was to find out that he was tasked to travel back to Sierra Leone to repair the fault. Whilst at BTC we were lucky to see the Sierra Leone Army pass off parade, some 760 soldiers on the square with temperatures touching the 40's. It was an honour to see how professional they were, well done to the Ghurkas (2 RGR). With both sites in and working it was soon time to go home. When we arrived back in UK on 27 April there was a cold spell and that spelt disaster and colds soon developed. Well at least we had tans to show off. All in all it was a job well done.

Normal day in Freetown

Benguema Training Centre

LIFE AT THE HUB - *by LCpl Gaz Morris*

When I volunteered to go to Bosnia, I only had three things on my mind. Firstly, I was getting out of 'sunny' Bulford for four months. Secondly, I'd be getting paid more. Finally, I could work on my tan, so I wouldn't look like your typical British tourist when I go on holiday during summer leave. Little did I know, that after working on my base tan for ten weeks I'd get sent back to the UK to man the Operational Systems Control (OSC), here in Corsham, to actually do some work proper. However, once I had arrived in 600 Tp I was quietly surprised at what I found. Not only was I working alongside Myra and Cleo Technicians, I was also working with the technical knowledge of the RSSST team. Who, according to the Op Agricola manpower are inferior to themselves! The shift 'Network Controller', **SSgt Sean** 'Did I tell you I was going to SHAPE' **Fairfield** was most helpful from the moment I arrived here. His in-depth knowledge of the Myra and Cleo systems was second to none! My shift IC, **Cpl Tom** 'Little man, big voice' **Millard,** however, has taught me a lot, for which I would like to thank him.

Life here, in the hub, keeps your technical skills up to date and also improves them no end. People, who haven't worked here have a common misconception that all we do all is monitor the pretty colours on the screen, and don't have a clue what we are on about. Let me tell you. I've been out to theatre and what I learned out there in ten weeks, is nowhere near the amount that I've learned in ten days of getting here. Also, the OSC in Corsham is the Network Control Centre (NCC), for Op's Silkman, Agricola, Palatine and is the anchor point for the Ptarmigan Hub too. The bottom line is that the OSC is here to give technical expertise and assistance to all the previously mentioned operational theatres. Every single circuit, be it, Myra, Cleo, Izar, the internet, MMARS, G2 data is monitored from here. We work with faults in-theatre and out of theatre. Any fault that occurs to any of the systems out in theatre is dealt with in a swift professional manner. We are supported all the way up the hierarchy due to the importance of this post. Along the way we've been able to pick up valuable knowledge from the advice we've had from the RSSST team. In addition to this, we work with outside agencies such as, Cable and Wireless, BT Inca, Whitehall, Boddington and GOSCC . Everyday that I work here is a pleasure. I'm working with the most hi-tech equipment the Army has, which surely must hold whoever works here in the near future in good stead, as this post is the 'place to be' if you want to work with the most up-to-date comms equipment.

I'm reluctant to leave when my time comes to an end here because I'll be going back to 'sunny' 3 UK Div and Sig Regt, to yet again, play about on the back of a twenty year old Radio Relay wagon and sweep garage floors!

NCC BALKANS MOVES TO CORSHAM - *by SSgt SMD Fairfield*

Having volounteered to be deployed to Bosnia with 3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt, it was with a little anticipation that I found myself in a technician Staff Sergeant role as the IC NCC situated at Banja Luka metal factory (BLMF). Before I knew it, I was on a Hercules (with a fellow passenger being sick next to me), on route to Banja Luka airfield. The Myra technicians arrived some two weeks later and it was a major shock to the system to find that three of the tech's were immediately stood by to go back to the UK, to man the proposed NCC Balkans from the Corsham Sattellite Hub. When the time came and **Cpl Tom Millard, Cpl Mark Turner** and **LCpl Gaz Morris** were returned to England, I was kept busy, with a tasking of doing the UNTAT presentations. This little ploy, did not work, as I soon realised that as the IC of the NCC, I would ultimately be on my way to Corsham myself.

True to my prediction I found myself on a flight back to the UK, having only just arrived back in Bosnia, from my week off, doing the UNTAT briefings. I bade a fond farewell to all at BLMF and having completed just enough days for a gong, got onto a trooper flight. On arrival at Corsham I was introduced to 'the baby shift', **LCpl Andy** 'Muscles' **Kay** and **Cpl Gareth Howell** from 19 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn. Nicknamed the baby shift because both became fathers whilst serving at Corsham, congratulations to them and their partners from all at 600 Troop. I was then introduced to the final member of the team **Cpl Pete Mayhead,** another member of 3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt. He had volounteered for a tour of Kosovo with 19 Mech Bde, only to find himself working with 3 (UK) Div personnel, just down the road at Corsham.

Work started in earnest with establishing the procedures to be employed at the Hub, now that the decision to man it had been directed by HQ LAND. Once the Theatres accepted that the networks were controlled by Corsham, a good work routine was established. **LCpl Gaz** 'I'm outa here' **England** was soon to be sacked and replaced by **LCpl** 'Ginger Deva' **Morris**. Life hasn't been all work and no play though. A tunnel tour of the Corsham bunker was suggested by **Cpl Tom** 'The Tunnel Rat' **Millard.** This proved to be very interesting and lead us all to believe that 'Area 51' does exist and that Elvis and a group of aliens are underneath the site. **Cpl Pete** 'Safe Hands' **Mayhead,** has found some spare time to assist with the station football team as the goal keeper, but it was not his fault that the team lost 7 - 0 in the league final. Nor was it **LCpl Andy** 'The Body' **Kay's** fault has he only came on at half time (as the Orange carrier). Further congratulations go to **LCpl Kay** on passing his Class 1 entrance. Good luck to members of 1 ADSR and 7 Armd Bde when they takeover the roulement.

EXPEDITION 'PADDLE CRAZY' - *by SSgt 'Taff' Evans*

As part of a Team Building event 600 Sig Tp were about to depart to the summer climates of Wales on Exped 'Paddle Crazy'. It was a one nighter sleeping in tents close to the River Wye in Symonds Yat. The Troop paraded eager to set off and start the adventure, however, the start was delayed due to missing sleeping bags (apparently PCGC had worn them out). **SSgt Ian Munford** was unable to fire up the well-tuned minibus, hence the Troop decided to do a bit of Rugby training and push start the vehicle. Things would have been a lot better had the Troop's REME representative been on hand, but unfortunately **WO2 AQMS Chris Rawlins** broke down on the way into camp and had to be recovered by the RAC.

The slightly depleted Troop finally departed along the M4 and into Wales. Luckily for us we were led in by the OC, **Maj Ron Kirkwood**, and the Troop Staffy **J. C. Cordery**. (We only got lost once). At the campsite the two PTIs, **Sgt Steve Moore** and **Cpl Tara Dancey** met us and briefed us on the day's and night's events. The first IA was to get kitted out in what was going to be our lifesaving jackets, at least it came in very handy for **Mr** 'Taff' **Rowles** one of our PTO's who enjoyed bathing in the Wye more than anyone else. We arrived at our launch pad where we got some expert instruction on the dos and don'ts of Kayaking. Unfortunately **WO1 (YofS) Mark Harris** (now Captain) and **Sgt Paul Green** turned a blind eye to what was being said.

The first stretch of River was calm and easy apart from **SSgt Ian Munford** upsetting one of the locals and steering into the poor man's fishing line. We eventually got to our first stop point which happened to be near a pub, surely this was the start of Team Building. We eventually got back on to the River where the two PTI's had some games set up ready for us such as taking away half our canoe's, after most people had a drenching we eventually got back in our correct kayak's and off we went again. From this point on I sat in the same kayak as the Padre surely if he can't walk on water maybe the kayak can. After several attempts by **SSgt (FofS) Gaz Walton** to tip up all the kayak's on the river he only failed on two, one of those included **Cpl** 'Radar' **Noott** who invented a bad back from nowhere and **SSgt** 'Taff' **Evans** and the Padre, God was definitely on their side.

Back at the campsite it was time for erecting our sleeping accommodation, getting showered and changed ready for the night's entertainments which were Barbecue, Pub and Staff **J. C. Cordery's** nighttime swimming. Apparently looking for a bracelet he'd lost, others thought he'd found a secret way into the local pub, via the river. The following day was spent clearing up the egg banjo's, drying off the tents and push starting the minibus for our journey back to Corsham. Overall the day was a complete success and role on the next Team Builder will apparently be sheep shearing in the Valleys.

CADET FORCES SIGNALS ADVISOR AND NATIONAL ACF/CCF INTER-DISTRICT RADIO NET

NO. 1 COMPANY
CAMBRIDGESHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE
GRANTING OF THE FREEDOM OF MARCH TOWN
By Maj Mark Knight, Company Commander

Sunday 29 April 2001 saw the March Detachment of No. 1 Company, Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force proudly accept the Freedom of the Town in what I believe to be a first for a Royal Signals Badged Detachment (Is this true?). The Detachment, under the command of **Capt Trevor Longmuir**, was granted this Civic Honor for its support to the Town in its community events over a period of some 40 years. Cadets

from the Detachment supported by representatives from each of the nine Detachments, lead of the No.1 Company Corps of Drums marched through the streets of the Town with bayonets fixed, swords drawn and drums beating. The Scroll presentation was made by **Cllr Barry Wales**, Mayor of March who then carried out an inspection of the Cadets joined by the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and Hon. Colonel of Cambridgeshire ACF, **Col James Crowden K St J, JP. Maj Knight**, Officer Commanding, No. 1 Company presented an inscribed bronzed statute to the Town to mark the occasion. March Detachment was re-badged Royal Signals in 1996 and provides the signals support to Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force. It's pride is a County based UHF Repeater System enabling communications across Cambridgeshire. Special mention was also made of a former Adult Instructor and now Civilian Instructor, **Robin Minnet** who has seen some 47 years with the March Detachment. He joined the parade to a round of applause.

SPORT

GOLF

CELEBRITY AMATEUR GOLF EVENT (CAGE) 2001
10 JULY 2001
A report by Col (Retd) Cliff Walters, Chairman, CAGE 2001.

The ninth CAGE was held on 10 July 2001 at Ashley Wood Golf Club, Blandford. Its aim has always been to raise funds for charity and on this occasion the beneficiaries were the Museum Education Project and three local schools for children with special needs. During the course of the day we were able to host the head teachers of all three schools and show them how the funds are raised for this extremely good cause. The Save The Children charity had been supported for the previous three years. In recognition of this support **Col (Retd) Cliff Walters**, the CAGE Chairman, was invited to a reception on 23 January 2001 held by Save The Children where he had been presented to their President, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**. This recognised that CAGE had been one of their major contributors in Dorset and the South. The event started on Monday evening with a cocktail party sponsored by Integris (a name change from the previous year's Bull Information Systems). The cricketers were present in great numbers aided and abetted by **Col Tom Richardson** who is about to take up the post of Chief Executive of Gloucester CCC. They included **Don Shepherd, Brian Taylor, Merv Kitchen, Tony Brown, Roy Palmer, Alan Castell, Brian Close** and **Reg Simpson**. We also welcomed **Fred Titmus** for the first time, in all about 80 golfers met in preparation for the following day. Alenia Marconi generously offered main sponsorship again this year. The competition had extra bight as ICL had sponsored a car for a hole-in-one at the 18th hole.

Unfortunately the car was not won but the first person off the tee, **Adrian Markham** (21) of VEGA, was closest at 30 inches, for which he won nearest the pin. Although the weatherman had forecast poor conditions we were glad he was once again wrong and we were able to complete the day in comparative dryness. This did not help the TREND 2 team who managed to lose two balls on the chipping competition! The event's prize giving was followed by a quick dash to change for the Dinner Night at which the Corps Band played. Entertainment was 'Cage Traditional' with everyone in fine tune for the four 'anthems' and a fully attentive audience to listen to **Alan Hancock** who told us the one about... We are also grateful to Sodexho for sponsoring the Dinner Night and BAE Defence Systems who donated CAGE handkerchiefs which everyone had to wear in DJ. Our thanks also go to **Joan Robson**, President of the Ashley Wood Golf Club, and all members for their support for the event: the course was in excellent condition. Sponsors this year were:

Alenia Marconi	Systems Integris
Sodexho	ICL Defence
BT Ignite	Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein
Thompson Marconi Sonar	Trend Communications
Nortel Networks	Systematic
Astrium	BAe Systems
EDS Defence	ITT Defence
Lockheed Martin	Syntegra
Vega	Bank of Ireland
Thales	TRW Systems
Marandon Engineering	Marconi Communications
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THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman: Major General A. H. Boyle CB

Vice Chairman: Brig N. F. Wood Area1; Brig W. H. Backhouse Area 2; Brig S. G. M. Gordon Area 3; Big K. H. Olds Area 4; Brig P. J. Evans CBE Area 5; Lt Col J. G. Billingham Wales; Maj R. Sampson CBE Scotland; Lt Col C. N. Lightfoot N Ireland

General Secretary and Treasurer: Col A. R. Carter MBE — **Assistant General Secretary: Lt Col I. J. Hamilton**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs J. Cornick — **Administrative Officer: Mr P. J. Cuckow (Membership & Records)**

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All contributions for *The WIRE*should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 2079 or 2085. Internet: www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/museum/rsa.htm

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 to 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.*

NOTES FROM THE AO'S DESK

Branch News: It came as a great shock to us all to hear that **John Knott** had died whilst in office as Hon Secretary of the Newark Branch. **John** had dedicated a large part of his life to the Association, the RBL and the local community and had only a week before his death attended a reception at Buckingham Palace to acknowledge his dedication and hard work. Did you serve at Herford in 7 Sig Regt, 4 Div Sig Regt or 7 Sig Regt? **Jim Sloan** is trying to start an association for those who served at Herford. He has forged links with the Stadt and would like to hear from anyone interested in joining his venture. Call **Jim** on 01324-626173. Last month I told you of that **John Smart** had succeeded **Tom Davies** as Hon Sec of the Swindon Branch . The right address was printed for **John** but the phone number was incorrect. The correct number is 01793-335430.

Corps Carol Service: No apologies for again reminding everyone about the Corps Carol Service, which is to be held at St Stephen with St John, Rochester Row, Westminster on Monday 17 December 2001. All serving and retired members of the Corps, plus their families, are most welcome to join in the service, which starts at 1800 hours. Not only is this an extremely enjoyable event, but it is a good opportunity to meet new friends and old.

AGM: The next AGM will be held in London on Saturday 7th April 2002. Branches should note that any proposal that affects Association rules, must be received by the General Secretary in plenty of time in order that all other branches may have the benefit of advance notification.

Full details of the AGM will appear in the December issue of *The WIRE*. In the meantime, Branches might like to start thinking about sending a representative to the meeting.

Reunion Weekend:

The Master presents the trophy to Barry Moody, for winning the Standard Bearers Competition, the Corps RSM looks on

Harry Ruff receives the 75 Year Pennant on behalf of the West London Branch, Fred Bridges (Aldershot) waits for the Master to present a similar pennant to him

'Welcome back': A new item for readers' interest – below you will see a list of Life Members who have been welcomed back in to the fold after many years of non contact.

Brian Streetly	1961-70
David Allan	1976-81
Robert Chapman	1964-77
David Meadows	1969-75
Bill Milsom	1963-72

New Life Members: A warm welcome is extended to the following recently enrolled Life Members. All are 'RHQ' Branch, except where shown. UNfortunately owing to a lack of space only half the list has been printed, the rest will appear in December's issue.

Rank and Name	*Branch*	*Service*
WO2 Grant Proctor		1984-01
Cpl Ally Munro		1986-01
Cpl Chris Greenhill	Harrogate	1963-79
Sgt John Ackerley	Harrogate	1974-94
LCpl Darren Battye		1982-94
Sgt Jonno Blood		1978-94
Cpl Richard Charley		1985-94
Cpl Colin Cunningham		1984-94
Sgt James Cuthbert		1980-94
Cpl Willie Davies		1976-94
Cpl Phil Drake		1982-94
WO2 Paul Duffy		1971-94
Cpl Mick Duggan		1985-94
Cpl Michael Dyer		1979-94
Cpl Geordie Eastick		1980-94
Cpl Philip Eaton		1982-94
WO2 Ted Edwards		1976-94
WO2 Bill Erskine		1972-94
WO2 Gary Euington		1971-94
Cpl Lee Evans		1988-94
Sig Gary Ewart		1990-94
LCpl Darren Fennell		1983-94
Sgt Barrie Foster		1977-94
SSgt Gary Foster		1977-94
Cpl Harry Fellows		1972-94
Cpl Neil Francis		1978-94
SSgt Paul Freeman		1969-94
Sig Adam Furniss		1984-94
Cpl Dave Gascoyne		1981-94
SSgt Terry German		1972-94
SSgt Jim Gilmour		1965-94
LCpl Adrian Glover		1983-94
LCpl Graham Goodall		1983-94
Sgt Chris Gray		1978-94
Sig Martin Griffin		1989-94
Cpl Colin Hale		1972-94
Sgt Jim Harris		1977-94
Sgt Rob Hood		1979-94
Sgt Rab Horne		1975-94
SSgt Ian Horton		1975-94
Sgt Raymond Iddles		1976-94
Cpl Sam James		1972-94
SSgt Ken Jones		1972-94
Sgt Dave Keevash		1976-94
LCpl Alec Keown		1984-94
LCpl Liam Kerr		1985-94
LCpl Adrian Lane		1983-94
Cpl Ian Marshall		1984-94
Sgt Paul Matthews		1977-94
Sgt Glenn Maycock		1977-94
Cpl Robert McCormick		1978-94
Sgt Den Morris		1976-94
Sgt Steve Munday		1983-94
Cpl David Nadin		1974-94
SSgt Dave Norman		1972-94
Cpl Paul Oliver		1980-94
Cpl John Owen		1981-94
SSgt Roy Partington		1971-94

GENERALS AT PLAY

Col P. Randall MBE,TD

As a junior Lieutenant attached to 8th Army HQ in the desert, I have a vivid recollection nearly 60 years after the event, of seeing the 8th Army, United States and Home Forces Generals at work and play. We were stationed five miles out of Tripoli in February 1943, at the express decision of **Gen Bernard Montgomery**, as he did not wish his troops to 'Go soft'. We could have done with a little comfort, but of all the officers in the 8th Army Signals, I was destined to wallow in luxury for two days in the most exalted company.

It came about this way. My Colonel sent for me and informed me that 'Monty' was holding a 2-day seminar in Tripoli to demonstrate 'How I won the Battle of Alamein'. One of his biographers wrote a chapter headed 'A most conceited week-end'. The Allied and American Generals were to rub shoulders at the Del Mehari Hotel and a Medical Officer and a Signal Officer were to be billeted there to attend to health, security and communications; in my case, two telephones. One thing is certain, the notoriously cantankerous **Gen George Patton** didn't think much of the seminar and after it was over said, 'I may be old, I may be stoopid, but it didn't mean a darn thing to me!'

On the first day, 'Monty' delivered a wonderful lecture on his plan and its results. This was followed by a talk by his Corps Commanders and selected Divisional Generals. There were questions, but any criticism distinctly muted. We have had plenty since. It was certainly a glorious example of self-advertisement. After this exciting day, I found myself in a luxurious bedroom marked 'Signals Officer' and spent the first ten minutes in seeing water flow from taps for the first time for some 18 months. Electricity and a bed seemed to me the height of hedonism. The Generals dined in the splendid restaurant and although there was bully beef on the menu, Algerian and Tripolitanian wine flowed like water.. The Medical Officer and I sat at a separate table in a dark corner and observed the Generals 'at play'. 'Monty' was not there but the rest were. Their names now figure in Military History. The only one to speak to me was a slightly exhilarated **Gen George Patton**, who must have thought I was a British senior officer. He referred to the successful demolition of the French Battleship 'Jean Bart' off the cost of North Africa, in these unforgettable words, 'Say siree, we blew the arse out of the Jean Bart at Casablanca.' I was struck dumb and gracefully retired. Wine flowed until past midnight and, as the Medical Officer and I left our seniors, I was pleased to note **Gen Horrocks** doing his party trick of standing on his head drinking a pint of beer! That night, the Luftwaffe bombed Tripoli Harbour. The alarm sounded and a bevy of Generals arrived in the Hotel foyer, in dressing gowns and pyjamas. These articles of clothing were unknown in the 8th Army and I cowered in my underpants, a poor advertisement for my Regiment.

I had to distribute the agenda for the conference and, prudently taking receipts, collected some valuable autographs which one day I will hand over to the Imperial War Museum. I don't know if this visit to the 'fleshpots' of Tripoli assisted the war effort but, for me, it was an unforgettable and amusing experience. This year, I attended a prestigious dinner at Shriveaham, dedicated to the Battle of Alamein. For the second time in my life, I sat down with the Army Commander and I amused my next door neighbours by recounting the Alamein Dinner held by 'Monty' in Tripoli so many years ago.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

In May we had an attendance of nearly a hundred at our annual Quiz Night ably organised by **Neville Lyons,** assisted by **Carole Thomas, Edelgard Moss, Jean Hicks** and the Committee. The gathering included teams from serving units and from the Reading and West London Branches, the honours going to a team from the Garrison Mess.

In June a number of our Members attended the Reunion weekend at Blandford, **Fred Bridges** carrying our Standard very creditably and receiving the 75 Year Pennant on behalf of the Branch. After the Morning Service our Chairman, **Noel Moss** and **Fred** and **Jean Bridges** attended the Dedication of the Association Rockery by **Gen Tony Boyle**.

In July we enjoyed a delightful evening on the Basingstoke Canal in the form of a cruise and a buffet supper aboard the cabin cruiser '*MERLIN*'. The strawberries and cream and the wine all added to the idyllic setting. We wonder if we have created Association history by having two events with two picnics in one day, for that is how it turned out one month this summer. While we could not wish it to appear that there is any lack of co-ordination in the Committee, our August event became fused with that which should have followed had it not been dictated by the Corps Band programme, as it was, all went very happily. We had an exceptionally large attendance at the Final Rehearsal of the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst. There were parties from Reading, East Kent, Southampton, West London and this year for the first time a large party from the West Kent Korean Veterans Association. After the parade, all credit being given to the cadets for an excellent turnout, we adjourned to the Cricket Pavilion to picnic. The hailstorm that followed did nothing to dampen our spirits. Fortunately, fine weather followed in the evening, when a large party gathered in the grounds of Kneller Hall to enjoy our evening repast prior to the Concert. There were three visiting bands, one was our own Corps Band, who gave their usual superb performance.

We appreciate 'Paddy' **Verdon** giving us his support for the Sovereign's Parade, although he now has retired from Sandhurst and moved from our area. However, they are not too far away and we shall always be pleased to see him and **Barbara** on as many occasions as they are able to join us.

EAST KENT BRANCH

The Branch has been busily involved in a number of functions since the last edition. Due to the imagination and hard work of the Committee and in particular the Hon Sec whose efforts are in large a part the reason for the success of the social scene and the enjoyment of the Members.

To celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the birth of the Branch the Chairman and his Committee organised a Barn Dance in a local village hall which was attended by 48 Members together with none other than the Regimental Secretary, **Col Andrew Carter** and **Mrs Carter**. The hall was decorated with balloons in Corps colours, straw bales, assorted farm implements and the participants were dressed appropriately in the sort of things that thigh-slapping barn dancers wear, including ten gallon hats to match the 20 gallon thirsts whipped up by the frenetic dancing. To mark the Anniversary *a* special cake was in evidence and cut by the Founder Chairmen, **Lt Col Bert Sawyer** with a sword provided by the Hon Sec, **Maj Gen John Badcock**, who no doubt unearthed it from his G1098 cupboard or perhaps from his workshop! **Col Carter** was also kind enough to present **Roy Andrews** with the Honorary Life Membership Badge of the RSA for his services both to the Branch and as South Fast Representative of the Central Committee. A toast was drunk in champagne procured at a considerable discount by **Vincent** and **Marion de Rose** during one of their forays across the Channel, after which merriment then recommenced until the midnight hour was struck.

34 Members attended the Blandford Reunion this year. They enjoyed a most memorable day of glorious weather and a superb parade, followed by many more attractions more numerous to mention. Many of those attending made a weekend of it and stayed in B&Bs, lapping up the delights of Dorset.

The Annual Branch Cricket Match, originally intended some two years ago to be a challenge match with any other Branch willing to take us on - but nobody was, was held at the Duke of York's Royal Military School in Dover on Sunday 8 July. The weather was indifferent but the cricket was anything but: Two teams, one headed up by the Chairman, **John Ballantyne**, and the other captained by **Donald Crisp** in the absence of the Vice Chairman, **Mrs Jo Barrett** who was too busy selling strawberry and cream teas, took to the field. It must be said that there were a large number of sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters in both teams. This was responsible in no small measure for the unusually athletic performance of both teams. The result? I like to think that the 126 scored by the Vice Chairman's team was enough to win but there was the usual skullduggery by **John Bqllantyne** which mystified everyone and it was generally agreed that it didn't mutter - it had been a great day. To add to the pleasure, the sun came out just as stumps were drawn!

It is with great sadness that I must report the sudden death of **Mike Paveley** on 10 July. **Mike** was a dedicated Radio Ham and was due to take part in a demonstration of World War 2 SOE communications work later in the month. He will be sadly missed.

Regular readers of the adventures of the East Kent Branch may recall that at about this time last year the Committee donned Roman military garb and demonstrated their version of foot drill, guard mounting, the Section in Defence, the Section in Defence, the Section in Attack, the Section in Disarray and much else, to the delight of the multitude enjoying a BBQ in the grounds of the Hon Sec's home. Clearly this has greated a precedent which demaned something even more adventurous and ambitious this year and so, on 12 August, 82 Members and guests once again gathered in **John** and **Gill Badcock's** garden to enjoy a delicious BBQ and also to witness the latest brainchild of the Hon Sec which proved to be a gripping re-enactment of and action during World War 2 by Members of the gallant Stodmarsh-on-Sea Platoon of the Home Guard! Nail biting stuff, which had the audience on the edge of their seats. All this was planned and rehearsed in great secrecy by the Committee who performed like the old troupers that they are. Our Hon Treas, **Ted Drake**, was the pinnacle of pomposity as Capt Mainwaruing, **John Badcock** was his usual urbane self as Sgt Wilson, **Mike Barrett** provided a commentary and was holier than thou as the Vicar, **Norman Davidson**predicted that all 'were doomed' as Sig Fraser. **Doreen Alison** was Principle Boy as Sig Pike whilst Pike's mother was played equally delightfully by **Marion Ballantyne**. **Vincent de Rose**surpassed himself as the immently incontinent Sig Godfrey. Our Chairman, **John Ballantyne**, enjoyed himself a LCpl Jonesand was just as daft. It was **John** who manufactured replica .303 Lee-Enfield rifles of the period to add a little realism to go with the hairy khaki battledresses. **Trevor Allison** made a dastardly U-Boat Captain and **George Cooper** gallantly stood in at the last moment as the ARP Warden. **Maureen Davidson** prompted discreetly fromthe wings and **David Geery**, bless him, staged managed and produced to perfection as only and ex-BBC man could. Towards the end of the programme, which ended to great applause and curtain calls, a police patrol car slid ominously to a halt on the drive. The Committee searched in vain for their Equity Cardswhilst **John Ballantyne** promised faithfully that he would decomission his rifles immediately. However, it transpired that it was only **Peter Haskins**, Branch Member and policeman of this parish, who had been newly promoted to Sergeant, flashing his stripes, Poser!

News of Members: **Lt Col Mike Barrett** ostensibly visiting his daughter in Wiltshire to celebrate his 70th birthday, was shocked and amazed to discover that his wife, **Jo**, together with his daughter had secretly arranged for the occasion to be a Curry Lunch Party with old and Gurkha friends - together with a Gurkha Piper, Many Happy returns **Mike**.

Vale: Sadly we have to report the death of two stalwarts of the Branch. **Mike Pavely** passed away suddenly on 10 July and **Dennis Murphy** died a week later. Both will be sadly missed, not only by their respective families but also by their many friends within the Branch.

GLASGOW BRANCH

The Branch celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of it's founding with a blessing of the Standard, a parade, beating retreat, and the Last Post. Held on 28 April 2001 at Jardine Street, Glasgow, Headquarters of 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), by kind permission of the commanding officer, **Lt Col J. K. McKee MBE**. **Lt Col McKee** arranged this to be a training day, in order to have his troops on parade, to attend to all the various functions in support of the Branch ceremony.

The drumhead service took place in the drill hall, using the drums of 32 Sig Regt. **Maj Rev S. A. Blakey RA, Ch D**, conducted the service. The Branch committee produced a booklet showing the order of service, with explanations of the Drumhead Service and Beating Retreat, also a short history of the Royal Corps of Signals, from it's origin as part of the Signal Company of The Royal Engineers. The booklet had a printed acknowledgement on behalf of the Branch Members, from The Branch President, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**, of the support of **Maj Rev S. A. Blakey, Lt Col J. K. McKee MBE -** CO and all ranks of 32 Scottish Signal Regiment. (V), for their logistical help and support. The Royal Corps of Signals Pipes and Drums, by kind permission of the Royal Corps of Signals, the loan from the Royal British Legion Scotland, (Garnock Valley Branch), of their Queens Colour, and the Bugler, **Mr P. Craig**. The opening hymn '*Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven*', followed by saying confession and then absolution. The branch president, **Maj Gen Anderson CB** read the lesson. The 23rd Psalm was then sung followed by the act of Remembrance with the Last Post and Reveille played by the bugler. The piper then played a lament, '*The Flowers Of The Forest*'. The Chaplain gave the address and the Branch Secretary, **Ivana Muir**, presented the roll of honour of deceased Branch Members. The hymn '*Guide Me*', was followed by the saying of the Apostles Creed. The Chaplain then blessed the standard. The saying of The Lord's Prayer by the congregation, with The Collect Of The Corps Of Royal Signals, said by past and present members of the Corps, before the final hymn, '*Onward Christian Soldiers*'. The dipping of both Standards during the National Anthem, followed by the blessing, which ended the service. The branch standard was paraded by **Bill McNamara** with the Queens Colour paraded by **Bill Taylor** the escorts were branch Members **Ian Woods** and **Michael Moulder**. The collection taken up during the service amounted to £217. At the subsequent Branch meeting it was agreed by the Members, to round this figure up to £250 to be sent to Royal Signals Headquarters for The Corps Benevolent Fund.

After the service the congregation went on to the parade ground. The Pipes and Drums of the Corps were assembled, and the Branch Members marched to the top end of the parade ground to watch the Ceremony of Beating The Retreat. The Pipes and Drums marched on to the tunes of Steam Boat, Bugle Horn, and The Glendarluel Highlanders. The bugler played The Last Post at the lowering of the flag. This was followed by a selection of pipe tunes. Before the march off, **Maj Gen Anderson CB**, President of the Branch, presented a silver tankard with the Corps badge motif, with an inscription, as a memento of the occasion, from the RSA Glasgow Branch, to the **Rev Maj Blakey**. He also presented a claymore, a gift from the Royal Corps of Signals Pipes and Drums, to **Gurkha Sgt Piper Tamanay Singh**, who was leaving the Corps after serving for 21 years. The Members then marched off preceded by the Corps Pipes and Drums and the Colour Party. The pipes were playing '*Scotland The Brave*' and '*The Rowan Tree*'. **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**, took the salute of the Pipes and Drums and Branch Members as they passed the saluting base.

After being dismissed the members, families and guests went to the field kitchen, manned by members of the Regiment to enjoy a choice of curries, BBQ sausages, chicken or chops, with a variety of sweet courses. The members thank **WO2 Master Chef John Wren** and his chefs, for providing all these choices. The day was rounded off with a disco. The bar function being in the capable hands of **Sgt Danny Beattie**. A raffle was held the proceeds of which amounted to £200, which was passed to **Capt Keith Anderson** of 32 Sig Regt to help swell the monies for the Erskine Hospital Millennium Fund, the Branch Committee express many thanks to donors of prizes for the raffle.

Lt Col J K McKee MBE, the CO of 32 Scottish Signal Regiment (V), with **WO1 (SVWO) Terry McVey** in attendance, presented to the Branch Chairman, **Joe Keegan,** a statuette of a Royal Signals soldier, with his SA80, as a memento of the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Branch. **Joe** accepted the gift with thanks on behalf of the Branch Members. The statuette will be kept in a glass fronted cabinet in the WOs' and Sgts' mess of 32 Sig Regt with their own silverware, available for Branch Members to see and appreciate. It was an excellent and thoughtful gesture by the Colonel and members of 32 Sig Regt, it shows the rapport between the members of the Regiment and Branch Members as mentioned by the Branch President. Thanks must also go to the Committee for producing a first class booklet, much appreciated by the members, families and guests, as a souvenir of the tenth anniversary celebration. On behalf of the Branch, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**, President of the Glasgow Branch, extended a warm hearted 'Well done' and 'Thanks' to all Branch Members their families, guests and the congregation, for their generosity to the collection during the service.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH

On 1 July the Branch held its annual Mid Summer Church Service in New Carlton Barracks. This event is held to commemorate the losses incurred by members of the Corps since 3 September 1939, and was conducted in an admirable fashion by the **Rev Ken Pillar**, senior chaplain at 15th North Eastern Brigade; now resident at York. (One does not need a very long memory to recall it being the home of Northern Command, but that is another story, for another time and place). Around 60 members and friends attended the service and lunch, which thanks to our superb committee, was once again a great success. Again, our Treasurer, **Mrs Margaret Egan**, read one of the (difficult) lessons, whilst managing to keep the collection and lunch money in two separate piles. **Ken Naylor**, our new Branch Standard Bearer, made a successful debut. Following **Eric Dawson** is no easy job, but after over 20 years in the post he had received his marching orders from **Mrs Sally Dawson**. After all, 60 years married, and 60 years a member of Royal Signals, in one guise or another, is a record of which any family can be proud. They received an appropriate gift from the Branch. The Branch continues to hold regular lunches, monies collected going to help subsidise other functions, as well as assisting the Corps Benevolent Fund. Two recent visits have been to the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington and Eden Camp near Milton, both being a great credit to their organisations. The Branch President attended the inaugural parade at the Army Foundation College at Pennypot Lane, Harrogate, having done his best to try and save the church buildings, but greater political forces prevailed. We are very pleased to record that our friend **John Blackburn** is Chaplain General, obviously Leeds Branch RSA has some influence in the scheme of things. In keeping with the present trend, although an extremely active Branch, we do not recruit many new members. Unlike politicians we live in a world of reality. However, we will keep trying our best and the Branch thanks its members for their loyal support. We send greeting to all other Branches and members of the Corps Association.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

A full allocation of members travelled to Blandford in June to the hottest RSA weekend since the Princess Royal visited in 1995. On Saturday we enjoyed our first treat, a spectacular Princess Royal Day Parade from 11 Sig Regt. 0ur congratulations to them and **RSM Kemp.** We were very proud of you.(there is no truth in the rumour that our Chairman and Secretary bribed their way into the VIP seats that morning). The afternoon arena display was, as usual, varied and interesting. After that we spent a convivial evening in the WOs & Sgts Mess. This year they had the air conditioning on. We were joined by **Majs Chris Reynolds Jones** and **Jim Lawson** who both visited the bar on our behalf. **The Master** and **Maj General Tony Boyle** visited our comer. Later on the Branch practice of moderation was well demonstrated this year when **Joe Jennings** made the weekend complete by turning out for the Sunday Church Parade and March Past. We all agreed that it was well worth the long drive down and sincere thanks to the car owners and drivers who got us there and back safely. Life President, **Maj Jack Holmes**, has exclusively told this scribe that, owing to the government's generous heating allowances he will not be flying south this winter.

NORFOLK BRANCH

The Blandford Reunion is now over for another year and those of us from the Norfolk Branch who attended would like to record our appreciation and thanks to everyone at RHQ who laid it all on for us. The display on Hawke Square by the Corps Band and the Pipes and Drums, also the marching, was magnificent. The White Helmets gave their usual daring display, it was all so good and we was so proud to be part of it all that one tends to run out of superlatives. There was one happening worth recording our Vice Chairman, **Mike Snowling**, along with **Brian Ireland** were on their way to Blandford when the camper they were using broke down at Duxford, which is about 160 miles from the Reunion. The fault couldn't be repaired so **Mike** with true Royal Signals resolve captured a taxicab which happened to be passing and arrived at Blandford fairly late in the evening. **Mike** was a bit coy regarding the cost but it must have been quite a bit. To end the tale, when **Mike** and **Brian** went to what they thought was their allocated barracks they burst in on our Secretary's wife, **Mrs Tina Nobbs** and her friend just getting ready for the social evening in the Sergeants' Mess. It was the wrong room so blushes all round. Not a good start for **Mike** and **Brian.** We still get very good attendance at meetings and the 'Esprit de Corps' is very much alive. Our needy and sick are visited and looked after by our Welfare Officer, **Reg Hannant,** who does a excellent job. We look foreward to our next visit that is the 'Shuttleworth Collection' of WW1 planes etc in September. I enclose a photo taken in the Sergeants' Mess at Blandford, it shows from left to right: **Mrs Tina Nobbs**, Treasurer - **Richard Green**, Hon Sec - **Steve Nobbs**, past Chairman - **Frank Mortlock** and Master of Signals - **Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling OBE,** all enjoying themselves.

(L-R): Tina Nobbs, Richard Green, Steve Nobbs, Frank Mortlock, Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

As 40 Signal Regiment (V) had their summer recess, and we use the TAVR camp for our monthly meetings, it was decided to have no meeting in July and so there is very little to report this month.

The Branch was , again, well represented at the Blandford Reunion with a total of thirteen Members attending. Not all travelled together, our Chairman - **John Brown** and **Bill Craig** travelling by air while **Bill Ogden** came up from Lancashire and **Mark Barass** travelled a few yards within Blandford. Our serving TAVR Members, **Jim Reilly** (Vice Chair), **Ian Wolfe** (Hon Sec) and **Chris Montgomery** attended straight from TAVR Annual Camp. The remaining six, **Edgar McCall, Harry Stanley, Glen Greer** and **Jim Weir** travelled in two cars supplied and driven by **Andy Leishman** and **John Loveday**. They crossed over on the Liverpool boat, night sailing, on Thursday 21 June and returned home on Monday 25 June. **Jim Reilly** very ably stood in for the Branch Standard Bearer both at the church service and the main parade. All appear to have enjoyed the weekend, particularly when meeting with old friends again. The thanks of the Branch go, once more to our Branch Reunion Organiser - **Edgar McCall**, for all his hard work over the past year. He has already started to look at next year. Our thanks also goes to **Peter Cuckow** at RHQ and to all who put so much into the organisation of the event each year.

Once again if you are reading *The WIRE* and visit Northern Ireland, if you are not a Branch Member or indeed are still serving, you are welcome to join us any third Wednesday of the month in Clonaver TAVR Centre in Belfast.

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

In June we enjoyed an informal dinner with 46 members and guests in attendance. It was a particularly memorable occasion for **Mike Stanger** as the Branch President, **George Rushby**, presented him with the 50 Year Badge and Certificate, and his wife **Pam Stanger**, was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Also, at this occasion, two members' wives, **Teresa Jewell** and **Linda Pennock**, were presented with certificates and flowers in sincere appreciation of valuable service to the Branch.

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT BRANCH

Regretfully and with sadness we have to report the death of another of our Members. **William Charles Hill**, who passed away on 12 July 2001, after a long illness that he endured with great fortitude. **Bill** was the elder brother of **Sig Len Hill,** who died in February of this year. The funeral attended by his wife **Jean**, his family and Members of the Branch was held at Southampton Crematorium on Teusday 24 July 2001 at 1140hrs. The Branch Standard was displayed together with the Standard of the 'Market Garden' Association. The lesson and eulogy were read by Branch Member and fellow freemason, **Arthur Pratt. Bill** is survived by his wife , **Jean**, two sons - **Peter** and **Tony**, four grandchildren and one great grandaughter. He will be missed by many people. He was always a 'Perfect Gentleman'.

At the Branch Committee Meeting and Social, held on 7 August 2001, there was a good turnout to welcome our President, **Brig Johnny Clinch** and to prematurely wish him a very happy 80th Bithday on 15 August. The occasion was marked by the presentation of a birthday cake and the inharmonious rendering of 'Happy Birthday'. **Johnny** was most appreciative and 'insisted?' that all Members should have a slice. The cake, which was truly delicious, was baked by **Tony Packer**, son of **George** and **Vera Packer**. The icing and decoration were in the colours of the Royal Corps of Signals and were surmounted by an iced 'Jimmy' and the words 'Happy 80th Birthday'.

President Johnny Clinch with Chairman Sid Smith

The Branch is thriving and over the past months several social events have taken place. In particular I mention the Lunch and River cruise on the Solent and up the River Hamble. Lunch was partaken at Harry Ramsden's Restaurant, arguably the best fish and chips around. The cruise was excellent, in warm and sunny weather and was made more enjoyable by the expert running commentary from one of the crew. At a Skittle evening held on 27 July 2001, a grand total of £50 was raised for the Corps Benevolent Fund.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

We still enjoy a very creditable attendance at our meetings that are held on the last Friday of the month at the Richmond British Legion on the A316 and usually are followed by a bingo session or a quiz. Outside events are sometimes thin on the ground in the summer months but we are the pioneers of the Association in organising an annual visit to the Tower of London and a morning Church Parade with the Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. This is a Branch occasion but one at which friends from other Branches are always welcomed. A number of our Members attended the annual Reunion at Blandford, although being within commuting distance most found their visit limited to one of the two days. In any event, those of us who attended all enjoyed their visit and we thank our host Regiment for organising the weekend.

31 SIGNAL REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Our European trip this year was to Ypres and the surrounding area. We stayed in Lille because there appeared to be more bars available. We attended the 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate, where we met up with several serving members of the Regiment, who had participated in an earlier parade. A great weekend was had by all.

On 19 July the Association was hosted by **Lt Col Paul Wenlock** at the Regiment's 'Visitors Day'. The day started with an update of the Regiment's activities, followed by coffee and a trip into the backwoods. There we watched the serving soldiers land by helicopter and rescue a VIP, who was being held prisoner. There was lots of smoke and bangs which made an impressive scene. Afterwards we enjoyed a very nice lunch accompanied by the Adjutant, **Capt Fiona Stewart**, our new Liaison Officer. Our thanks also go to the RSM, **WO1 Andy Young**, who kept us out of trouble.

Col Donald Crawford, who has not been too well recently, sends his best wishes to all Association Members and thanks everyone who has phoned, written or E-mailed him.

At one of the Ypres monuments

THE MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION

A quiet summer saw everyone off on holiday leaving our Secretary, **Andrew Bridges**, to catch up on the paperwork. **Graham Kneafsey** is

putting the final touches to the Association Newsletter, he is always looking for good stories from Association Members. The Band is still going strong, but could be stronger. Their first public engagement this year was the Hampton Carnival on 9 June. We said farewell to two very loyal Band Members, **BQMS Bob Lowe** and **SSgt Charlie Hill**. Both will be missed and we wish them a happy retirement. **Maj Chris Reynolds-Jones** will be organising this year's annual dinner, which will be on Friday 19 October.

12TH/15TH/18TH AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENTS ASSOCIATION

The morning of Saturday 7 July dawned misty and the outline of the Chinook helicopter, that had landed only a few hundred yards away the evening before, could barely be distinguished. By 0730hrs the site was a bustle of activity as the stall-holders started to arrive and set up their stalls. After a hurried breakfast **Dennis Egan** and **Hasso Eesanann** arrived to assemble the special event radio station, GB4AFS. 21st Signal Regiment Open Day 2001 was getting under way.

We, **Pat** and **Maureen Soward,** had arrived during a rainstorm of tropical dimensions the evening before and had watched young soldiers, soaked to the skin, erecting the aerial masts for the station and putting finishing touches to the stalls and tents. By opening time **Colin Morgan** had set up the display of photographs of the Bar-None Motor Cycle Club from Canal Zone days, the RSARS display was in place and the association regalia was on display. **Dennis Isaacs** of 19 Signal Regiment Association, arrived soon after opening time and **Maj Tom Dean,** OC HQ Squadron, wore a beaming smile of relief as the sun shone and the visitors started to pour in.

Roy Clark and **Gethyn Jennings**, who found themselves doing most of the operating whilst **Dennis** and **Hasso** entertained our visitors, were joined by **Jobn** with his mobile station. In all they operated for nearly seven hours making some 85 contacts on 2, 20 and 40metres in the USA, Canada, UK and nearly half of these contacts were made on CW: who said that Morse is dead.

The Bar-None Club photographs attracted much attention and **Colin** had a constant stream of visitors, many of whose parents or other relatives had served in the Canal Zone or in Air Formation Signals. In the meantime **Pam Morgan** had setup shop making tea, coffee, sandwiches and sticky buns for the workforce using the facilities in her motor caravan. Association Chairman, **Gerald Vans** moved between the displays assisting where the pressure was greatest whilst **Maureen Soward** was hard at work selling copies of Swing That Lamp and other items to boost association funds. The 12th/15th/18th Air Formation Signal Regiments Association and the 19th Signal Regiment Association showed the flag and may have even recruited one or two new members!

Arena displays included military bands followed by the White Helmets who were slowed dawn a little by the wet grass but never-the-less rendering their usual sparkling performance on quad bikes as well as motor cycles. Although it must **be** said, the quad bikes spent much of their time with only two wheels in contact with the ground! The Red Arrows gave a slightly faster performance in three dimensions although low cloud somewhat cramped their style. As they disappeared into the sunset, the heavens opened once more, the radio stations were rapidly dismantled as thunder and lightning strode the skies and our display tents assumed the role of refugee camps as soaked spectators sought to escape the deluge. As the rain eased the RAF free-fall parachute team dropped in, hitting the arena with unerring accuracy. In all a great day with sideshows too numerous to mention. It was **Tan Dean's** day and he will be hard pressed to better his own act next year! To show our appreciation to him for conjuring radio masts out of thin air and for going out of his way to help us, he was presented with an association tie that we hope he will wear with pride on many occasions. To conclude, this is now well established as a Regimental Open Day not to be missed.

260 SIGNAL SQUADRON (SAM) RSA

It is 25 years since disbandment
Join us for a bumper Reunion

12/13/14th April 2002, Jarvis Hotel
Loughborough, Leicestershire
Partners are welcome

For further details contact:
Roy Andrews on 01227 264551
E-mail: roypat.andrews@ic24.net
new web page:
www.260 sigsqnsam.ablegratis.co.uk

60S 16ERS REUNION CLUB

The Club is holding its annual reunion at Butlin's Skegness from Friday 9 November to Monday 12 November.

Were you a member of 16 Signal Regiment during the 1960s?

If so you might be interested in joining our reunion club. We meet once a year but of course many members are now renewing old friendships and keep in contact with one another throughout the year. This year will be our sixth reunion and the club is going from strength to strength with about 70 paid up members and about 250 on the contact list. If you are interested in attending the reunion please contact
Gordon Harper - 01302 844246
He will liaise with Butlin's to arrange accommodation. If you would like more information on the club please contact
Ted and **Hazel Hebden** - 01706 842829
or E-mail - tedhebden@bigfoot.com
you will also find them on their website:
www.the-60s-16ers.fsnet.co.uk

LOST COMMS

Anyone having any information about **G. H. S. Balman** who served with the Royal Signals/12th Royal Lancers in 1937/38, is asked to contact **Peter Wilcox**, 114A The Esplanade, BRIGHTON 3186, Australia, Fax: 613 9592 9607 or E-mail: willcox@bigpond.net.au

AWTC, Guilford. Anyone who served here (all names held) between 22 June - August 1992, Intake 571, Platoons 4,5,6 and training staff to contact **Gnr Nicky Cullwick**,QHQ Bty, 5 Regt RA, Marne Barracks, Catterick, DL10 7NP. For the forthcoming 10th Anniversary Reunion (dependant on replies).

Clive Legg is researching into his grandfather's First World War service in the Signal Service. There is very little information on the 'L' Signal Battalion, that he served in between January 1918 and June 1919. If anybody has any information about this Unit please could they contact him at the following address:

Flat 4
96 De Bernoir Road
London, N1 4EN

DO YOU KNOW THESE EX CORPS MEMBERS?

The Royal Signals Museum has recently acquired medals that have been awarded to the following ex Royal Signals personnel

2589802 **Sgt William Ball BEM** who served in North-West Europe during World War II

23791443 **Sig C. G. McNally** who served in Brunei and Borneo post World War II

23733949 **Cpl N. V. Sobey** who served in Northern Ireland, with the United Nations in Cyprus and was in Jordan in 1970 during the Middle East crisis with Syria.

It is the Museum's policy to put all medals on display in the Medal Gallery and to include a short history of the soldier's service in the Medal Memoir Book. Unfortunately we have been unable to trace the soldiers through the Defence Records Officer as information about them can only be released with their or their next of kin's permission. Can you help us trace them? All correspondence should be addressed to the Museum. Contacts are:
Museum Curator (**Miss Stella MacIntyre**) Tel: 01258 482164
Medal Representative (**Lt Col (Retd) M. Butler MBE**)
Tel: 01258 454874

Marcus Chown would like to find some friends of his late father, who served in the Royal Signals. Can any of you help?

National Service friends of **Bob Chown**

My dad, **Bob Chown** (actually, **Ronald**) did his National Service in the Royal Signals in Cyprus and Egypt (Ismalia), 1951-53 (I could be out by a year on those dates). I just wondered if there is anyone out there who knew him in his youth? My only reason is curiosity. My dad died in 1999 and I just have this desire, which I'm sure is quite common after a death, to know about the things that made him who he was. Thanks. I can be contacted on E-mail: MChown@compuserve.com

CORRESPONDENCE

From: **Mrs A.A. Neal**
25 Sandown Avenue
DAGENHAM
Essex
RMIO 8XD
Tel: 020-8592-6846
E-mail: aneal@cwctv.net
+Audn25 @aol.com

Dear Sir,

Thank you for putting details regarding my late father **Cpl Richard Wallace** 6084502 - 2nd Army Signals in your *WIRE*. Although I have not heard from anyone who knew or could give any information regarding his time in Stalag XXA or XXB, I did hear from someone who had been to Poland and taken photos of Royal Corps of Signals graves. They would have sent one to me, but for the fact that I had just been to visit and had my own. However, I did the same and have a photo of the headstones of **Sig Cecil McCormack**, 2339053 Royal Corps of Signals, 25 December 1940. Age 32, son of **Joseph** and **Georgina McCormack** of Belfast, Northern Ireland and **Sig James Samuel Laing Redpath** 2580531 51st Division 27 September 1940 Age: 22. If there are any of the relatives of these two Signalmen who would like copies of the photos I will willingly send them. Many thanks,
Yours Sincerely……..

From: **Stan Crowther**
15 Clifton Crescent South
ROTHERHAM
S65 2AR

Dear Sir,

The reference in the last Newsletter to an enquiry from the Channel Islqnds Occupation Society about a German Signals Bunker in Guernsey certainly brought back memories for me, although I was not involved with the bunker itself. I was a member of 4P High Speed Wireless Section (always known as 'Four Pipe - the 'P' standing for Permanent) and we had been selected by the War Office for the first-ever operational use of radio teleprinters. Our job was to be sending war correspondents' copy although, in the event, we also handled a great deal of Army traffic and many hundreds of civilian telegrams. We landed from an LST at Lancresse Bay on the north coast of the island. It was during the early hours of the morning, after the Royal Engineers had blown a hole in the huge concrete wall the Germans had built. We made our way to our allocated site - a field in St. Martin's parish from which our rhombic aerials could be beamed towards Salisbury. By 0600hrs, early-rising local residents were amazed to find a full-scale wireless station up and operating in the village - a good two hours before the highly publicised official liberation took place in St. Peter Port.
Yours Faithfully……

From: **Mr J. Mason**
60 Asron Road
NUNEATON
Warwickshire
CV115EJ

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a photograph of my Silver Wedding celebrations, held at the ex-servicemen's club in Nuneaton, on 3 April 2001. In the photograph can be seen Ex **Sgt J. H. Mason** 23878554, with his twin sons **Paul** and **Stephen.** They were born at BMH Rinteln whilst I was stationed at RAF Gutersloh. My last posting was with 21 Sig Regt. My son **Anthony** - between myself and **Margaret** was born in Fiji. I was one of the many Fijians who signed up in Fiji in 1961.

The reason for the letter, apart from saying, 'Hi!' to all who might remember us, is to get our photograph in *The WIRE*. A lovely way to complete the celebrations of our Silver Wedding in April. Also I have now completed the London Marathon four times 1989, '91, '99 and 2000, not bad going for an old 'Hairy'.
Yours faithfully.....

From: **Col (Retd) J. D. Bromley OBE**
Candlewyck Cottage
THORNBURY
Nr. Bromyard
Herefordshire
HR7 4NJ
Tel/Fax No: 01885 410373

Dear Sir,

During a recent holiday in Norway, I had the opportunity to visit the War Grave Cemetery at Narvik. It was here that a large naval battle was fought in the Second World War. Amongst the graves of British Servicemen I found a lone Signalman, No.2588496 **Signalman A. E. Sykes** aged 39, who died on 24 May 1940. I forward photographs of the grave and the cemetery that may be of use in passing to surviving relatives or for Corps Records. The cemetery was immaculately kept, and overlooked the large fjord where the battle was fought. The British Cemetery was surrounded by cemeteries of other nations including German casualties.
Yours……

Narvik War Cemetary - Norway
Sig A. E. Sykes grave is in the back row 4th from the left

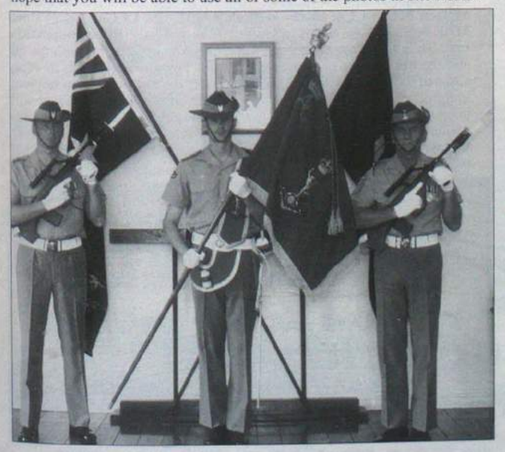
From: **Robert Shaw**
73 Kanowna Avenue
Redcliffe 6104
Western Australia

Dear Editor,

Thought I would drop you a line to see if you are interested in what the Royal Signals in this part of the world are doing. In November last year after a visit to the UK to attend a couple of reunions, the first was the British Korean Veterans Association at a weekend in Blackpool on 15 October and then the Ex-boys reunion on the last weekend in October at Derby. During my visit I also visited the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford, and while I was there spotted the new Bronze Jimmy, so I purchased two to present to the two Royal Australian Signals Squadron station in Perth WA.

The reason for the presentation was the 75 birthday of the Royal Australian Signals and to thank the Squadrons for all the help they have give the Australian Signals Association over the many years I have been a member of the Association. I have enclosed three photos the first, taken after the presentation with the OC, **Maj Steve Sinclair** of 109 Signals Squadron, and **SSM Mark Salmon** of 152 Signals Squadron (the OC being unavailable at the time of the presentation) and myself. The second, myself with the bearer of the Princess Ann's banner, this was the first time the banner had been in WA.

The third photo is the Princess Ann's banner with its guard of honour. I hope that you will be able to use all or some of the photos in *The WIRE*.



For your information I am an ex Royal Signals retired in 1971 after 26 years with the Corps with the rank of WO2. I emigrated to Australia six days after discharged, been in Perth all the time, spent 20 years working in the oil fields in the North West of WA, as a Radio Officer on Oil rigs, Shore base and Platforms. I retired eight years ago and now train dogs for obedience work. Many evening are spent on the Internet keeping in contact with the many ex-boys via E-mail and surfing the net. There are four ex-boys living in Perth area, **George Punnett, Charlie Leggett, Terry Beare**, myself and **Betty Angell**, the wife of **John Angell** who died four years ago and we still keep in touch with her. We get together three or four times a year, depending on what we are doing, or when an ex-boy visits us here in WA, then we meet for a lunch, and invite the visitor. We had one in 2000 when **Don Marsh** from New Zealand visited. He came here in the April, the same week as Anzac Day and marched with the Royal Australian Signals, which is a big event here. This year we had **Ken Woods** and **Bill Leech** visit us in January and **Tony Bermingham** (ex-Beverley Boy) visit us in April, he also marched on Anzac Day. We have one more visitor this year **Don Herring** who will be with us in December but only for a couple of days, but we will arrange a lunch so he can meet us all, I am sure there will be plenty to talk about over this lunch.
Yours truly……

DONATIONS

Marjorie Riggs	£ 10.00
RSA Leeds	£ 60.00
RSA Peterborough	£ 54.00
RSA Southampton	£ 50.00
Revd G. H. Paton	£ 60.00
Anthony Morgan	£ 10.00
David Meadows	£ 1.50
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
56 Division OCA Despatch Riders Motorcycle Display Team	£ 50.00
Mr K. V. Morgan	£ 10.00
Mr & Mrs K. R. M. Fenwick-Beadle in memory of Sgt W. D. Audley	£ 20.00
Mr C. Crump in memory of Capt P. G. D. Kennedy	£ 50.00
Mr D. C. Lambert in memory of Capt P. G. D. Kennedy	£ 250.00
The estate of Harry William 'Pedler' **Palmer**	£10541.99
The Marsh Mercer Pension Fund in memory of Mr H. W. Palmer	£ 30.00

LAST POST

Audley - Sgt W. D. Audley	Served 1948/64	Died 28/07/01
Birchall - Mr N. K. Birchall	Served	Died 09/07/01
Brown - Col K. Brown OBE, TD	Served	Died 28/07/01
Buxton - WO2 R. J. Buxton	Served 1955/77	Died 10/08/01
Collier - WO1 N. C. Collier	Served 1950/73	Died 12/07/01
Connor - Capt H. E. Connor	Served 1960/84	Died 27/04/01
Dormon - B. W. S. Dormon	Served	Died 06/04/01
Finlayson - WO2 S. Finlayson	Served 1943/72	Died 12/06/01
Golothan - Col J. E. Golothan CBE, ERD, TD	Served 1939/64	Died June '01
Hill - LCpl W. C. Hill	Served 1938/45	Died 12/07.01
Hood - WO1 R. J. B. Hood	Served 1932/59	Died 16/08/01
Knott - LCpl J. Knott	Served 1942/46	Died 05/08/01
Lavers - Maj W. A. Lavers	Served 1937/70	Died 25/06/01
Leonard - Lt Col P. Leonard	Served 1955/84	Died 06/08/01
MacDonald - Maj W. MacDonald	Served 1939/75	Died 05/08/01
Murphy - Sgt D. E. F. Murphy	Served 1954/57	Died 17/07/01
Nixon - SSgt D. M. Nixon	Served 1959/date	Died 25/07/01
Pavely - Sig M. C. Pavely	Served 1948/50	Died 10/07/01
Phillips - WO2 P. I. Phillips	Served 1952/85	Died 22/08/01
Raymond - Sgt J. H. Raymond	Servded 1938/46	Died 18/08/01
Scott - Lt Col J. F. Scott	Served 1929/65	Died 01/08/01
Shipp - Sgt J. F. Shipp	Served 1951/66	Died 18/08/01
Short - Sig J. Short	Served 1992/94	Died Nov '99
Spooner - Lt Col P. A. Spooner	Served 1951/92	Died 12/07/01
Sumner - Sig N. Sumner	Served 1942/46	Died 09/07/01
Valle - Lt Col V. C. Valle	Served 1938/73	Died 14/07/01
Wadham - Cpl M. V. Wadham	Served 1942/47	Died 13/07/01
Woolgar - SSgt J. H. E. Woolgar MM, BEM	Served 1935/68	Died 23/08/01
Wrate - Cpl A. V. Wrate	Served 1950/??	Died 29/04/01

Hill -Cpl William Charles Hill was born in 1917. He was the elder brother of **Sig Len Hill** who died in February of this year. **Bill** joined the Territorial Army before the war and was embodied into the Regular Army on 1 September 1939. He served as an Operator Wireless and Line (OWL) in the 43rd Wessex Divisional Signals until 1942 when the 128th Infantry Brigade to which he was attached, left the 43rd Division to become an Independent Brigade. The Brigade eventually joined the 46th Division and took part in the Invasion of North Africa. **Bill** subsequently joined the 8th Armoured Brigade and served in the desert. During the Invasion of Italy, **Bill** was a member of the Beach Party at the landings at Salerno. His unit returned to England in preparation for the landings on the French mainland on D-Day + 6. **Bill** served throughout

many battles in Normandy: many times being attached to his old Division the 43rd. His unit, the 8th Armoured brigade took part in the push up through 'Hell's highway' towards Arnhem in 'Operation Market Garden'. The 8th Armoured Brigade also took part in the actions to clear the West Bank of the Rhine prior to crossing and eventually the many actions into Germany and the final surrender.
Bill was demobilised in 1946 and returned to his pre-war career with a Gentleman's Outfitters in Southampton. He joined this firm as a shop boy in 1932 on leaving school and stayed with them until his retirement in 1982, by which time he had been the manager for a number of years. **Bill** was a Life Member of the Royal Signals Association and a loyal member of the Southampton and District Branch. He was also a member of the 'Market Garden' Association, and a freemason.

Knott – LCpl John Knott was born on 15 February 1923 in Williams Street, Newark where his fatter had a baker's shop. They moved to Balderton in 1930 when they opened the bakery in Smith Street. **John** went to Magnus Grammer School until he was 16. He then worked with his dad and also spent many happy hours playing cricket for Balderton and Newark. When war broke out, **John** was in the Home Guard until he was old enough to join the army when he joined the Royal Corps of Signals. He trained at Huddersfield where he met **Audrey** who, at the time, was waiting for a call up date for the WAAFs, where she would train as a photographer. He went to India in 1942, serving at the Headquarters in Delhi. **John** returned to England in 1945 and married **Audrey** on 13 October. They have been married for 56 years. He took up work with his father again and played rugby for Newark and cricket - which was his passion. **John** and **Audrey** both joined the British Legion and **John** joined the Newark Branch of the Royal Signals Association. He has served as Treasurer for the Balderton Branch of the British Legion and in variety of other offices ever since his retirement. **John** loved brass bands and marching in parades. Only a few weeks ago he marched at the annual service for Nottinghamshire British Legion at Southwell Minster. **Audrey** took photos, she was very proud. **John** was a diabetic for 41 years but he was a very positive thinking person and did not consider himself disabled in any way. In July this year he had the honour of being invited, with **Audrey**, to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, in recognition of the many years he had served the British Legion. He was so thrilled to have the honour and they had a wonderful day. He was awarded the Gold Badge last year. **John** was a loyal and staunch member of the Newark Branch for many years. For the last three and a half years he has been a most efficient secretary of the Branch and he carried out his duties with great enthusiasm. He will be sorely missed.

Collier - Norman Charles 'Taff' **Collier** - It is with regret that we report the death of **WO Norman Charles Collier**, affectionately known as 'Taff'. **Norman** died on 12 July 2001, in the Royal Hampshire County Hospital after being ill for some months.
Born in Cardiff in August 1933, **Norman** joined the Boys Training Regiment at Beverley in 1950. On posting to GCHQ he met and subsequently married **Alice**. They later had two daughters **Ann** and **Shan**. Other postings took **Norman** to Egypt, Gloucester, Aden, Harrogate and Winchester. By the end of his 23 years of service he held the appointment of Foreman of Signals. On retirement from the Corps **Norman** worked in many exotic places. He spent time in Tehran and Bahrain working for Cable and Wireless.
Norman retired from paid employment aged 55 but was not the type to sit around. His hobbies included DIY, gardening, computers and radios but most recently, CCTV and charting the weather on a satellite link. Being a Welshman **Norman** gave a good rendition of quite a few songs with the best of them at social events and family gatherings.
The funeral service took place at Southampton Crematorium on 19 July with the Branch Standard on parade. Members of the Winchester Branch of the RSA, friends, neighbours and family were all present. **Norman** and **Alice's** daughter **Ann**, her husband **Kevin** and the grandchildren **Amirah, Jack, David** and **Ben** travelled from Bahrain to attend and their other daughter **Shan** came home from Australia. After the service all were inviteed back to the family home for home-made fare. We sat in their beautiful garden and admired some of **Norman's** work and his well kept fish-pond and pondered a while some fond memories. **Norman** was a well loved and respected family man who will be sorely missed. We offer sincere condolences to **Alice** and the family.

Finlayson - Sgt Stanley Finlayson joined the Corps in 1943 was demobbed in 1947 and rejoined, starting from Signalman, in 1950. He retired in 1972 as WO2 (RQMS). During his time in the Corps he took part in the D-Day landings and served in India. After his retirement he joined the Carnoustie Branch of the Royal British Legion.

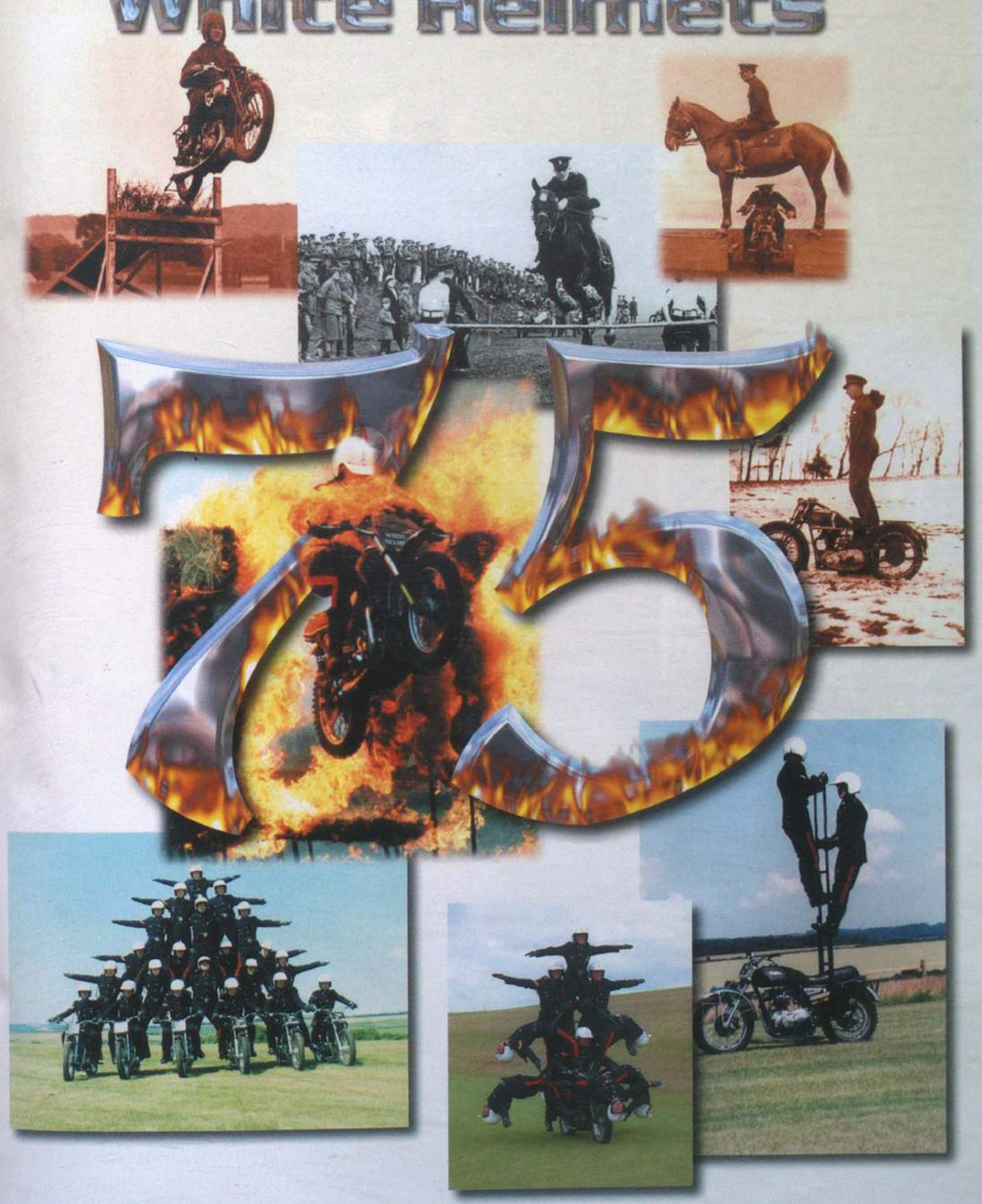
Malcolm – Capt William Fraser Malcolm, who rendered distinguished service throughout the Second World War, served with the Corps from 1939 to 1946, died on 24 July 2001. **Bill** served with the British Expeditionary Force and was evacuated from Calais during the retreat to Dunkirk. Shortly afterwards he was commissioned and served with 11 L of C Signals under those great Commanding Officers **Lt Col Gilbert Metson MC**, **Lt Col Harry Kirkaldy OBE** and **Lt Col** 'Inky' **Udell MBE** during the invasions of North Africa and Italy. **Bill** commanded a Line Section and maintained the Line Communications for both the 5th and the 8th Armies up the spine of Italy. He was a big man in every sense of the word and a natural leader. After the war he took up teaching in Edinburgh and had a book on Metallurgy published. He kept up with his golf to within a year of his death, at the age of ninety, having been predeceased by his wife, **Louise**, a year previously. To his daughter, **Carole** in Australia, and his son **William** and their families we extend our condolences.

PLEASE NOTE

THE COST OF YOUR WIRE IS NOW £12 PER ANNUM - £2 PER COPY

IF YOU HAVE PAID £9 BY CHEQUE THIS YEAR WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR A FURTHER £3
THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION

The Royal Signals White Helmets

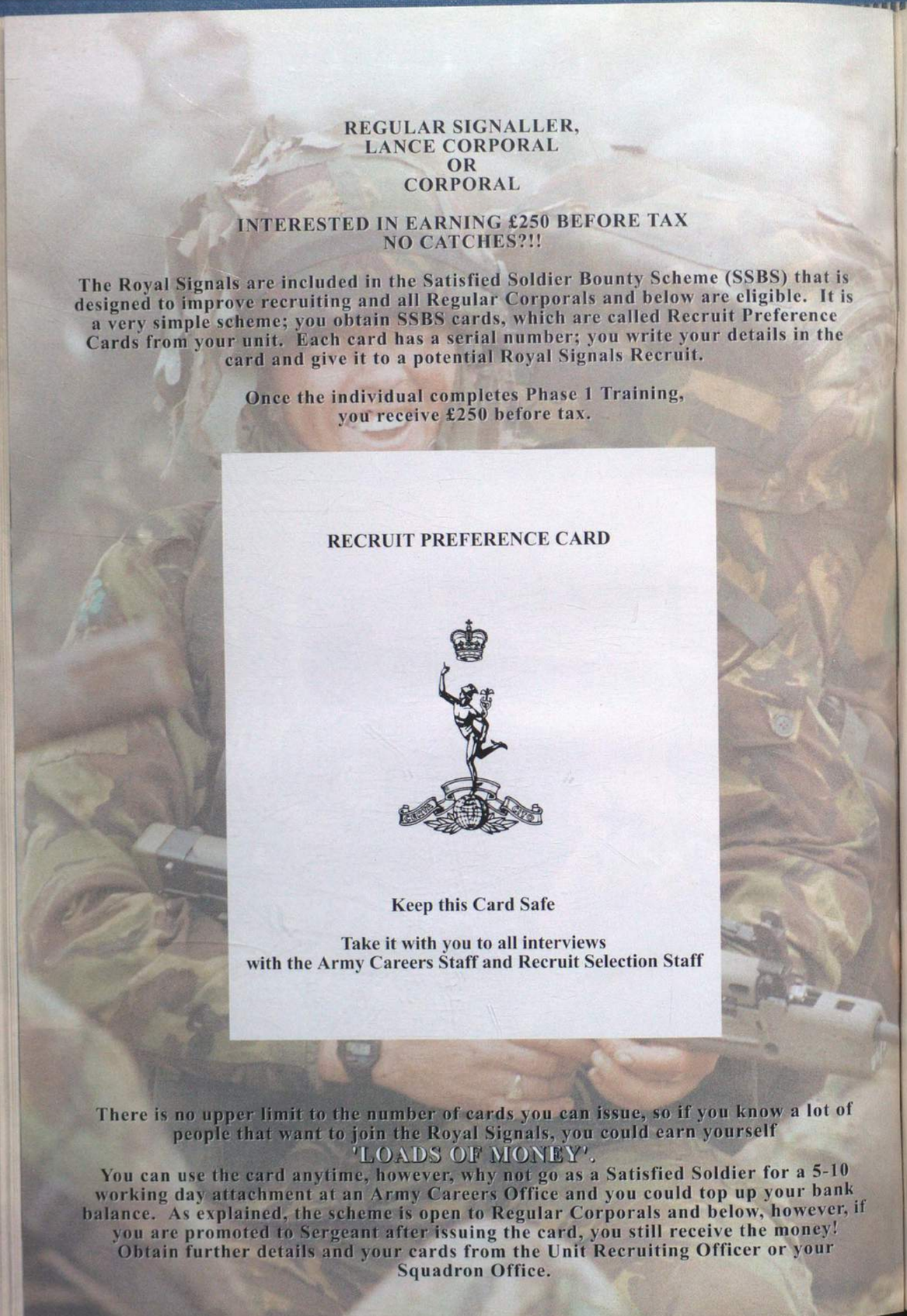


This could be you Nov 2001
Contact The White Helmets
Blandford Mil (94371) 2365 or 01258 482365
RHQ 01_2056

THE Wire

December 2001

The Royal Corps of Signals



The Royal Signals Magazine

December 2001 Vol. 55 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

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All enquiries regarding subscriptions/despatch should be made to Blandford Mil 2087 STD 01258 482087

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Remittances should be made payable to Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Editor Lt Col (Retd) P. Valder
Deputy Editor Mrs J. A. Herring

Member of the Association of Service Journals

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FRONT COVER
The cover picture comes courtesy of 16 Air Asslt Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (216), Crash Team 1 Sig Allan and Cpl Salmon working TACSAT and PRC 346

BACK COVER
This picture comes to us courtesy of The Newark Advertiser and shows the RSA Newark Standard, carried by Mike Wright, and the Standards of other Old Comrades Associations at the rededication of the Newark War Memorial in May 2001

The closing date for copy to REACH this office, in order to go in the FEBRUARY issue is 10 DECEMBER 2001

VACANCY FOR THE POST OF HEAD OF PUBLICATIONS RHQ ROYAL SIGNALS

The above post is to become vacant early in 2002 and is located at Blandford Camp, Dorset. The Managing Editor is employed by the Corps with pay similar to an RO2. The principle responsibility of the post is to help edit and produce the Corps' magazine, *The WIRE*, every other month. Additionally his office produces the other Corps publication, the Institution Journal, twice a year, but this has its own Editor. To assist the Head of Publications there is an Administrative Officer who undertakes most of the compilation work of *The WIRE*. Preferably the post will be filled by someone with a R. SIGNALS background but this is not essential, although some knowledge of the military system will be required. The Managing Editor needs to be IT literate and be prepared to undertake some training in Desktop Publishing. This training will be provided once in post. If you would like further information please contact the Regimental Secretary on 01258 482081 or the Regimental Colonel on Ext: 2076 or SO2 Staff Support on Ext: 2077.

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THE MASTER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I had every hope that after the turmoil of the Millennial period, our watchword for 2001 would be 'stability', some hope!

But, until the horrors of 11 September, things were moving forward very much according to plan. Operational deployments had been reduced to something like a manageable level, with the TA taking on even more of the burden with the ground breaking decision to send 97 Squadron to Bosnia. De-motivating delays in training were being reduced and there was light at the end of the equipment tunnel with real progress on the Bowman Project.

Post 11 September, the mood has become more sombre and new uncertainties prevail. But, with recent operational successes in the Balkans, East Timor and Sierra Leone under our belts, I have every confidence that these challenges that come to us by way of the fight against terrorism, will be met with equal professionalism and style.

Whatever happens on the operational front however, we are keen to make 2002 a year of celebrations. The Queen's Golden Jubilee will be one in which we shall all share and in June we shall mark the Silver Jubilee of The Princess Royal's appointment as our Colonel in Chief with a major event.

This Christmas Regular Soldiers, Territorial and Old Comrades will be as one in thinking of their comrades deployed abroad and of their families at home. Annie and I will be thinking of them too.

FROM US BOTH, HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

SOINC(A)'s CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

2001 has proved a dramatic, and for many a traumatic, year. As well as the recent well publicised events, the Foot and Mouth epidemic swept the country causing widespread distress; floods devastated extensive areas of the North, South, East and West, and an extensive bombing campaign was mounted by so called 'dissident republicans', not to mention disorder in some northern towns and, of course, in Ulster.

It is easy in the wake of the US tragedy and its aftermath of operations in Afghanistan to forget that by far the larger part of the Army has been deployed on operations to alleviate the impact of some of these domestic events.

In all of these, as well as in the coalition operation against bin Laden, the Corps is well to the fore and our efforts are well recognised. 2nd Signal Regiment was awarded the Freedom of the City of York in recognition of their efforts during the floods, and elements of 2nd (National Communications) Signal Brigade were crucial to control of the fight against Foot and Mouth. Northern Ireland units have continued to support operations against domestic terrorism, as have many other elements of the Corps such as our soldiers working with 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion ('the Army bomb squad').

On behalf' of all of the soldiers of the Corps wherever they may be serving, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all of our families for their support which has sustained us during the difficult year. Christmas is a time for families and I hope that all of you who are able to be together this Christmas can share a very good time. To those who have to be parted, I hope that it will not be for too long and that you will be fortified by good wishes of family and friends (and no doubt the odd touch of Christmas cheer!).

FROM LAURETTE AND ME, A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS WHEREVER YOU ARE AND BEST WISHES AND GOOD FORTUNE IN THE JUBILEE YEAR OF 2002.

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

PRESENTATION TO THE MUSEUM
By Col (Retd) Cliff Walters, Museum Director

Author Louis Meulstee, who works in telecommunications in the Netherlands, is well known to the Royal Signals Museum and to military radio enthusiasts. Over a number of years he has carried out a considerable amount of research into military communications equipment. This has resulted in many erudite articles in specialist journals and magazines. He has also had a number of books published much of which were researched in the Museum.

His latest tome is Volume 3 of Wireless for the Warrior – RECEPTION SETS. It gives considerable detail on 65 different sets dating back to the Second World War. Many of them will be very familiar to members of the Corps and whilst not all of them can be covered here a trip down memory lane may excite some old soldiers. There is a photograph of a Sergeant (in BD of course) operating an R107 and Wireless Sender No12 from a 3-ton lorry. It is also shown with a WS 33 and a 53 Set. Those who operated the Army Wireless Chain or COMCAN will also know the R212/E10 combination. LARKSPUR is also fully represented with the D11/R230 illustrated in both an Airtech container (which I personally recollect from up-country Aden) and that famous K9. The C11/R210 and C41/R222 get the full treatment and lead on to the C50/R236 (in a fish frier) which as we all know was part of an interim system which lasted more than an 'interim time'!

This is an exceptionally well researched book which follows on from Volume 1 – Wireless Sets No1 to 88, and Volume 2 – Standard Sets of WWII. We are very grateful to Louis for this research that is excellent reference material for the Corps. All volumes are on sale in the Museum and much of the equipment is also on display. Louis also has a web site.

Col Cliff Walters receives a copy of his book from Louis Meulstee

THE MAN FROM MANNING AND CAREER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Maj S. G. Hutchinson MBE - rsignalsintcorpsmcmdiv@dial.pipex.com

With the Divisional Reorganisation complete we welcome some new staff to the Division. **Maj Bob O'Hara** has moved from HQ ARRC to replace yours truly (his golf swing already seems to be improving) and three Executive Officers (EOs), **Niall Montgomery, Tommy Taylor** and **Chris Wallis** have arrived to bolster Soldier Wing. **Allan Morgan** has been appointed as the new HEO and **Patrica Lang** joins us as the AA Support Trade Section. All in all these changes represent a major step forward in the way in which we carry out our business, the principle benefactors hopefully being the Officers and Soldiers of the Corps today. As a Division we have always been very grateful for the opportunity for our civilian staff to participate in unit visits; the last few months have been no exception. With visits to Cyprus, 34 Signal Regiment and 521 EOD our staff have given a valuable insight into the workings of R SIGNALS units. Not only is it good for us to get out and experience first hand what is happening in the Field Army but also it gives soldiers on the ground the opportunity to meet at first hand the Desk Officers intrinsically involved in the management of their careers. Breaking with tradition and following on from an extremely successful visit to Cyprus this submission will focus on the Staff visit to 259 Signal Squadron and JSSU(AN).

MCM DIV VISIT TO JSSU (AYIOS NIKOLAOS) AND 259 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Chris Wallis - EO Support Trade Wing

The MCM Team departed from Glasgow Airport at 1700hrs on Sunday 2 September. After a long wait and a slight delay at Heathrow we arrived in Larnaca some 12 hours later. We were picked up by the Adjutant JSSU(AN), **Capt Andy Greenfield** and **WO1 (RSM) Richardson**. On arrival at JSSU(AN) we had an hour and a half to freshen up and unpack prior to meeting the CO at 0800hrs - I didn't think that things were meant to happen this quickly in Cyprus. After a warm welcome from **Lt Col Sharp** we were taken on a brief visit of the QM's Department and Support Squadron. **Maj Mick Bohanan** was eager to explain what punishments he had planned for **Elaine Easton** who was apparently responsible for some 'horrendous' postings in his pre-commissioned days. All retribution was planned for the following Thursday and thinly disguised as 'Adventurous Training'. By lunchtime a combination of jetlag and a general inability to stay awake any longer led to four members of the party, **Bill Steel, Elaine Easton, Elaine Strachan** and **Michelle McLean** all retiring to the pool side for a Cypriot style 'siesta'. I, on the other hand, spent the afternoon with the Adjt and RSM organising the following mornings business.

Monday evening was spent firstly at 2nd George's restaurant and latterly at the Orange Grove Bar. Dinner was quite simply superb although I suspect the ridiculously cheap Kir and brandy was as much the reason for **SSgt** 'Ginge' **Dyson** booking this particular establishment. After moving onto the Orange Grove and enjoying some more local hospitality **Bill, Elaine Easton** and myself decided that a reasonably early night was the sensible option. **Michelle** and **Elaine Strachan** decided otherwise and headed off to a 'top' Cypriot nightclub in Protares with **Sig Chris Bunn**. I think the consensus was that the term 'nightclub' was being used rather loosely - Glasgow was fast becoming a distant memory.

PT began at 0615hrs on Tuesday morning. Many promises from other party members that they would attend failed to materialise and alas I was the only visitor to attend - perhaps Glasgow wasn't that bad - ready for the rush to the coffee point chaps! The rest of the day was used meeting soldiers from the relevant trade groups, one of the highlights of our visit. We arrived back at Ayios Nikolaos just in time for dinner. An evening's socialising with the SNCO's ensued, with the cabaret provided by **A/SSgt** 'Super Sonic' **Sorley**, Mr Ayios Nikolaos in waiting, and we all had an enjoyable evening.

An 0600hrs departure time meant a few, shall we say 'overly tired' travellers, headed for a day hosted by 259 Sig Sqn. An early morning briefing with **Maj Fraser** was followed by a trip up to the summit of Troodos Mountain to visit both Troodos and Olympus stations and our thanks go to **2Lt Milner** and **Cpl Mercer** for accompanying us. Yet again we were given a valuable insight into the rigours of life in Cyprus, a sunshine posting it is - easy it certainly is not. Dinner was arranged in Chris' Kebab shop on the Akrotiri strip, where we were accompanied by **Cpl Mercer** and some of the JNCO's from both Airfield and Episkopi Troops. While some of the JNCO's headed off to Limassol the others took the chance to get to know the desk officers primarily responsible for the organisation of their postings. After much hilarity (not necessarily associated with their postings) we embarked on an eventful hike back to RAF Akrotiri, promised all the way that we would find a taxi!

On the Thursday they took pity on us and a much-needed late start meant we arrived at the Akrotiri Water Ski Club after 0900hrs and linked up again with the Adventurous Training group from JSSU(AN). **Elaine Strachan** and **Michelle** were railroaded onto the 'banana boat' and 'donut' before the rest of us had managed to get our beach towels out! I had just sat down for a quiet moment of relaxation when **WO2 RQMS Andy Dick** kindly volunteered me for the beach volleyball team. A thoroughly action packed morning was followed by the promise of a gentle meander down a small section of the Troodos Mountain. How wrong we were! **WO2 Rick Buxton** had assured us that the walk would take us approximately 30-35 minutes. 80 odd minutes and one quite drastic wrong turning later we arrived at the Trout Farm and the pleasure of an air conditioned car.

A quiet final night, due to complete exhaustion more than anything else, was enjoyed by all. However, I had received a message that **Maj Bohanan**, OC Sp Sqn, required to see myself and **Elaine Easton** at 0730hrs on Friday morning and we were a bit apprehensive as to the reason for his request. We arrived on time after breakfast to be greeted by the **Maj Bohanan** as well as **Capt Andy Greenfield**. Throughout the previous day **Rick Buxton** had taken numerous photographs and

produced a PowerPoint presentation of our Adventurous Training which proved very entertaining for all concerned.

We eventually returned to Glasgow on the Friday night completely exhausted. The visit had been great fun and given us a unique insight into a 'soldiers lot in Cyprus'. It also put faces to CR Books and hopefully gave the soldiers an opportunity to see that we are not the ogres that we are made out to be - well, not all of us! Overall a fantastic time was had by all and special thanks must go **Capt Greenfield, WO1 RSM Richardson** and all who looked after us so well at JSSU and 259 Sig Sqn.

(L-R): Elaine Strachan, Michelle Mclean, Elaine Easton, Chris Wallis, Bill Steele

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By kind permission of the OC 238 Sig Sqn, the next RSA AGM will be held on:

Saturday 6 April 2002

in Chelsea Barracks, Chelsea Bridge Road, London.

The meeting starts at 1030hrs and tea/coffee will be available from 0930hrs. All Life Members of the Association are eligible and most welcome to attend the meeting, which should end at around 1300hrs.

[All points for the Agenda must be received in the Association HQ at Blandford by 1 March 2002. The nearest underground station is Sloane Square and parking is available in the barracks (name and vehicle details are to be sent to Association HQ beforehand).]

THE GURKHA DISSERTATION 'THE CALL OF ENGLAND'

SCHOOL'S PHOTOGRAPHER GAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Introduction by Lt Col (Retd) MacDonald

Stephen Olding is a photographer at the Royal School of Signals, an Operating Division of the Army Training and Recruiting Agency. For long acknowledged by school staff as an excellent photographer willing to give his time and advice to create the best image, it was only recently that the full extent of his talents came to light. **Stephen** is in fact a highly qualified, internationally recognized photographer and lecturer who has been exhibited worldwide by a number of institutions. An Associate of the British Institute of Professional Photography and the Royal Photographic Society, he recently crowned his academic achievements by gaining a BA (Hons) Degree 1st in Photographic Media Studies. In recognition of gaining a degree in a work related subject he was awarded £700 under the MOD sponsored special bonus scheme. Having gained a Certificate of Education in 1994, he has also been a part time lecturer in photography at the Arts Institute of Bournemouth. His Dissertation subject was the Professional and Cultural Assimilation of the Gurkha Soldier in the British Army, which was researched and photographed in Nepal, providing an interesting and exciting visual record of a people who have become an integral part of our military culture. The Photo Imaging Education Association of North America and the Association of Photographers have exhibited his work worldwide and his portraiture of actor **Richard Wilson** appears in the July issue of the British Journal of Photography. His opportunity to realize the Warhol theory that almost everyone has 15 minutes of fame in their life came when **Gyles Brandreth**, the broadcaster included him in his radio program. Whereas the front cover of Vogue might be enticing we can only hope that we benefit from his expertise and professionalism for a long time to come.

Buddhiman Gurung with J. P. Cross in the background

In addition to course work my Honours Degree studies included a self-originated project referred to as the 'MCP' or (Major Communication Project), which would be a research subject negotiated with the course supervisor, for this, my subject of research was to explore the social and professional integration of the Gurkha soldier into the British Army. The project examines cultural assimilation contextualised by a brief look at Anglo/Nepalese history since the treaty of Segouli in 1816 through to contemporary welfare, professional and cultural issues. In a bid to formalise a coherent and balanced body of research I felt the need to visit the Gurkha homeland and take note and compare the social and professional differences that exist between Nepalese and Western cultures. My visit to Nepal was also to include an interview with the much respected Englishman **Lt Col J. P. Cross** now retired and living in Pokhara. (pictured with me in Pokhara).

It was 26 December 2000 when I set off from Kathmandu airport heading for Pokhara in Western Nepal on a journey to meet the famous **J. P. Cross,** and to interview the man on matters 'Gurkha'. After the short 50 minutes flight, in no time at all I found myself in the Pardy district of Pokhara and arrived at the very presentable 'Tibet Resort Guest House'. As soon as I introduced myself the receptionist cried out 'Sahib, Sahib **Colonel Cross** want you to phone him straightaway.' It was at this point I realised that I wasn't on his trail, but he onto mine. Within minutes I was talking to the man on the phone to arrange an interview time with him, and sure enough it was to be the following morning at 10.30am. The next day my taxi drove me across the other side of town which took about 25 minutes weaving through the cows, chickens, cats and dogs on the road, and with my hands tightly gripping the door handles of the car for stability, we would swerve and alternate between driving on the left and right side of the road, a concept of good road sense having completely eluded the taxi driver. Finally, at the side of the road I recognised the figure of a man whose picture I had seen in books in England, the modern day 'Dr Livingstone' I presumed. Suddenly his outstretched arm wielding a walking stick summoned the taxi to an abrupt halt, from that point on my perception of **J. P. Cross** was to be changed and every minute that followed made me look upon him as most would, a paragon.

This formidable literary figure, linguist and authority on Gurkhas and the Nepalese way of life, was I feared, about to eat me alive with his perceptive mind and expertise, and me, with so little knowledge on the subject to defend myself. However, as each minute went on he put me at ease with his charm and hospitality. I was quickly introduced to his adopted son, **Buddhiman Gurung** and his wife **Bhim Kumari** and their children. All three men sat on the balcony and were served mid morning tea on a warm Pokhara morning. **J. P. Cross** for most of his military life has been linked to the Gurkhas through his tours of duty in India and throughout Asia, and with his flair for languages he was an obvious choice for the position of DRO in charge of recruiting Gurkhas. The late **King Birendra of Nepal** graciously bestowed a unique honour upon **Colonel Cross** by permitting him to settle permanently in the mountain kingdom, with his adopted family in Pokhara, situated approximately one hundred and sixty kilometres west of Kathmandu. In November 1976 after being in the army thirty-three years **Colonel J. P. Cross** started his last army post as District Officer in charge of Recruiting (DOR) He took up his post based at Paklihawa Camp in charge of British interests in Nepal. **J. P. Cross** was responsible for recruiting half of the requirement for the Brigade of Gurkhas and dealing with pay and pensions for over ten thousand ex-servicemen throughout western Nepal. Within his role as DOR he was also the main link between serving soldiers and their homes in Nepal. Under his control were twelve Area Welfare Centres staffed by ex-servicemen with whom he had regular contact in order to carry out these welfare tasks. See below two photos showing first the Commissioning Ceremony and then the Attestation Ceremony.

As previously mentioned, my 'MCP' was aimed at illustrating aspects of the professional, social and cultural life of the Gurkhas, making comparisons between England and Nepal and how the young Gurkha soldiers adapt to a new environment. For these Nepalese recruits the learning curve is steep and they will be making the transition from a third world country to one of the West's leading commercial and industrial countries in a relatively short time. I have avoided political issues and have looked into the background from which these genteel warriors have emerged, and how their reputation as fighters without fear has stood the test of time. Their reputation of being professional and tenacious fighters precedes them wherever they go in the world, be it in times of conflict or in a 'Peace Keeping' role. The unflinching Gurkha characteristics of wanting to achieve perfection in every pursuit is evident even down to time spent in leisure for each Thursday evening at the 'Hobbies Club' I lead the camera club on Blandford Camp for Phase 2 soldiers, here at the camera club one can see the incredible motivation the Gurkhas have. I'm sure most of these Gurkhas see time out of traditional education as a sheer waste. His hunger for knowledge is insatiable and he will try and try again until he succeeds. For the young Gurkha soldier life in the West will be difficult and he will have to quickly learn the ways of the West and start to study scientific subjects that are not presented in his native tongue. In the relatively short time between hill selection in Nepal and his first term of training he would have laid down his scythe and picked up a scientific calculator.

Pastoral care will be provided by a Pundit (Regimental Priest) who will look after the religious matters concerning marriages, bereavement, ceremonial and spiritual diuties. Due to the small number of Gurkhas on the various camps, it is not possible to allocate a Pundit to each camp, instead, there is one Pundit to cover the south of England and he is based at 1RGR Shorncliffe in Kent where there is an established temple. There is also a Pundit who covers the north and he is based at Catterick. Pastoral care is also given with regular visits by the Gurkha Major to discuss welfare issues with the young Gurkhas.

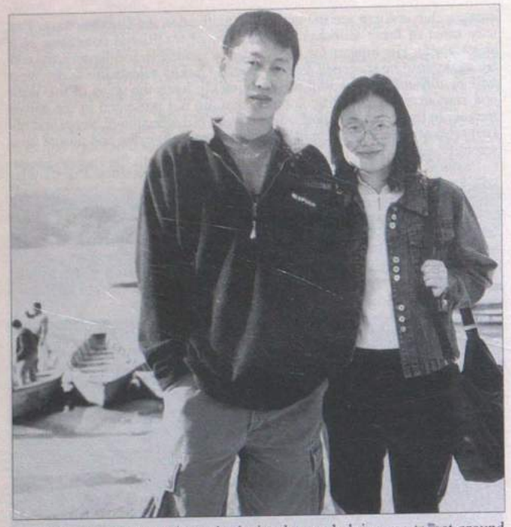
Welfare Issues being addressed by a Gurkha Major

From the moment the Gurkhas first get through basic training they are encouraged to pursue sporting activities, and Taekwondo is a particular favourite. This sport has a large following on Blandford Camp and its Sensei is **Gurkha Sgt Bijendra Gurung**, who holds several awards, in Taekwondo, including Winner of the British Army Taekwondo Championships held in Hong Kong. Sporting activities include cycling, football and many others.

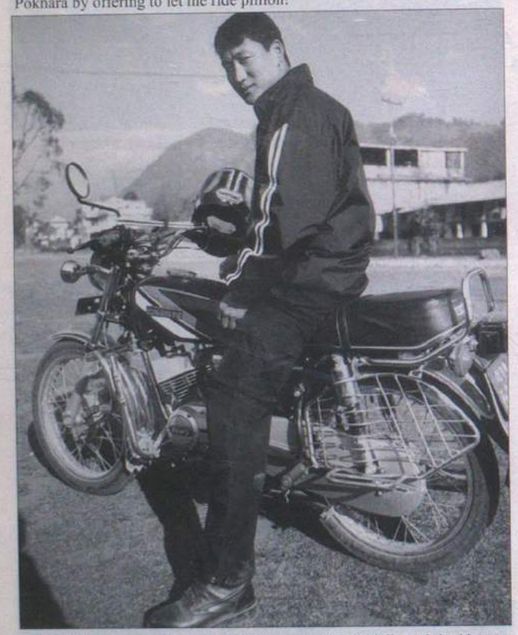
Taekwondo Training on Blandford Camp

During my stay in Nepal while out and about photographing in the Pokhara area I came across, by complete surprise **Corporal Vishal Pun** and his fiancé, **Vishal,** was then a Lance Corporal and on leave to visit his family and fiancé.

The registered Domain Name for the Beverley Boys' Archive - beverleyboysarchive.co.uk



Although he was on leave he insisted upon helping me to get around Pokhara by offering to let me ride pillion!



His help was most generous and appreciated especially as it had been a long time since he had last seen his fiancé and family. It is to this affect that I must express my heartfelt and special thanks to **Vishal**, I understand that **Vishal** is now serving at 30 Signal Regiment, Bramcote, as a technician. The following people have also given me great support and help in my Gurkha studies and they too have my sincere thanks; from 30 Signal Regiment, Bramcote - **Brig Lee** (pictured with Gurkha Major at Attestation) and **Maj Navindra Bikram Gurung;** from Pokhara Nepal **Lt Col (Retd) J. P. Cross OBE** and **Buddhiman Gurung;** also **Brig (Retd) J. H. Griffin** BSc C EN FEI, **Col K. Hadfield** - former Commander Royal School of Signals **Col (Retd) A.Carter** Regimental Secretary the Royal Corps of Signals, Blandford Camp. **Capt Yam Bahadur Rana, Capt Krishna Bahadur Gurung, WO2 Tol Bahadur Khamcha** and his family, **SSgt Gyan Bahadur Tamang, Sgt Bijendra Gurung, Sgt Arkumar, Cpl Vishal Pun, Mrs Gillian Gutteridge** - Winchester Museum, **Mr Sunhil Gurung** - Buddha Airlines Kathmandu, **Mr Sunhil Sakya** - Kathmandu Guest house, Kathmandu, **Mr Bill Norman, Mr Hemant Thapa** - Pokhara Nepal.

The Gurkha Dissertation entitled 'The Call of England' is in excess of 15,000 words and this brief draft doesn't touch the surface of my dissertation but it is hoped will enable me to outline the fact that there were of course many people who I am grateful to for their help in enabling me to gather research material for a subject I find fascinating, I would also like to thank **Lt Col MacDonald** for putting my name forward for this citation and subsequently **Commander Ewbank** and his Officers for sanctioning the citation and last but by no means least **Mr Richard Rogers** (Civil Admin Officer) Blandford Camp.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CORPS CAROL SERVICE

MONDAY 17 DECEMBER

CHURCH OF ST STEPHEN WITH ST JOHN ROCHESTER ROW, WESTMINSTER

1800 HOURS - SHERRY & MINCE PIES AFTERWARDS

ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

ANNUAL LONDON DINNER
TUESDAY 14 MAY 2002
THE SAVOY

APPLICATIONS FOR TICKETS TO RHQ ROYAL SIGNALS

CAN YOU HELP?

A silver tray has been found in British Columbia, Canada
inscribed

Presented to Major J. C. Alcock R. Signals by the Officers of City of London Signals, November 1954

If anyone has any history of this please contact the Corps Property Manager RHQ R. Signals, Blandford Camp DT11 8RH Tel: 01258 482036

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WORD ON THE GROUND - MASTERING A MOUNTAIN

by AT Jones, 3 Section, 15 Pl, C Coy, 263 (Harrogate) Signal Squadron, Army Apprentices College

Army Adventurous Training? Sounds like fun, however, it is designed to push your personal fears to the limit. This is a story of tears, fears and teamwork. It takes place on the north face of Mt Trafan. **Mr** 'Hughy' **Richards** is the team leader, the team consists of, **AT** 'Adam' **Doherty. AT** 'Rachel' **Harper, AT** 'Michael' **Dixon, AT** 'Alan' **Doorbar** and myself **AT** 'Claire' **Jones**, we are the team, the soldiers in training, 'the lambs to the slaughter'. The 'Task' sounds easy enough, scramble up Mt. Trafan. Stood at the bottom looking up it didn't seem too difficult, a gentle slope at the bottom and a little steeper towards the top, so the team set off with high hopes. Forty-five minutes later we reached what looked like the top. That wasn't too hard? Then we realised it is a small ridge near the bottom and no-where the top at all! OK, not a drama, the team shrugs its' shoulders and trudge on. An hour and a half later with legs aching, we are suddenly looking up at 15 ft rocks, then it hit us we have to climb? No decent handgrips and no safety rope, you can't make us do this? They could make us do this and they did! Fifteen minutes later I find myself frozen, clinging to a rock for dear life and I think what am I doing here?' How will I possibly do this? Well the answer is teamwork; the rest of my team is there for my support. One mans fear is another mans strength, as they say. **AT** 'Ben' **Doherty** was there for me all the way, he helped me conquer the mountain as I was dragged from my 'comfort zone'. Four hours later and it was all over. The climbing of Mt Trafan is definitely an experience I will never forget, I learnt a valuable lesson, no matter who you are or what your fears are, with a bit of extra effort and a lot of teamwork you can achieve anything.

SIGNALS MEN JOIN THE SAFETY ELITE

WO2 (RQMS) Dave Inman, RQMS with 8 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn (218) is to receive the prestigious British Safety Council Diploma in Safety Management. **WO2 Inman** will receive his award later this year at a ceremony in London.

In a message of congratulations to successful delegates, the Council's Director General, **David Ballard** said, 'Good safety is good business and can save firms hundreds of thousands of pounds. In achieving the Diploma in Safety Management, **Mr Inman** has shown a big commitment to improving health and safety in the workplace. Proper training is vital for people at all levels of a company, as accidents and illnesses at work cost this country up to £18 billion every year.'

Many company directors and managers are unaware of how big the savings from good safety management can be. The Baker Group in Northamptonshire has seen its insurance premiums drop from £400,000 to £150,000 in just three years and Norwich City Council's City Works department is saving £60,000 a year because of their good safety records. The Diploma is an internationally recognised qualification, which provides domain knowledge for the National Vocational Qualification in Occupational Health and Safety Practice. Delegates study safety law, communications, advanced safety management, occupational health and hygiene and total loss control (risk management). They must pass an exam in order to gain a Diploma.

James Smiley, Motor Transport Officer at 37 Signal Regiment (V) in Redditch, has received the prestigious British Safety Council Diploma in Safety Management at an awards ceremony at Trinity House, London. **Mr Smiley** was among 42 safety professionals who were presented with their awards. They passed an exam in order to gain their Diploma.

David Ballard (R), Director General of the British Safety Council, presents a Diploma in Safety Management to James Smiley

MOVEMENTS

OFFICERS
OCTOBER 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col R. N. Clapp	D/Bowman DPA
Capt D. T. Eaglesham	36 Signal Regiment (V)
Capt K. J. A. Esson	HS Royal School of Signals
Capt G. W. A. Johnston	1 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (215)

OFFICERS
NOVEMBER 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
Col R. J. Evans OBE	RHQ AFSOUTH
Col E. M. Flint	G6 HQ LAND
Capt M. J. Morton	16 Air Asslt Bde & Sig Sqn (216)

WOS AND SNCOS
OCTOBER 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
A/WO 1 FofS M. M. M. McCallum	HQ SOinC(A)
A/WO 2 FofS S. D. Metcalfe	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218)
SSgt A. P. Cheesman	7 Signal Regiment
SSgt P. S. Gartside	280 (UK) Signal Squadron
SSgt K. Roberts	RHQ Afnorth
A/SSgt A. L. Korchel	15 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt J. P. McNabb	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
Sgt T. R. J. Austin	BMATT (Freetown) Sierra Leone
Sgt M. R. J. Brundle	1 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Clarke	11 Cadet Training Team
Sgt A. Davidson	399 SU (Army Element)
Sgt P. E. Farrington	249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L))
Sgt S. Jenner	3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt I. D. M. MacDonald	AFCO London
Sgt A. P. McBean	30 Signal Regiment
Sgt M. P. Pryce	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sgt J. Shuttleworth	14 Signal Regiment (EW)
A/Sgt P. S. Amies	60 Signal Squadron (V)
A/Sgt D. J. Berry	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt J. A. Farnes	36 Signal Regiment (V)

WOS AND SNCOS
NOVEMBER 2001

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
A/WO 2 FofS M. D. Arundel	RHQ Afnorth
SSgt M. Frangleton	1 Military Intelligence Battalion
SSgt S. A. Alexander-High	12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (228)
SSgt I. Conlan	7 Signal Regiment
SSgt G. Cullen	1 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt
A/SSgt J. Mason	15 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt D. Brodie	16 Signal Regiment
A/SSgt A. G. Doe	101 Log Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
A/SSgt K. P. Overton	1 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt
A/SSgt M. R. Eastman	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt G. F. Scott	600 Signal Troop
Sgt S. W. Foord	JSSU Digby
Sgt P. T. Faizey	HQ SOinC(A)
Sgt S. C. Butler	31 (CofL) Signal Regiment (V)
Sgt L. J. Coldwell	3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt I. N. Fincham	RHQ Afsouth
Sgt M. R. Brooksbank	HMS Collingwood
Sgt D. E. Leask	JSSU (Ayios Nikolaos)
Sgt C. A. Marlow	21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Sgt N. J. Snape	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. C. Jackson	Sigs Trg Wing CTCRM
A/Sgt S. M. Sparrow	2 Signal Regiment
A/Sgt M. D. Thompson	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218)
A/Sgt P. D. Hounsell	1 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)

TRIALS SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt James**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Downing**

For Trials Support Troop the last few months have been relatively quiet. At the present moment the Troop are going out on recces. This is in preparation for an up and coming Bowman Trial which commence later next year. In between this **Cpl** 'John' **Jenkins** and members of 2 Signal Regiment have just trialed a field electric power supply generator (Feps Gen). This generator could be a replacement for 8/12kw, 16/24kw and 40kw generators.

In between Trials members of the troop have been able to pursue other activities, **Sig** 'Carl' **Renshaw** flew to Cyprus to train with the Army swimming team. **Cpl** 'Andy' **Parrott** and **Sig** 'Charlotte' **Driscoll** have been selected to participate in the British Army Antarctic Expedition 2001/2002. They would start sailing in Gran Canaria and go through to Rio De Janeiro.

Finally some welcomes and goodbyes. We would like to welcome **LCpl** 'Richie' **Cranswick** from 14 Signal Regt, **Sig** 'Nev' **Nevens** from 15 Signal Regt and **Sig** 'Carl' **Renshaw** from 1 (UK) Armd Div and Signal Regt. Goodbyes to **LCpl** 'H' **Haywood** to 21 Signal Regt, **LCpl** 'Bob' **Roberts** to 11 EOD, **Cpl** 'Andy' **Lane** to HQNI, **WO 2 Yeoman Evans** to HQNI and last but no means least **Capt.** 'Jason' **Kennedy** who is on a CISM course Blandford. With the final goodbyes going to **LCpl** 'Ronnie' **Allan** and **Cpl** 'Martin' **Heap** who are leaving us for the civilian world of telecommunications.

INFOSEC COMMAND NACOSA SHAPE

Comd **Col Peter Parfitt**
Contributor **WO2(FofS) Alex Groves**

BACKGROUND

INFOSEC Command came into being in September 1999, replacing its predecessor ACE COMMSEC and taking on a number of new roles, most of which have NATO wide responsibilities. It is situated at SHAPE headquarters in Belgium. The Command is a Tri-Service and multinational organisation, with serving personnel coming from most of the NATO nations. The first Colonel to command the new organisation, **Peter Parfitt**, arrived after a brief spell as the Chief Instructor at the Royal School of Signals. The Commander of ACE COMMSEC, **Lt Col (TOT) Andrew Robertson**, subsequently became Deputy Commander and Chief Technical Officer.

ROLE

INFOSEC Command is the operational Information Security Command for NATO and it is the only organisation with NATO wide INFOSEC responsibility. The Command supports all of the NATO Civil and military bodies, including Allied Command Europe (ACE) and Allied Command Atlantic (ACLANT). If you are after Computer Security, Crypto, TEMPEST or COMSEC technical support, then look no further. We haven't gone public/private yet, but don't be surprised if your credit card details are required in the not too distant future!

ORGANISATION

After small refinements since its inception, INFOSEC Command is currently organised into Computer Security (COMPUSEC), Crypto, Implementation and Vulnerability Branches. Vulnerability Branch itself encompasses both Transmission Security (TRANSEC) and Emission Security (EMSEC). Above the Branches reside the Operations Cell and the Plans and Support Cell. The current establishment of 86 personnel includes seven serving Royal Signals personnel and four ex-Corps members working in NATO civilian posts within the Command. The Corps therefore has a very significant part to play in the conduct of INFOSEC within NATO.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

The Command welcomed two newcomers this year, **Sgt Chris O'Neill** and **SSgt Angus MacPherson**, in the process saying farewell to **Sgt Stephen** 'Chalkie' **White**, taking an inimitable brand of humour and an endless supply of bawdy jokes with him, and **SSgt Stuart Taylor**, who's prowess at obtaining the unobtainable was well noted. 'No Sir, your not allowed to have that desk, however, give me a little bit of time and let me see what I can do…..' We wish them all the best in their new posts.

ACTIVITY

This year has been extremely busy for all the Branches. Since INFOSEC Command's creation, the changes in policy and requirements have meant new manpower, equipment and especially new skill sets to be pulled in. This has created a very dynamic environment. COMPUSEC have been steadily increasing their resources to manage intrusion detection, virus response and other COMPUSEC issues. This has prompted a move to put as much useful data as possible into a NATO Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) website, to try and give the wider NATO customers as much information as possible. The NATO CERT itself, with recent World events and the continuing real threat to NATO's Network infrastructures, has taken on a much added significance. When it finally arrives, it will in no small part be due to the efforts of **Lt Col (TOT) Drew Robertson**.

The other branches haven't exactly been asleep either. Crypto Management Branch, headed by **Mr Alan Huey** (ex R Sigs FofS) are currently gearing up their Systems Management Centre (SMC) in preparation for the new Nato Nuclear Command and Control Reporting System (NNCCRS), which is due to start operating in the first quarter 2002. The SMC will be the hub of a host of a new generation of Internet Protocol (IP) based Crypto distribution systems. Standing with his screw driver in hand, should any of this breakdown, will be **Sgt Derek** 'Pilsbury'.

Implementation Branch, headed by **Mr John Tatman** (ex R Sigs Tech) has a hug workload carrying out the site surveys of all the NATO nations, configuring of equipment and eventual installation for a variety of different projects. A mammoth task! However, they do have two highly experienced engineers in **Mr Vince Thomas** (ex R Sigs FofS) and **Mr Tim Terry** (ex R Sigs Tech) to ensure that everything runs smoothly. So smoothly, in fact that **John** and **Tim** both squeezed in a bit of time to do some sightseeing in Skopje, FYROM in June, after KFOR put in an urgent request for a Transportable Secure Communications Box, or the 'Tatman Box' as it more fondly came to be named.

Vulnerability Branch is a fairly new amalgamation of the two disciplines of Emission and Transmission vulnerability within the Command. Emission Security has gone about its important task of carrying out TEMPEST site and equipment surveys with it's new zoning equipment, well looked after by **SSgt Glen Shipman**, who has just received a refresher course to INFOSEC Command after undertaking back to back tours to Turkey, Greece, Italy… It's a hard life for some! The last section TRANSEC, is by no means the least though. This year has seen the arrival of a completely new modern Digital Monitoring System (DMS) that has the ability to monitor virtually every modern Digital Exchange. The new lightweight system will occupy the very experienced and capable hands and ears of **Sgt Judith Chapple** and **Sgt Chris O'Neil**. The DMS promises to bring a much sharper perspective to transmission vulnerabilities within NATO. Something that enlightened Commanders have been crying out for, for some time.

Sgt Chris O'Neill receives his ACM for NI from Col Peter Parfitt, flanked by Lt Col Andrew Robertson

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

A NATO posting is no longer the 'cushy' number that we used to dream of getting at some stage in our careers. The overseas allowances can be barely be described as adequate. Travel to and from the UK is a rip-off and the opportunities for duty travel have almost disappeared. Fortunately we in INFOSEC Command have managed to find ways of enjoying life and none more so than **SSgt Stuart Taylor**. Whilst here, he entered the Nijmegan marches, went on three sailing expeditions and for the last two years entered a SHAPE cross-country team into the UKSC(G) cross country league. This year along with **WO2 (FofS) Alex Groves**, the committee member for the SHAPE Sailing Club, he also entered the Royal Signals Corps Sailing event at Dale. In some of the wildest weather ever seen at this event and with survival as much a factor as the race itself, the team managed to take a creditable Fourth place. Not bad for a scratch crew. At least we could say that our capsize drills were pretty slick. They need to be, after a giant gust of wind took the boat and dumped it on its side, just as the whole fleet was making an enforced dash for home!

There is nothing like a little bit of international competition to create a bit of fun, especially that most multi-national of sporting events - football, (or soccer for our American friends). We run an annual tournament and even manage to get the girls to participate. With a strong contingent of Dutch and German as well as UK personnel, this is usually a hotly contested tournament. The UK Team shown below is drawn from all three services, with one RN and two RAF lads combining with the four R Signals men. This was of course followed by the obligatory barbeque with hotdogs and cold beer. So now everyone knows that for us Brits football is a game of two halves, four pints and a wobbly bike ride home.

The Brit Team
(L-R): CPO George Spence, Sgt Derek Smeaton, Sgt Neil Kirk, Sgt Stephen White, Flt Sgt Chris Haw, WO2 (FofS) Alex Groves, SSgt Stuart Taylor

NEWS OF TRAINING

ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT BASSINGBOURN

CORPS REPRESENTATION

The Corps is currently very well represented within Wray Coy with no less than eight: **Maj Rick Licence** – OC, **Capt Emma Bruce** – 2IC, **WO2** 'Taff' **Jolly** – CSM, **Sgt Jacky Collins – Pl Sgt Aisne** Pl, **Cpl Scott West** – Sect Comdr Somme Pl, **Cpl Paul Slater** – Sect Comdr Aisne Pl and **Cpls Andy Doyle** and **Alan Hyland** – Sect Comdr's Mons Pl.

OUR CURRENT ROLE

Many of the Corps are unaware of the role Wray Coy plays in ATR Bassingbourn and, if the truth be known, so are many of those within the environment. That is until they join us on detachment from the other training sub-units, after that it's difficult to get rid of them. Presently, Wray Coy consists of a platoon responsible for the Personal Development (PD) aspect for all recruits entering Bassingbourn who are not quite up to the mark physically or psychologically. A further platoon is responsible for the rehabilitation of recruits suffering long term injuries and there is also a platoon dedicated to delivering the Common Military Syllabus (CMS (R)) to recruits who are Junior Entrants.

THE FUTURE

Wray Coy is to become the second School Leavers' Scheme training company in Bassingbourn from the Autumn of this year and will hand all its current responsibilities over to HQ Coy on the 12 November. The scheme is designed for recruits aged between 16 years and 1 month to 17 years and 6 months. It lasts for 29 weeks with three weeks leave included and is based on CMS(R), but with an education package and an enhanced adventurous training package included. Wray Coy will remain a diverse organisation with a staff made up from 12 different cap badges and recruits destined for RAC, RA, Foot Gds, Scots Div, Kings Div, Queens Div, POW Div and Lt Div split into four platoons: Marne, Somme, Vimy and Ypres. If nothing else we will provide a more colourful ambience to the barracks.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite having less than half the manpower of the other sub-units, Wray Coy manages to do remarkably well in the annual inter Coy/Sqn sports competition. After five events, of a 12-event slog, Wray Coy lies second just one point adrift of HQ Coy. Against his better judgement, **Maj Rick Licence** was talked out of retirement to iron the cricket whites and replace the cork studs in the football boots and, as a result, was forced to service and polish the zimmer frame. First in duathlon and second in athletics and cricket has provided the foundation for us, however, the magnificent effort by our two teams in the prestigious March and Shoot Competition - which secured an overall first place has been the most noteworthy. The OC has developed an almost manic grin ever since, not least because it has, understandably, been the given right of C (Queens Div) Coy of Infantry to win it every year for the past five years. Manpower constraints meant that **Sergeant Major** 'Taff' **Jolly** had to receive instructions from the CQMS - **Colour Sergeant Paul Wilkins** – on how to put his webbing together. Whilst it was all down to a team effort, special mention must go to **Cpl Paul Slater** who beat the infanteers hands down (at their bread and butter event) on finding the target and winning the Best Overall Shot.

Wray Company March and Shoot Team 2001
Back Row: Cpl Laws PWRR, Cpl Doyle R.SIGNALS, Cpl Palmer RE, Cpl Gilbert RE
Front Row: Cpl Slater R.SIGNALS, SSgt Galbraith APTC, WO2 (CSM) Jolly R.SIGNALS, Cpl Harris R.ANGLIAN

Royal Signals Museum E-mail:
royalsignalsmuseum@army.mod.uk

263 (HARROGATE) SIGNAL SQUADRON
ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj Mel Rayner**
SSM **WO2 John Hogan**

With one week to go before a well deserved leave, it is all stations go, go, go! Along with the usual end of term madness the College is also undergoing a restructuring. The four Squadrons/Companies are being amalgamated into three training Companies and one HQ Company. This means a lot of office changing and the reorganising of Companies, all of which will have to be completed before the start of next term.

The Squadron enjoyed its summer bash recently, ably organised by **Cpl Tregunna.** It can be said that all the parents got a good night's sleep after the kids had tired themselves out on the Bouncy Castle and the Sumo Wrestling. In fact **Cpl Wornham** gets a gold star for admin, as his three little girls were seen at the end of the night, rolling their sleeping bags out and getting some shut eye on the grass while the party continued.

The Squadron says a fond farewell to Penney Troop Training Team who are moving lock, stock and barrel to the REME's, Carlise Company (A Coy next term), confused yet? Farewell also, to **Capt Liz Warhurst,** who moves with them. Farewell to **Sgt Mandy Korchel**, who moves on promotion to 15 Sig Regt. Also we say goodbye to **Cpl** (now Sergeant) **Wheeler**, who moves back to his Battalion. Farewell finally to **Capt** 'Post It Pierre' **Farrimond** who leaves the Army next month.

PENNEY TROOP - SENIOR TERM
Tp Comd **Capt Miles Booker**
Tp Sgt **CSgt** 'Digger' **Gardiner** RGBW

THE BATTLEFIELD TOUR - *by AT Perehinec*

The idea of getting out of bed at 0345hrs scared me - and it still does when I think back. How to manage it? I think it was the excitement of going to Belgium that got me up. All my kit was packed and my clothes were immaculately pressed. 0430hrs I was ready to go. The bus was waiting on the Drill Square and it looked very 'Gucci', and proved to be so when we got on it. It was my first time in the Eurotunnel and I found that it was hot and boring. However, 30 minutes later we were in France. The first place we visited was called 'Toc H', a place where soldiers could get back to reality during the Great War. A gentleman briefed us on the history of the building. He told us of the many people that visited 'Toc H'. I could tell he was proud to be part of it. He spoke very highly of a man who used to work there called 'Tubby'. 'Tubby' was a Padre, a person who would confront your problems. The man claimed that 'Tubby' was like 'Robin Hood', he stole from the officers to pay for the soldiers. The next place was a Museum. It was full of objects and peoples personal belongings, which I found very interesting. We then visited a WW2 British cemetery I couldn't believe how sad I felt, I had mixed emotions, at first I was gutted, but then proud. We visited a lot more of these cemeteries. I had the same feelings throughout. Each cemetery had a different story. The one that sticks in my head was a story about a boy who was 14 years old and in the front line. We stayed in a hotel that night. I was glad to have a duvet, even if it was for one night. We travelled to the Somme and were told what happened there. I had pictures in my head of what happened there, I would have been so scared. We visited the Menin Gate, and at 2000hrs the Remembrance Parade took place. I felt really proud during the minute of silence. I'm glad that we remember those that died for us. After this we started for home. We stopped at the Duty Free, to get sweets, cigarettes and hot food.

BATTLEFIELDS OF THE SOMME - *by AT Jenner*

I can't say that I have ever seen anything that has devastated me more than the Battlefields and graveyards of the First World War. Before the trip, WW1 was just a book and a way to bore me in history but when I saw the row upon row of graves and the thousands of names engraved into the many memorials it hit me how much death and carnage the war caused. I can not even begin to imagine how it affected the families of the dead soldiers that gave their lives in the defence of this country and the welfare of the many generations to follow.

BRADLEY TROOP - SENIOR TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt David Farrimond**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mark McMullan**

Once again the busy term comes to an end. However, as this term closes so does a chapter in the history of the Royal Corps of Signals. 263 (Harrogate) Signal Squadron will be disbanded and the training teams within it will be merged into A, B and C Company's along with training teams from the RE, REME, RLC. It is a merger that most of us are apprehensive about, however keen we are to under take it. It also means the end of Bradley Troop named after Bradley Squadron at Harrogate and of course **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO**. Life in Bradley Troop, (AKA, Baby Troop), has been fast and furious. As the name suggests babies have played a major roll in the lives of the permanent staff and luckily not the apprentices. **Sgt McMullan** had already led the way with his and **Rosie's** baby **Jack**. Time off work for scans, ante-natal classes, scans, more scans and other baby type things have been commonplace amongst the three expectant fathers in the Troop. The first to arrive was baby **Sophie**, who belonged to **Cpl Mick Clubb.** Next to arrive was baby **Izabelle** daughter of **Cpl Jackie White** and inbound within the next couple of weeks is baby number three in the Troop belonging to **LSgt Kev McDowall** SG. As well as the babies, their has also been two members of the Troop, **Cpl Jackie White** and **Cpl Dave Sawyers,** selected for promotion to Sergeant. Both will be moving on at Christmas. As well as the apprentices, also moving on to pastures new is **Capt David Farrimond** who has certainly been put off babies.

EXERCISE JANNERS JOY - *by AT Hole*

For us, Ex Janners Joy was a bit of a daunting prospect. We were going to be commanding a section of men into attacks, OP's and patrols. We left camp on Wednesday evening and after an hour and a half's bus ride we arrived at the drop off point. We unloaded our bergans from the pantecs, cammed ourselves up and got on our way. As soon as we set off our trouble began. We left the drop off point and took a wrong turning! **Capt Farrimond** realised the mistake straight away and ran to the front of the patrol to put us on the right track. We patrolled about 2kms and reached our ERV. The Sect Comds and the Troop OC left the snap ambush to recce the harbour area. Once the rest of the Troop had moved into the harbour area it was so dark you couldn't see you're hand in front of you're face. The next morning we 'stood to' at 0430hrs and then had half an hour to admin ourselves. Next up on the agenda was digging in. We soon found out that digging into chalk with huge tree roots in it was not a fun job! We dug all morning. Then we received orders to set up an Op to observe enemy movement in the northern part of the training area. The Op went well and we got back to the harbour at 1900hrs, disappointed we did not see any enemy activity. Our excitement rose again when we found out that we had to go and carry on digging shell-scrapes. What a prospect! We eventually finished digging and got some food down us. Then it was down to the nightly routine of stag and sleep.

The next day promised to be enjoyable. We were to patrol around a route visiting different stands such as section attacks, NBC and first aid. We patrolled to the first stand, which was a section attack. We patrolled along a track and came under fire. No one could see the enemy, which made the attack more difficult then it already was. The second stand, was a rest stand, we got some food down us, had a cigarette and were ready to go again. We patrolled to another section attack stand, which went a lot better as we could see the enemy from the start and knew what options we had open. Our fourth stand was a NBC stand. We stopped about 100m short of the stand to get our IPE on. When we arrived at the stand the sergeant there told us that all training had been suspended due to the heat. It was unfortunate and we went back to the harbour area and were told we were going to get orders and do some map reading revision. After the revision we received orders for a big company attack that was to happen at first light the next day. We then had to write and deliver our orders. After rehearsals for the night activities we set off for the attack at about 2230hrs. We patrolled around the area to our hasty harbour and at about 0100hrs we were told we had an hour and a half to get some sleep. We left the hasty harbour at 0230hrs to head for a bergen cache, we arrived at the cache at about 0345hrs. We were then to get in position ready to give covering fire to other platoons that were attacking before us. At around 0425hrs all hell broke loose and there was smoke, bangs and people running around everywhere. From our position it looked very impressive. Next it was our turn. We ran forward, got into position and we were itching to get some of the action. We moved off 1 Section on the left, 2 Section on the right and 3 Section behind. We moved along a tree line, dry firing and moving in Sections, we wheeled round and saw our objectives. Once the position had been taken we regrouped and bugged out. We patrolled back to the bergen cache and set off towards the pick up point, what a feeling.

We were on our way back to camp to have a shower and hopefully grab some sleep! Everyone else was at the pick up point when we got there, so we cleared our weapons and sat down and cleaned our rifles. Soon enough the coaches arrived and we were on our way back to Arborfield. Finally we could get some sleep.

OUR TIME AT THE ATFC IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE
by AT Gordon

Only a couple of weeks, now, before passing off. I don't really know whether I should be feeling relieved that we have nearly passed out and we have finished all of that hard training, or feel nervous in case we all muck up on the day. We have come this far and it would be a shame if we made fools of ourselves now. We are the last ever Bradley Troop that there is going to be in the College and we all want to be remembered. Not for falling over each other on the parade square, but for looking smart and putting on a good performance. Most of the training has been okay and it does not seem to have done too much damage. Apart from the fact that we have the smallest Troop now. About 15 people have left, not bad. We have had our good days and our bad days. The fear of pass off goes through us all every day. The dreaded sound of the drill instructors voice goes through us even before we set foot on the Drill Square. It is one of those things that gives you nightmares. It has been quite hard to choose what trade we want to do. We visited 3(UK) ADSR last week and it really opened our eyes to the future. It wasn't what we expected because it looked boring and not much was going on. However, we did get to sit on a tank and get our photographs taken. All of our parents are really proud of us getting this far (we hope). Half of them did not expect us to. Since being in the college we have all changed so much it is unbelievable and all for the better.

COMPETENT CREW AT HALF TERM
by ATs Summerfield & Heydon

We arrived at the Joint Service Adventurous Sail Training Centre (JSASTC) on the 25 June 2001 not really sure what to expect. That morning we learned the basics of sailing and safety at sea and also collected our 'Gucci' gear and our rations. We then went to look at our home for the week and to **AT** 'Ethel' **Peak's** dismay there was not enough room for her last make-up bag. We got settled in and met our Skipper **Sgt** 'Boggy' **Marsh** from the REME and we were soon on our way. We sailed most of the afternoon learning the basics. Eventually we moored up at Cowes on the Isle of Wight and enjoyed a wonderful meal cooked by **AT Heydon** and **AT Summerfield.** The JSASTC clerk had already chatted up **AT** 'Sweetie' **Summerfield.** That night we went ashore for a well-deserved coke before returning to the boat exhausted.

The Day 2 started bright and early and we all awoke to a nice brew made by **Capt** 'Doc' **Farrimond.** The days' sailing was quite hard but the weather compensated for that and we managed to get a quick sly bit of sun bathing in. That night we stopped in Yarmouth after coming through what we thought was a bad storm which we later found out was nothing compared to what was in store for us. This took us by surprise, as we had been sunbathing all day.

Day 3 started off well until we went to park up along the Hamble river and **Capt** 'Doc' **Farrimond** realised that he needed a bit of remedial parking. After a few choice words with the harbour master we were soon on our way to our next destination Lymington. Lymington was a beautiful place and the sunshine made it all the better especially our tans. After a quick walk round the town quay we put the sails back up and headed for the channel on our way to Poole harbour. Suddenly we were in a Force 6. This was a very amusing part of the sailing trip because some people realised that they couldn't keep their food down. **AT Holding** was the first to start blowing chunks. **Capt** 'Doc' **Farrimond** living up to the name was looking after him, but he soon realised that he was not immune to it either and started hurling himself. The next to chuck was **AT** 'Hang on for Dear Life' **McLaughin** but the rest of us went to lunch. After several attempts we managed to attach a line to the buoy. It was then while we were taking the sail down we realised the halyard was still at the top of the mast and the sail was at the bottom. This meant someone was going to have to climb the mast and **AT Summerfield** was the man for the job. After a spot of lunch we pulled up in the marina at Cowes to start the long haul to the top of the mast. This was really hard work for everyone and we were all glad when it was over. We were then allowed 30 minutes ashore but some of us were gone for a little bit longer due to navigational problems in finding the boat. We then left Cowes and made our way to meet our hardest challenge yet, the Beaulieu River. This was basically a zig-zag river where we had to constantly change direction. This is known in sailing terms as tacking. After a few minor hitches we were soon at the end of the river and getting ready to moor up for the night. We spent the evening relaxing and **AT Holding** kept us amused by showing us his fishing techniques or lack of as the case may be.

The last day was quite a quiet day and we started the day with a gentle sail back down the Beaulieu River. It was not as difficult this time as the wind was on our side. We sailed out into the channel and decided to anchor up for lunch. Once we had finished lunch we had a quick lesson on the art on navigation and bearings. We then sailed back to Gosport and stopped in Portsmouth on the way for a quick drink ashore to say thank you to the 'skipper'. Once into port we had the dreaded job of cleaning the boat. After a number of hours working on the boat we caught the ferry into Portsmouth and went for a nice Chinese meal. This was after a lot of red faces and burning tongues. We slept our final night on the boat before heading back to camp the next day with the British Lions on the radio keeping us awake. All of us who attended the course received our competent crew certificates and all of would definitely sail again. It was a successful week and not a wasted half term.

SCOTT TROOP - JUNIOR TERM
Tp Comd **Lt Nick Galle** AGC
Tp Sgt **Sgt Amanda Korchel**

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP WEEK - *by AT O'Neil*

I really enjoyed EL because it was great to have a chilled out week and to get the chance to take part in different activities. The first part of the week we spent in North Wales. During our time there we camped out and did hill walking. I thought climbing Mount Snowdon was a fantastic experience. I found the climb all right, although it was quite challenging at some points, but it was worth it when we made it to the top. The view from the top was amazing. The last part of the week was spent at Sennybridge. During our stay in South Wales we did kayaking and rock climbing. The best activity was the skit night were we got a chance to take the mick out of our troop staff, which was very amusing and I was pleased when Section 4 has finally won something. On the last day we went to a theme part called Oakwood Park, which was good too. Overall I thought the week was very good.

HELP OUT DAY AT RAVENSWOOD - *by AT Heardly*

My first thoughts about visiting Ravenswood were not much, I thought it was going to be one big building full of seriously ill people, but when we arrived I was surprised to see such a big, open place. I enjoyed working on the garden and painting the fences with other AT's but I enjoyed talking to the handicapped people and taking care of them most. It gave me some self-satisfaction knowing that I was helping someone less fortunate than me. The whole day was a success in my eyes and I think everybody else felt the same. I'm glad I went, because the whole day let me experience different things both physically and mentally. It changed my views on a lot of things and made me realise that I'm fortunate being able to do just the everyday things as well as being fortunate enough to be able to join the British Army. I wouldn't say 'No' if the opportunity arose again to help that centre or any other and I hope Scott Troop can help again in the near future.

RAVENSWOOD HOME - *by AT McEwan*

When we got there everyone was in good spirit and keen to get started. Our Troop was split into a number of groups and my group were taken to this small bungalow to do some work in the garden. The helpers who worked at this particular house were really helpful and easy to talk to. They were very reassuring as they told us a little about everyone who lived in the house so this made me feel more at ease. My job was to paint a fence whilst the others were digging flowerbeds around the perimeter of the garden. I really enjoyed myself throughout the whole day because the staff was having a laugh with us and everyone was putting in so much effort to get the jobs finished. It felt great when we saw our finished result at the end of the day and the staff thanked us. They seemed really pleased with what we had done. The residents were really cheerful and excited to see us all and this made me feel important. It was great to see all their faces at the very end of the day when the water fountain had been completed. They had faces of delight and it made the whole day worthwhile.

C COMPANY - ALL CHANGE

Modernisation has occurred, the College has updated and streamlined itself - we have been reformatted. What was 263 (Harrogate) Signal Squadron is now C Company. Although the name has changed and some personalities have swapped companys, the Corps presence remains as strong as ever headed up by **Maj Mel Raynor** with the assistance of **WO2 (CSM) John Hogan**. Life within the College remains busy with the doors opening wider and numbers of ATs entering the College increasing steadily. The new format for the College enables the ATs to receive training from a variety of cap badges within the one training team, allowing the ATs the experience of different arms of the service. It also has the positive side of enabling the instructors to work closely with other arms, improving their own instructing skills and knowledge base. The changes took place formally on 10 September 2001 and already the signs are showing it to be a success with the R Signals instructors proving themselves to be of the highest calibre and good ambassadors for the Corps. Within the Corps family at the College we say farewell and best wishes to **Capt David Farrimand** who escapes to 'CIVDIV' and **Sgt Mandy Korcheal** who departs on promotion to 15 Signal Regiment. On the hello side of the coin, welcome to **Capt John Mayne** and **Cpl Davis** who have quickly established themselves in the training teams enjoying the pleasures of Arborfield and Reading. It has been requested that I inform you that **Capt Liz Warhurst** is still at Arborfield flying the flag for the Royal Corps of Signals.

MOVING OR POSTED
DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW
WHENEVER YOU HAVE A CHANGE
OF ADDRESS

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS AND 11 SIGNAL REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS TRAINING OPERATIONS DIVISION ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Training Operations Division came into being at the end of 1999. Two years on, the staff have survived and morale remains high!

From the left: Mr Alex Ferguson (late RE) – Leadership and Management Development Advisor
Mrs Tricia Norton – Headquarters Clerk, Mr Roger Puffett – Technical Equipment Manager
Lt Col Roger Batho – Chief Instructor, Maj Peter Bowles – TA Advisor
Mr Mick Thornton – Senior Instructional Officer, SSgt Lynne Camm – TA Course Design and Validation
Maj Nigel Walker RGBW – outgoing All Arms Advisor, Maj (Retd) Alan Thompson – Training Adjutant

AREA SYSTEMS GROUP
OC **Maj G. H. Hume**
SSM **WO2 Neil Roome**

SYSEX TROOP
Tp Comd **WO1 (Fof S) Joe Docherty**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Paul Meredith**

The Troop still proceeds to give its best in training personnel sent to us from the classroom. The last ASBR course to come through Sysex was dealt with a difference; we had over 19 Gurkha Soldiers (Can we have some lessons on speaking Nepali please?) However, in the past few weeks the Troop has been very busy in preparing for the Screening and RSIT teams.(let's hope it goes OK). As with all Troops we have to say goodbyes and welcomes so here goes: Systems Garage - We say goodbye to 'Shiftey' **Ian Rutland** who is off on his YofS Course, good luck to you and thanks for all your help in the Systems Garage. **LCpl Paul Buchanan** who by the time this is put to print will be in Civvy Street good luck to you too; from the ED Bay - We say welcome to the following, **Cpl Paul Plant, Cpl Prem, LCpl Lee Whetton** and **Sig Garath Taylor**; from the Tech Bay **Cpl** ' Barney' **Bhawani** and **LCpl Sam Richards** and say good bye to **CPl** 'My stores' **Mick Case**, all the best in Germany.

BATTLEAXE TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt (Tfc) Mark Harris**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Dobbo' **Dobbins**

The Troop has had a busy period with Screening and RSIT back to back along with a very hectic training period. The Christchurch Building facility under the wing of **SSgt 'Foggy' Dewhurst** received the most attention from the inspecting teams and managed to survive the pen for another year. Battleaxe Tp has seen many of the old instructors leave to pastures new. We say goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Mark Yuill** of the famed Radio Relay section; **SSgt Jim Barr** and **Sgt Lee Coffil** of FCSS section (**Jim** going not to far away to CPD and **Lee** to Civ Div). Congratulations and a fond farewell to **Sgt Ash Doe** and his wife **Christine** on the birth of their son **Thomas**, who are soon to leave us on posting and promotion to 101 Log Bde. Finally a farewell goes to **WO2 (Fof S) Steve Davis** who moves over to Command training. Hello's are extended to the new OC Troop **Capt (Tfc) Mark Harris, Sgts Ajit** and **Bahrat** who join us from 2 Sig Regt and **Sgt Si King** from 16 Sig Regt. Last but not least, congratulations go to **Sgt Jed Bromley** and his wife **Rosanne** on the birth of their daughter **Lana**.

KUKRI TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 YofS** 'Shady' **Ruddock**

Kukri Tp are busily preparing for that annual joy called Screening and RSIT, and just at the time when you most need technicians, **Sgt** 'Pies' **James** manages to time the birth of triplets. The Troop would like to congratulate both **Joe** and **Paul**, we just wonder if they know what they have let themselves in for. We welcome **WO2 (FofS) Steve Davis** who has moved across from Battleaxe Tp to join the Command Training Team and we will shortly be saying farewell to **Cpl Des Hill** who is going on his Class One course and **Sgt Trev Austin** who has volunteered for a tour in Sierra Leone.

COMBAT SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Dhan bahadur Gurung**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul Parkes**

Combat Support Tp (CST) would like to say hello to **Capt Dhan** and his family who arrived from 2 Sig Regt. We wish fond farewell to **Capt Krishna** and his family who is posted to 30 Sig Regt. Combat Support Tp has also seen the departure of a member of it's Civilian staff, **Mr Gerald Gallagher** who has been returned to Scotland by the Immigration Services of Dorset, we wish him every success for the future. Also a good luck to **SSgt Fudge Mcphee** and Family posted on promotion to 16 Sig Regt. Cable Systems say a big Hello to **Cpl Ganesh** from 30 Sig Regt. welcome back to **Mr Richard Taylor** who foolishly decided that he was not going to remove his services from the Civil Service and has stayed put. Power Section says hello to **Sgt Amrit** who arrived from 2 Sig Regt, they will also say hello to **Sgt Craig Bowman** from 7 Sig Regt when he has stopped Volleyball and Golfing it.

EXERCISE DRAGON LONG HAUL - 30 JULY - 3 AUGUST 2001
by Sgt M. Wright

Ex Dragon Long Haul was an Area Systems Group adventure training/walking exercise for four days along the South West Coast path in Devon and Dorset, staying at Wyke Regis tented camp, Weymouth.

Day One the group, that comprised of four instructors from Battleaxe troop, eight soldiers awaiting trade training and our driver **LCpl Chubbs (Elvis) Clarridge** departed Blandford camp nice and early to the five star luxury tented camp just outside Weymouth. That proved to be a good location in the middle of the holiday season where much socialising with the locals and many tourists was attempted. Once we had acquired our camp beds for the four man tents it was on with the walking boots for our first walk from Weymouth to West Bay. The weather for the four days was hot, damn hot, which was ideal for a good squaddie suntan but not so good for tabbing up and down hills all day every day.

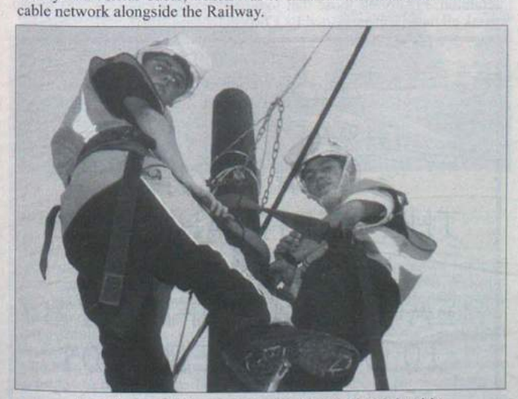
Day Two and a few of the walkers were looking tired (was it the previous day's walk or the previous nights activities?) but we were soon in the mini bus and off to the start point at Kimmeridge bay. It wasn't long into the walk before we could see the undulations of the coastal path that lay ahead of us. It was at this point that a couple of the walkers fronted by **SSgt Mark** 'Doughnut' **Barrass** started giving the organiser **Sgt Max** 'Mountain Goat' **Wright** a bit of a hard time about the brisk pace of the walk. All was resolved over a swig of water and a sausage roll over looking the stunning south coast scenery and it was soon packs on again, Phew. The route today would take us through Lulworth ranges (that were closed at the time) and stopping for lunch at the picturesque Lulworth cove. Whilst taking a well deserved lunch break a couple of the walkers supervised by **Sgt Mark** 'It would look better from a mini bus' **Yuill** decided it was a little too much to walk in one day and threw the towel in. A further four hours west and the walkers met back up with the mini bus crew at a stunning pub in Osmington Mills where a couple of well deserved 'shandies' were sunk.

Day Three was going to be another day of undulations from Budliegh Salterton to Beer but first we had to wait for our visitors to accompany us. As soon as the OC - **Maj Grant Hume**, the SSM - **WO2 Neil Roome** and the Troop Foreman - **WO2 Steve Davis** had found their way to our camp it was all in the mini busses again for the short 2-hour cabbie to the start point. That didn't seem to impress the OC much and it wasn't until later that I realised he had already been travelling for two hours already, oops. Soon into the walk it was easy to see who had the fresh legs as the OC, SSM and Foreman were up front trying to set the pace. Lunch was taken on the breezy sea front at Charmouth where yet again a couple of the lads were finding the going a little too arduous and took the easy option of the mini bus for the remainder of the journey. Then it was off again up hill for another hilly and scenic route to Beer. There were some doubts if the old stolwort **SSgt Jim** 'Are we nearly there yet' **Barr** would complete the rest of the week, or in fact the day, but he impressed with a steady, if a little slow at times pace to the end. Another days walk completed and a very well deserved beer in Beer was quaffed.

Day Four and all legs were now quite tired, but it was the last walking day and most of the undulations had been ironed out for the ridge-way walk from West Bextington to Osmington. Lunch was taken at the Hardy Monument and all walkers were more than pleased when we arrived at our final destination, a total of approximately 60 up and down miles over the four days. In summary an excellent week was had by all and has been good practice for next years walk along the great wall of China.

EXERCISE TOPHAM HATT 01.06
by Sgt Lougher Combat Support Troop

This Year's Ex Topham Hatt saw nine Class 3 Installation Technicians from Ulster Tp, 3 Sqn being deployed to Swanage Railway on one of the more challenging tasks seen in recent years. The Exercise, led by **Sgt Lougher**, included the installation of a telegraph pole route along with a twenty Pair Aerial Cable, which was to enhance the Telecommunications cable network alongside the Railway.



Sigs Kerr and Stephenson tension the aerial cable

The Exercise party travelled daily from Blandford Camp to the Norden Park and Ride Station, **Sgt** 'Lex' **Lougher** taking Driving advice from **Sig** 'Stevo' **Stephenson** who having recently passed his driving test and seemed to have become an expert over-night! We began with the unenviable task of digging the Telegraph pole holes, however, the group being constantly assured by **Sig Dave** 'Your alright mate' **Kerr** and **Sig Mike** 'Local Boy - I know a great place for lunch' **Goddard** seemed to keep every ones spirits high.

As the week progressed, some of our number started to get familiar with the locals, to mention one **Sig Stu Neilands** having a close encounter with the local bee population - one trip to the medical centre coming up. Through old fashioned hard graft, **Sig Jeremy Ackrill's** competent pole skills and **Sig** 'Welshboy' **Long's** cable stripping expertise, the task slowly neared completion. We were filmed and photographed in nearly every position and the exercise party now feel as if they are qualified to undertake in a modelling career; **Sig Andy Cook** being the best qualified for this role! With telegraph poles vertical and the cable suspended and tested, the exercise drew to a close. With **Sig Thomas Veale** and **Sig** 'Phil' **Collins** being welcomed to the local train-spotting fraternity; all that remained was to say a special thanks to **WO1 (RSM) Frank Roberts** and all at Swanage Railway for looking after us during our short time working on the 'Chain Gang'

Exercise Topham Hatt 01.06 led by Sgt Douglas (centre)

11 SIGNAL REGIMENT - 1 (OUSTON) SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. G. J. Howes Royal Canadian Signals**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Andy Harriott**

SQUADRON CADRE SOUTH COAST WALK

The majority of the Sqn Cadre managed to escape the pressures of work for the afternoon of Wednesday 3 October and complete a short section of the Southern Coastal Path. The day was thankfully dry and the going easy, if a little windy. The short path we walked included the highest point along the entire route; Gold Cap at a massive 190m high. **Cpl Bob Lovell** struggled with the wind rushing through his hair but triumphantly reached the top (perhaps a high point in his career). After a challenging walk such as this the only true method of British Army team building was adopted: we went to the pub. Whilst consuming a pre ordered meal of excellent value (**Capt Phil Connor** had a whole duck!) and quenching our thirst without water, we agreed that morale sessions such as these were essential to maintain sanity within a hectic training environment. The day was improved considerably by **Mr Norman Harrison** of driver training who kept all amused throughout the evening with his own brand of flowing humour.

3 (HARROGATE) SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj A. Hoensch**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. Bousefield**

EXERCISE HARROGATE FOLLEY 5–7 OCTOBER 2001

Ex Harrogate Folly took place over the weekend 5–7 October. Under the watchful eyes of the Squadron Cadre and assistance from the Tech Upgraders the Squadron burst onto that well-known training area of Blandford Camp. Following a period of weapons and harbour drills instruction the sections were deployed to the Sergeants Mess woods to begin the exercise in earnest and to put into practice what had been revised earlier in the evening. Saturday morning brought changeable weather as the sections patrolled out and up to the range to begin the round robin phase of the exercise. This consisted of a Pistol stand, unarmed combat with **LCpl** 'Kung Fu' **Reynolds** (the man who claims to be a Chelsea fan but can't eat a kebab), a section attack stand with **Cpl** 'Gunnie' **Smith** and Combat Survival with **Cpl** 'Flanders chicken murderer' **McBride**. The Pistol Stand entailed teaching the students to fire the 9mm pistol in preparation for firing in the afternoon. Amazingly all managed to pass their WHT first time! Concurrently **LCpl** 'Hong Kong Fuey' **Reynolds** demonstrated and practiced on various students just how easy it is to disarm, maim, injure, and generally beat people up. The Combat survival stand proved to be a great favourite with the obligatory sacrificial chickens and rabbits. The sections then set about producing fresh meat, with only a few green faces (the students that is). **Cpl McBride** also let out of the bag that the nettle tea everyone was enjoying so much was, in fact, PG Tips! **Cpl** 'Gunnie' **Smith's** (Of the

Green Howards) stand deserves a special mention. Following an Infantry style brief and under his expert eye, the troops took it in turns to 'bunker bust' up the hill, giving the students the opportunity to practice their war cries, some proving to be more effective than others. The afternoon brought a different tack even though the majority was firing the pistol for the first time of their military career. Groupings were varied, some were 'James Bond' like whilst others were more akin to a blunderbuss grouping! That night, encouraged by a very relieved score for England, the Troops moved back to occupy the harbour areas and get set for the night exercise. This involved a Close Target Recce and basic patrolling out to an enemy location; all skills practiced through the day were used to good effect and proved to be quite successful. However, thanks to careful siting of trip wires and booby traps nearly every section was rumbled on the objective.... resulting in a lot of startled bunnies and rapid exits!

Following a busy and wet night the sections regrouped at the Go-Kart track for a well planned March and Shoot competition (Actually due to the range availability this was a 'Shoot and March event!'). Controlled by **WO1 Chris Naylor,** the assembled throng learnt their fate and set off section by section. The ranges were followed by various other technical stands finishing up with that well-known military activity of combat Go-Karting. Fortunately the weather held off long enough for five of the six sections to compete on the track but by lunch-time the heavens opened producing a downpour of torrential rain bringing a halt to the activities. This concluded a most successful and clearly enjoyable weekend exercise.

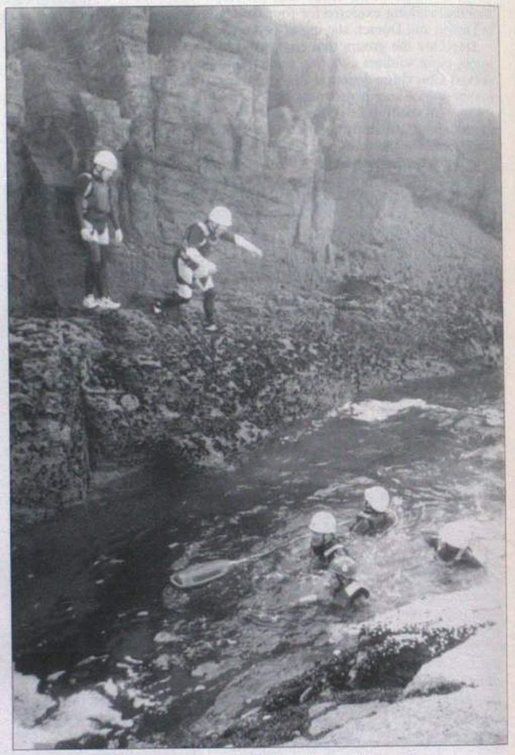
EXERCISE CORNISH DRAGON 2001

by WO2 (QMSI) R. C. Whitaker

Way back near the beginning of the year I was tasked to organise a Regimental Adventure Training exercise for 11 Sig Regt permanent staff. Having recently been on a climbing weekend to Penhale in Cornwall I decided that this was probably the best option for an exercise of this type due to it only being a 3 hour drive away and also the fact that the UK equivalent of IBIZA is located five miles away – namely Newquay. After the normal planning and clearance being granted we were due to conduct the exercise in early May, however due to the foot and mouth disease outbreak we had to cancel as we would not even be allowed to conduct a recce to the area. After this bombshell I quickly got in contact with Adv Trg Group (Germany) and booked a 10-day package at one of the lodges located in Wertach, Bavaria. Again the Regt gave full support and quite a lot of funding to the exercise and funnily enough all 40 places were filled. Approximately a month before departure foot and mouth disease forced us to cancel this exercise also. At this stage it was looking grim as to whether or not we would actually get any adventure training at all, fortunately enough we received a signal informing us that Cornwall had reopened for adventure training, so yet again the wheels were put in motion and bookings made for the middle two weeks of September at Penhale Training Camp.

Ex Cornish Dragon 2001 was designed primarily to give members of 11 Sig Regt cadre a break from the normal camp routine and exposure to adventurous activities. The activities included Coastal Path Walking, Rock Climbing, Mountain Biking and Coasteering. The activities followed a round robin format with all participants joining together to take part in the coasteering on the Thursday. The first package consisted of a mix of individuals from Bd Sp Sqn and 2 Sqn, it seemed at the time that 2 Sqn had closed down as most of their command element were in Penhale. After being split down into the various groups the local hostelries were sampled and much talk about the activities to come ensued. After a reasonably early wakeup and breakfast the groups headed for their various locations, with the climbers heading for Sennen Cove with **Sgt 'Si' Mcallister**, the bikers heading for the camel trail in Wadebridge and the walkers heading off for a 12 mile section of the coastal path with the QMSI and **Cpl Douglas**. The walking group set out at a steady pace taking in the fantastic views across the Atlantic. At the first refreshment break it was mentioned that we would be meeting the climbers in a Pub in Sennen for our pick up, subsequently the pace was increased substantially to a pace that would make pre para look slow (well slower than normal Spike – in joke), this was fine for the members of the group that were carrying very little in way of equipment, however the duty sherpa, **Cpl Carty**, 2 Sqn was carrying at least three flasks and various other items hence he did struggle a little, or was it the fact that he got stuck behind the group of old age pensioners and couldn't overtake for fear of knocking one of them into the sea. As the week went on the weather held out until the final day that was the coasteering day, as booked the sea was rough and the wind was high which made for a good days activities. When booking this activity the company was told that due to the nature of the individuals taking part it needed to be exciting especially as it was the last event of the week, they did not let us down.

Coasteering is a relatively new activity which consists of individuals donning wet suits, buoyancy aids and climbing helmets and navigating their way around a chosen part of the Cornish coast both in and out of the sea, once individuals have managed to extract themselves out of the sea and up cliff edges to a suitable height, the norm is them to plunge back into the freezing depths and then swim on to the next part. This activity was outstanding and addressed all the aims of adventure training, primarily fear management, the sight of 13 soldiers bobbing up and down in a 6ft swell 10ft away from where waves are crashing in is certainly fearsome, combined with this the amount of swimming both with and against the tide certainly tested participants determination, fitness and swimming ability. Coasteering certainly put those taking part in situations that they were not comfortable with particularly when jumping from a 30ft cliff into a 6ft swell; it was just what was required and all individuals taking part should be congratulated on the effort and determination shown. Fortunately no injuries were sustained and everyone made it back in one piece still on a high from the adrenaline that had been rushing through their system – it was a good way to finish the week.



Sgt Tapcey (aged 48!) 4 Sqn – Deep Water Entry

The second week followed the same template as the first but with slightly less participants taking part, again finishing the week on a high after the coasteering that was done in glorious sunshine but was equally exciting. As the organiser of the exercise I was glad to finish without any serious injuries to those taking part, the only two injuries being sustained were by instructors being caught slightly off balance whilst mountain biking.

All in all the two packages achieved the aims that were set out to be achieved, which were to get people away from the normal routine and provide reasonably challenging activities. Even though this was a relatively low-key exercise those that took part overcame the various challenges set. It is a true fact that individuals can be seen in a different light when taken out of their comfort zone, for these reasons adventure training is an invaluable tool as well as having a positive effect on retention. Finally all those that took part in the exercise would like to thank all those that supported Ex Cornish Dragon 2001.

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED COPY FOR THE FEBRUARY 2002 ISSUE MUST REACH THIS OFFICE BY 10 DECEMBER 2001

NEWS FROM THE BALKANS

MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE (CENTRE) HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (207)

KFOR

Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Roberts**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Dean Ewing**

AGRICOLA 6 - THE TOUR CONTINUES - *by Lt Karen Moore*

The pace of life out here is fast as you can expect but everyone seems to be happy that they're kept busy. The RnR plot seemed to end as soon as it had begun but many a smiling face can be seen in civilian clothes on the morning of their flight, conversely, many a dour face can be seen on return.

RSM Dean Ewing practices his disguise for Op Mutley

We've had a few personality changes and VIP visits a plenty to prepare for, including GOC 1 UK Armd Div and the Master of Signals (more about these later). We've also had a commitment to train the Kosovo Protection Corps, a two-week package where they were taught by Squadron personalities about basic communications skills. So, we've been far from quiet, with just over a month to push till our end of tour you might think we're on wind down, no such luck. There's still time to fit in a couple of HQ deployments and a Board of Officers. Roll on Christmas!

The OC gets some driver training

ROVER TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Karen Moore**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Eddie Corcoran**

Firstly, welcomes to **SSgt** 'Eddie' **Corcoran** who joins us from 20 Bde, unlike his namesake, no-one has heard him singing yet! Welcome also to **LCpl** 'Jay' **Preston** from 7 Sig Regt and **Sig** 'Whilf' **Miller** from the factory. Goodbyes go to **SSgt** 'Andy' **Buckle, Julie** and the kids who have finally gone to 1 (UK) ADSR after a long wait. The HQ has deployed a number of times, mainly on Troop level deployments, anyone who hasn't seen it yet can book through **Lt Moore** (although numbers are expected to be minimal). The most recent set-up being for the Master of Signals who visited the Squadron between 17-19 September. The first night he joined us for a Squadron BBQ and took time to speak with most of the Squadron. The following day he visited the various departments and received a brief on their 'in Theatre' role. Having been introduced to Rover Troop we went for tea and biscuits. Unfortunately, there were none of the Master's favourite chocolate bourbons left due to **Cpl** 'Jim Bourbon' **O'Mahony** being stood too close to the biscuit table. The Troop hot-footed it out onto the area to set up the HQ, soon after he left,. **The Master** visited us again the next morning to see us in action and following a fantastic lunch in the field he departed. We hope he enjoyed his visit as much as we did.

We've also done a fair amount of Civil Military Ops work giving out aid to the needy. Before we deployed, a collection of clothes and toys was held. Families from the Squadron emptied their attics and cellars and together managed to collect 500+kg of paraphernalia and transported it all to Pristina - Kosovo. On Saturday 14 July, members the Troop assisted in the sorting of all the clothes etc. to be distributed.

The CMO Sorting Team at work

Organisations that have benefited from the donations by the families include: Health Education TB Project, Minority Families, a de-institutionalisation facility for children in the nearby village of Laplje Selo, Shtime Hospital and the Abandoned Infants and Babies Charity.

Lt Moore shares some food with a child from the deinstitutionalisation facility

In addition, the Squadron has also assisted the YU Community Project in Pristina and a local school in Donje Branica.

Sig Roy Castles with an appreciative pupil from Livragone School

Although the collection has now been distributed, the work hasn't stopped. Ongoing projects include assistance to a Primary School in Livragone village that our predecessors, 19 Mech Bde and other Signals units, will be pleased to hear is now fully refurbished. The beneficiary organisations have been very grateful indeed for the assistance they have received and the troops have enjoyed doing something different.

The OC, Maj Mark Roberts, at the opening of Livragone School

As if that wasn't enough we were also tasked with training the Kosovo Protection Corps, well, the **YofS** 'Jase' **Phillips** was tasked, who in turn tasked **Sgt** 'Gaz' **Dixon**, who in turn tasked **Cpls** 'Daz' **Margle** and 'Ollie' **Olver.** Eventually a two-week training package was devised and through an interpreter the Team finally got their message across, although something was definitely lost in the translation of frequency, velocity and wavelength! Practical mast erecting and antennas went down a treat as did the end of course photo, which we still haven't seen due to the lost in cyber space computer wizardry of Ollie!

HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Johnny** 'Ace' **Nicol**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Sandy Sanderson**

THE SYSCON/RATS/NCC BIT

This bit of HQ Troop is understandably a little confused. The name has changed three times but the job has stayed the same. First we were NCC (Network Control Centre), next we were Regional Application Theatre Systems (conveniently RATS) and finally we've settled on Syscon (Systems Control and the same as our last tour!) The job itself is large for a team of 20 and is essentially the provision of IT for MNB (C). This comes in several forms including the OATIS (Op Agricola Theatre Information System) WAN, the internet system both business and welfare, standalone Networks and PC's and of course the beloved General IT enquiries. Syscon IC, **SSgt** 'crossed water pistols' **McKenzie** is currently drowning his sorrows on discovering that **LCpl** 'Rosco' **Ross** is soon to be posted. Postings seem to be a virus at the moment and we will say our goodbyes to **LCpl** 'L.A. looks' **Jardine** who is off to 19 Mech Bde, the Webmaster **Cpl** 'Stalker' **Mortimer** posted to JCUNI, **LCpl** 'Jesse' **Jessop** who is off home to Spain, never to return from Civ Div, and last but not least, Sig 'Jase' **Knight** who will generally harass 21 Sig Regt. Good luck to you all for the future.

ECHELON/SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Maj Jon Duckworth**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jim** 'BFBS' **Pritchard**

Things in Support Troop have certainly been hotting up. The MT has been Mting the 206 B Vehicles that we hold in Theatre. The LAD have been inspecting and repairing the aforementioned 206 B Vehicles plus the Armour. The chefs have been kept hugely busy with their successful 'Theme Nights' organised by the Master Chef, **SSgt** 'Taff' **Rowlands**, they've raised money which will be used to buy books, pens and pencils for the school in Livragone. One of their most successful events was the 'Celebrity Chefs Day'. The normal chefs were given a day off (ok, I exaggerate, 3/4 of a day) and disappeared to Camp Bond Steel and in walked Celebrity Chefs. Apparently, the bacon cooked by the Quartermaster was the best yet and the RSM's porridge was unsurpassable. Thanks to all who assisted in the chefing for giving up their own time to allow the chefs some down time. Last week the Unit was subject to an LSI and this week has been Board of Officers in preparation for our return. There has, however, been some time for members of the Troop to participate in a number of sporting activities: **SSgt** 'Jim' **Pritchard** won the 'pole smoking' with no competition from anyone else, **Sgt** 'Poodle' **Lister** is his nearest contender and is in training at the moment doing plenty Egyptian PT. **LCpl** 'Kate' **Hopkinson's** volleyball team 'Kate's Kittens' are also doing well in the inter-troop competition.

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

XV

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND AND 15 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col M. P. Llewellyn OBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) McNaught**

Since the last edition of *The WIRE* the Regimental programme has been packed with visits, sporting competitions, the CO's Cup Competition and various exercises, including one for the wives. This busy period has ensured that the new comers to RHQ, the Regt 2IC **Maj Alan Stringer**, the Adjt **Capt Katy Caie** and the RCMO **Capt Al Jenkins** have had to put their desk driving skills to the test.

CO'S CUP SHOOTING COMPETITION
30 AUGUST 2001

The CO's Cup shooting competition took place at Ballykinler Training Centre on 30 August 2001. The first team away was HQ Sqn followed by 225 Sig Sqn, and bringing up the rear was 233 Sig Sqn. 225 Sig Sqn began the morning with a fire team assessment, a 500m run in three minutes with all males carrying 25lbs and females carrying 20lbs, helmet and Combat Body Armour. A two-minute interval was given to the teams prior to firing to organise the two fire teams in an advance to contact formation from the 350m point. 233 Sig Sqn won this part of the competition followed closely by 225 Sig Sqn and then HQ Sqn. Next was the Advanced Pistol shoot and Anti Body Armour Shoot, 225 Sig Sqn proved themselves the more accurate shots with the 9mm Browning winning this event comfortably. **Cpl Mark Warburton** went some way to save face by shooting a figure 11 target in half as it turned, Clint Eastwood eat your heart out. The shotgun event was very close with HQ Sqn gaining top marks on 80- hits, 225 Sig Sqn with 79 and 233 Sig Sqn with 78. Team Leader **SSgt Tony Dodds** got himself into a big fluster, forgetting to release his safety catch 4 times, which made us all laugh…not. **Cpl Rod** 'Eagle Eye' **Rouchy**, not being put off by the rain in the slightest put in a very credible shoot matched only by team member **Capt Paul** 'Swift Arm, Dirty Harry' **Griffiths**. Then came a moving target shoot, again scoring quite close, with 233 Sig Sqn winning and the other two Squadrons coming joint second. The Commanding Officer presented medals to all of the members of the competing teams (The Regimental PRI must be bursting at the seams). The gold medals were presented to 225 Sig Sqn, with Silver and Bronze going to 233 Sig Sqn and HQ Sqn respectively. The trophy was presented to and gratefully received by the youngest team member, **Cpl** 'Olly' **Gray**. It was promptly buffed up and replaced for the third year running back in 225 Sig Sqn's bulging trophy cabinet. Better luck next year 233! The winning team consisted of **Capt Griffiths, SSgt Dodds, Cpl Gray, Cpl Haywood, Cpl Rouchy, Cpl Senior, Cpl Warburton** and **LCpl McPhee.**

CO'S REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL COMPETITION
13 SEPTEMBER 2001 - *by Sgt Simpson*

On a bright sunny afternoon the members of 15 Sig Regt gathered in Thiepval Barracks to contest the annual CO's cup football competition. The opening event saw 233 pitched against 225 Signal Sqn and a hard fought battle saw 225 take their one and only chance and scored from a corner straight into the squadron goal. Despite a late rally by 233, they could not break down the opposition's 11-man defence that was marshalled by a determined **SSgt Dave Wilson.**

The second match saw HQ Sqn play 225 Sig Sqn. In a one sided affair, a confident 225 dominated the match, scoring two goals in each half. **Sgt Steve Anderson's** elderly HQ Sqn team began to suffer in the second half and only a vintage display by **WO1 (RSM) McNaught** in the heart of the HQ Sqn defence kept the scores respectable, the final result being a 4-0 victory to 225 Sig Sqn. The final match of the competition was the wooden spoon match between 233 and HQ Sqn. Well refereed by **SSgt Lee Carsley** and **Sgt** 'Buck' **Rogers** (AKA The teletubbies), 233 started to produce some excellent football, with **SSgt** 'Icky' **Gratrick** ruling the midfield and producing some excellent through balls for the squadrons striker **SSgt** 'Alex' **Alexander High**. Although he had plenty of chances to score, he chose the more difficult option of missing. Once the RSM had been substituted (after five minutes), 233 stepped up a gear, much to the delight of a large travelling support from the squadron. At half time the 0-0 scoreline flattered HQ Sqn, a few choice words from **Sgt** 'Harry' **Harris** and 233 came out all guns blazing, and scored an excellent goal mid way through the second half. This inspired **WO2 (SSM) Steele** to begin HQ's fight back, and the midfield tussle between him and **SSgt** 'Icky' **Gratrick** proved to be one of the best of the competition.

A further goal for 233 put them 2-0 up and they began to sit back on their laurels. HQ Sqn quickly punished with a counter-attack that produced an excellent goal and inspired a period of sustained pressure that they hoped would produce the equaliser. However, the fight back was too late and with HQ Sqn now playing like the competition winners the final whistle was blown and once again had to settle for third place. The Regiment then retired to the hospitality of **Sgt Mann's** Peake Inn for the competition prize giving. The trophy was presented to 225 Sig Sqn as the competition winners. This victory for 225 Sig Sqn has stopped 233 from the predicted sporting white wash that the CO's cup competition was in danger of becoming. A special mention must go to **Sgt** 'Drew' **Drewitt** from HQ Sqn who spent the two matches running around and failed to touch the ball once.

THE BIG BREW UP - 20 SEPTEMBER 2001

On 20 September 2001, 225 Sig Sqn opened its doors to SSAFA for the annual 'Big Brew Up,' the order of the day 'to raise money for SSAFA by drinking tea.' The attending personnel were asked to pay £1 which would buy them a hot cup of tea or coffee, and a sticky bun. Our guests included SSAFA (NI) key personnel who were happy to escape from Belfast for the morning. At 1030hrs a photo call was held and all those attending were gathered together along with the Regt UWO **Capt Dickson** and **WO1 (RSM) McNaught**. This gathering was for a photograph for 'Soldier Magazine' (look out for that one); the RSM waits with baited breath for his inclusion in Soldier Magazine pouring tea. Although the money raised was not in the millions, the £150 that we did generate from the sale of tea and buns was greatly received by SSAFA, a fun-filled morning was had by most but the others had to go back to work… Thanks must go to **WO2 (SSM)** 'Buy a bun now' **Thorne** and **Sgt** 'It worked out in the end' **Bolton** who brought the whole thing together. **WO2 (SSM) Thorne** even put up some tents! (Oh yes he did…).

'Anyone for a cuppa?' Brew Boy - Capt Steve Dickson pouring over SSAFA key personnel

SOINC(A) VISIT 3-5 OCTOBER 2001

The SOinC (A) and **Mrs L. Burton** visited Northern Ireland for three days, this kept the RSM out of trouble in the weeks prior to the event as he wrote and re-wrote the visit programme numerous times. Fortunately the action packed visit programme went as smoothly as any programme does, with only minor alterations to timings on the day. This started with the arrival flight that landed ten minutes late. Met by the Adjt, **Capt Katy Caie,** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) McNaught**, the programme started in earnest with the SOinC(A) receiving briefings from G6, and then visiting HQ Sqn and 233 Sig Sqn, the first day was then rounded off with a dinner at the CO's house.

Day Two brought a visit to both 218 and 203 Sig Sqns, thankfully the weather held off and with no leaves on the track or rain spots on the windshield, the Puma for the day, successfully 'taxied' the visitors from A to B. One part of this day included presenting the prizes at the 'Mercury Cup' March and Shoot organised by 203 Sig Sqn. It is therefore not surprising that they eventually won the day. It was however a very close call, both 208 and 203 Sig Sqn were tied prior to the March, but instead of the March acting as the decisive contest, it only complicated matters when both teams tied exactly on time – impossible I hear you say, but true. Therefore the result was decided in the Shoot and this is where 203 Sig Sqn clinched the prize, with 208 and 233 Sig Sqn taking second and third place respectively. More detail will not be covered, as I am sure 203 Sig Sqn can and will blow their own trumpet better than I can. To remain in theme, this day finished in the Lisburn Officers Mess with a Ladies Dinner Night; with pipers kindly provided by CO 40 Sig Regt (V).

With many a sore head, (though the SOinC(A) and the CO did not seem to suffer), the final day of the visit had the SOinC(A) visit 203 Sig Sqn, JCU (NI),321 EOD Sqn (RLC) and our own very special 225 Sig Sqn, and this time, not finished by a boozy evening but split by a lunch in the WO and Sgts Mess, hosted by the RSM. However, just so that the day did not end in an anticlimax, it ended very rapidly when it was realised that the SOinC(A)'s return flight was 45minutes earlier than expected. This time instead of helicopters the SOinC(A) with the Corps RSM in hot pursuit, 'flew' (without breaking any speed limits) to the airport with 20 minutes to spare. Well done to the drivers!

It was 3 October 2001 a Wednesday afternoon and I was sat at the Tx desk in the COMMCEN with **LCpl** 'Daz' **Barrett**. This was no ordinary afternoon the COMMCEN was spotless (not a paper shred in site). The time was 1430hrs and we were waiting for the SOinC(A), **Brig Burton,** to arrive. True to form he arrived on time at 1510hrs! Due to the size of his entourage it was doubtful that we would all be able to fit into our small COMMCEN, but somehow we all did with room to spare. **SSgt Karen Ripley, Sgt Steve Anderson** and **Cpl** 'Jeffers' **Ford** delivered well-rehearsed speeches. Then **Cpl Ford** skilfully showed the SOinC(A) around the COMMCEN given him a full brief on AMSCERPs and each of the positions. The SOinC(A) spoke to all the soldiers who had been chosen from a cast of thousands (well 20 anyway) on shift that day. The SOinC(A) showed a genuine interest in each soldier's thoughts and careers. **Sig** 'Chris' **Newbold** was given extra special attention due to him being a Radio Relay employed within a busy COMMCEN. Once it was time for the SOinC(A) to depart farewells were exchanged and he thanked all concerned for their time. Some of the newer soldiers were left with a better understanding that the hierarchy really does show a genuine interest in the careers, even at his level. Overall the visit went without mishap or crisis and we let out a sigh of relief. Can't wait until the next one. Honest!

Thanks must go to all those who had a part to play in the successful

SOinC(A) and Cpl 'Baz' Hopgood.'
…..and that Sir, is how you win at Solitaire.'

visit for both the **SOinC (A)** and **Mrs Burton** who both seemed to enjoy their stay. **Mrs Carol Llewellyn** must be given a Gold Star for not only hosting and catering for the visit in her home but for her intrepid deployment onto Ex Dragon's Recon the day after the **SOinC(A)** and **Mrs Burton** left.

EXERCISE DRAGON'S RECON 6-7 OCTOBER 2001
by Sgt Drewett

Around one of the many meeting tables that adorn 15 Sig Regt, a decision was made to allow the wives the chance of taking part in a weekend of activities to give them an idea of what their spouses got up to. The date was set and all that was needed was some willing volunteers to take up the challenge. After much shoulder sloping and dodging **Capt Steve** 'Big Cuffs' **Dickson, WO2 (SSM)** 'Huge Cuffs' **Steel, SSgt** 'Icky' **Gratrick, Cpl Danny** 'Lambchop' **Pearson** and myself were the chosen men. So, on one fine October morning around 9 o'clock we all gathered

in anticipation for wives/spouses/partners and anyone else that looked lost. Nine ladies arrived for the weekend, and after the initial brief they loaded their clanking bergans onto the chariot that had been provided. A gentle and carefree journey to Ballykinler, which can only be understood properly if you sit in a cupboard and turn the light off while someone bangs on the door for an hour! Once they had changed into their husbands worst fitting combats the wives, whom we shall name and shame at the end, were taken to the 25m range to indulge in the art of turning live rounds into empty cases. At the same time as this activity was running, they also had a go on the shotguns courtesy of The Trappers Shotgun Club and an introduction to rations by **Capt Steve** 'Big Cuffs' **Dickson** himself. After they had completed the morning's periods they moved to the Troop shelter to engage in the long lost art of 'basha building', led superbly by **WO2 (SSM)** 'Huge Cuffs' **Steel.** Once they had learned how to make a hotel in the woods, we moved them to the Demolitions area for what can only be described as a teeth rattling presentation by 321 EOD RLC.

The time had come for the ladies to eat and drink and make their

'Who let the women drive?'
(L-R): Carol Llewellyn, Cindy Cathrew, Dawn Davis, Angela Rouchy, Jackie Walsh, Christy Robinson, Paula Carrington, Tina Peel, Jo Storm

home, so off to the woods they went. After a short time and many profanities, they emerged all the better for getting some hot food and a brew. Just in time to go off and play hide and seek with 'big and huge cuffs'. Oh how we laughed, at the various states of cam and concealment that would have made most of the instructors' turn into jellies! The only thing left to do before it got too dark was to light some cylumes to show the now tired and hungry ladies how to find their bashas when night came. All too soon the dawn had arrived and it was a slightly less cheerful crowd that welcomed the instructors to begin the final day's fun and games. A morning of command tasks, search and observation lessons was greeted with the same enthusiasm as the ladies had shown the previous day. To round things off we let them move back to Lisburn in the minibus so they could see where they had been for the last 36 hours, (how nice we are).

So the ladies arrived back safely in The Peake Inn for a feast laid on by the Sandhurst Restaurant. All that remained was for the CO to present the certificates to those that had taken part, and of course for the husbands to be bored stiff with all the war stories that their wives had brought back with them. To all those that helped in the set-up and running of this weekend and the list is very long, but the beer call is coming so here goes, **SSgt** 'Pedro' **O'Brien**, **Sgts Rog Bradley**, 'Smudge' **Smith**, **Micky Mann** and **Debbie** (Pedros's Sidekick) **McKinley**, **Cpl Danny** 'Lambchop' **Pearson**, and of course the ladies: **Tina Peel**, **Jackie Walsh**, **Jo Storm**, **Christy Robinson**, **Cindy Cathrew**, **Paula Carrington**, **Dawn Davies**, **Carol Llewellyn** and last but not least **Angela Rouchy**. When the idea first came up, I thought it might be a 'jiff job' however, thanks to the support that we had setting up and running this adventure it was with out doubt one of the best laughs I have had in a long time. To all those that escaped being named, well done! To all those that helped many thanks, without your help and understanding weekends like this would go the way of the DoDo.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON.
Sqn Comd **Maj D. T. H. Wilson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) G. Steel**

It has been a busy few months for the Squadron, continuing to support the Regiment over the busy Marching Season. In the CO's Cup competition the Squadron came a credible third in both the march and shoot and the football.

MOTOR TRANSPORT TROOP
MT SSgt **SSgt P. O'Brien**

PORT TRAINING 5-7 SEPTEMBER 2001
by LCpl Jones

It was an early start on Wednesday, with everybody meeting at the armoury to collect the weapons. There was an air of uncertainty about what to expect from the PORT package with lots of different rumours flying around as what we would actually be doing. As we got to Magilligan Training Area we saw that the DS had already pre-booked the rain clouds. We had plenty of time to look around, get changed into CS95, and square our admin away. The block was adequate, apart from the showers that were obviously there just for show. Next we were briefed on the programme for the rest of the day and what was expected of us (mainly to hit the targets), before being split down into three sections. I was placed into 3 Section, with **Cpl** 'Stef' **Crouchman** as section commander. Looking around at the section I was quietly confident that we were in a strong position to do well. The rest of the day consisted of revision on WHT's and section battle drills. The day's programme finished with an interesting brief from the RUC's Regional Support Unit, who talked to us about their role and passed around some of the weaponry and equipment they use. This put some smiles on the tired faces of the lads as they got their hands on HK-G3 7.62, plus shot guns etc. After a long day the lads had just enough energy to make it to the NAAFI for a couple of quiet beers, while watching England beat Albania 2–0. **WO1 (RSM) McNaught** was not so happy with his team's performance (Scotland), and we hope it would not affect us on Day Two of the exercise.

Another early start on Thursday, with the day's events comprising of a 'round robin' on different ranges using a variety of weapon systems. All were points based with prizes for best shot, best section and of course worst shot. My section started with the moving target sanger shoot, an interesting shoot with not much being hit but we had a lot more success on the next range. On the N.I. Advanced Pistol Shoot, we scored well, despite our magazines being tampered with, (10 rounds instead of 12). The DS were harsh and did not award any extra points and feeling rather bitter we moved to the next range. On the MP5/Pistol shoot, two magazines were issued for each weapon and fired at speed from 25 metres. The whole section did well with **Cpl Crouchman** getting the highest score for the day with 65 out of 71. With the section feeling confident with themselves we moved to the Training village. As the stand was centred on my day-to-day job, I let the other lads get hands on with the kit and helped talk them through their skills and drills, this was a good chance for the lads to see some of the ECM equipment that the infantry carry. The final points shoot of the day was down at the IBSR, which was personally my favourite range. Different obstacles to tactically fire from, unfortunately due to a lack of time only half the section made it onto the range, but those of us who did scored well. That night we went back onto the IBSR in Platoon strength for a defensive night shoot. When the action started, there was lots of smoke, flash bangs and gunfire going on. It gave a small insight into the sheer chaos of a frontline battle, with section commanders finding it hard to keep control of their trigger-happy men.

Day 3, all that was left was the fire team assessment, falling plate

Cpl Rudd receives the Best Shot Trophy from the CO

Sgt Al Bolton assists
by coaching younger members of the Regiment

competition and then clear all of the ranges. We were last to go on the two mile march and kept a good healthy pace for the first three quarters of the course, then brought it right down to a walk for the last quarter to lower our heart rates for the range section. Another good effort by the lads and we were more than happy with our scores. After cleaning all the

training area, we jumped on our transport and headed back to camp. Just the exercise smoker and weapon cleaning to do then the weekend was ours. All the weapons were thick with carbon and took some heavy cleaning. At 1400hrs everybody met at the Peake Inn, for the prize giving. **Cpl Crouchman** just missed out on best shot, with one sections **Cpl** 'Deano' **Rudd** pipping him to the prize. But our section was clear winners in the best section competition and after collecting our medals we made a 'b-line' for the BBQ. I think most would agree that it was a worthwhile package and a lot was gained from it.

Winning Section
Cpl Crouchman (Sect Comd), Cpl Caffrey, Cpl Hayward, Cpl Senior, Cpl Hophood, LCpl Hiscock, LCpl Barton, LCpl Jones, Sig Stratton

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON.
Sqn Comd **Maj M. J. Smith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. Thorne**

The last few months have seen the Squadron supporting the Security Forces annual Marching Season effort. On top of the operational commitments, the Squadron has continued with its winning streak. The Squadron performed extremely well in the CO's Cup Competition, grabbing victory from 233 Sig Sqn in shooting and football.

ECHO TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 (SSM) Nettleship**
Tp SSgt **SSgt (Supvr R) I R Piears**

Welcome to **LCpls Holden, Fenton, Hyder, Mountford, Murray** and **Thomas** who are joining us straight from the factory. Congratulations to **LCpl Holden** who interpreted the no military kit in his hand luggage as don't bring any military kit at all! Welcomes are also extended to **Cpl Patton**, **LCpl Stephenson** and **LCpl Hildreth**. **Sgt Steve Ayres** is off to the Antarctic expedition with the Army for the next four months, surely there are easier ways to get out of work? **Sgt Hopkins** and **Sgt Chambers** have both successfully completed their Sergeants course. After a busy period over the marching season its time to say goodbye to our surge manpower, **LCpl Millar** and 4 RAF bods **Cpl Anderson**, **Cpl Fleming**, **JT Casement** and **JT Gill**. Thanks for all the work they put in during the brief time they were attached to the Squadron. We also say goodbye to **JT Kennedy** and **LCpl Baker**, **Howard**, **Boyden** and **Walters**. However, in a strange twist of fate the four happy Lance Corporals are all posted back onto permanent strength for two years after a few weeks off. Mind you it has to be asked how **LCpl Baker** got on a sailing expedition whilst on detachment. We also say goodbye and good luck to **Cpls Bell**, **West** and **Price** who have all gone to try their hand in civvy -street. Finally, a big goodbye to **LCpl Drummond** on posting and **JT Bradley** on promotion to Cpl - enjoy your time at JSSU (Oakley), and promotion also for **Sgt Potton** who is returning once more to his spiritual home of 14 Sig Regt (EW) to enjoy the sun and warmth of Haverfordwest.

GOLF TROOP
Tech Adjt **Capt R. J. Craig**
FofS **WO2 (FofS) M. Roberts**
Tp SSgt **SSgt D. P. Wilson**

The workshops have gone through such a change in the last few months that it is easier to name just the bodies here. **SSgt Dave Wilson**, **SSgt (FofS) Phil Leach**, **Sgts Dave Kilgallon**, **Ryan Lang**, **Dave Street** (newly arrived), and the real workers… **Cpls** 'Bony' **Bond**, **Lee Punyer**, **Marc Beckett**, **Matt Barmby**, **Ollie Gray**, **Paul Caffrey**, **Joe Senior** (newly arrived), **Ian Welsh** and **Debs Whatmough**. The IT section have been working hard with two people away on their IS Op Foundation course leaving **SSgt Iain Frame**, **Cpls** 'Caz' **Carrington** and 'Robbo' **Roberts** to fill the gaps. Good Luck to **Sgt** 'Spike' **Milligan** at his new post in Balado Bridge and **Cpl** 'Boz' **Litster** who departs on his Class One. Troop members have been representing the Squadron in various events and have helped us to win the recent CO's Cup Shooting comp and football tournament. Golf Troop also provided a lot of manpower for the recent PORT package run by the Regiment. Hello to everyone here and farewell to the people who have just left us…the work carries on.

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt P. R. Griffiths**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Roper**

Welcomes are extended this month to the new **WO2 (RQMS)** 'Boss' **Hogg** from 1 (UK) ADSR and **Cpl Sally Brown** from HQ BFFI. Goodbye to **WO2 (RQMS) Andy Hartley** who has gone to take control of the Training Wing at 14 Sig Regt (EW) and **Sgt Vicky Dumbell** who is off to civvy street to get married and have a baby! The Troop outing this month to Ballykinler for paint-balling was a chance for everyone to 'Get their own back' on the senior ranks within the Squadron, with the 2IC, **Capt Griffiths** and **WO2 (RQMS) Andy Hartley** firmly in everyone's sights. However, that morning everybody got some with many daring charges, always resulting in a vicious volley of fire, the best/most outrageous charges coming from **Cpl Sally** 'Target' **Brown**, **Sig** 'Gunga' **Din James** and **SSgt Martin** 'Don't hit me it hurts' **Morris**. Even those who believe they are proficient paintballs such as **Cpl** 'Sniper' **Deas**, **LCpls** 'Cannon Fodder' **Blundell** and 'Trigger Happy' **McCrone** all getting as good as they gave. Mentions this month go to **Capt** 'Chaos' **Kennedy** for his forgetful nature when returning to the mainland, **SSgt** 'Sideswipe' **Morris** for all the work he gave the vehicle body shop recently and congratulations to **LCpl Karina Kendall** for coming off the Corporals Promotion Board.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj A. N. Walker**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) P. Tasker**

MCKELVIE CUP FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The McKelvie Cup football was held on 7 September 2001 with TM Tp looking to retain the trophy after winning it the previous year. The first game was between TM Tp and India Tp. After quite a tight game, TM Tp came out on top 2-0, with a goal from **Cpl** 'Jay' **Lowe** sealing the victory. The second match was NCC and Romeo Tp. This game was a thoroughly entertaining affair. The game ended with the spoils sharing in a 2-2 draw. Romeo Tp were straight back on to play against India Tp. They won this game hands down by 3 goals to 0, Romeo deserved to win and picked up all three points to add to their earlier draw. NCC then came up against TM Tp but lost 2-0. In the showdown between the two non-scoring teams, NCC beat India Tp 4-2 in a high scoring game. In the final game, it was winner take all. With Romeo on four points, and TM on six, the winner of this match won the competition. It was TM Troop's nerve that held out, and with a penalty scored by **Cpl** 'Chris' **Renshaw**, TM won the game by 2-0.

MCKELVIE CUP RUGBY COMPETITION

The McKelvie Cup Rugby was held on 21 September 2001 with NCC organising the event. It was a Rugby 7s Competition run by **LCpl** 'Who kicked me?' **Latham**. For once NCC had enough players to field a squad of ten but that soon diminished to nine when the event organiser was injured in the first match resulting in a broken ankle. The highlight of the game was **WO2** 'You can't sub me' **Carley** ran the full length of the pitch to pull off a match saving tackle. His grandkids will hear about that one! Romeo Tp beat NCC Tp convincingly but was beaten by TM Tp. Throughout the TM Tp against NCC Tp, **WO2** 'WWF' **Hubble** decided that one of the players didn't really require his head anymore and tried to remove it from his shoulders. He was punished with ten of his best press-ups! Another injury followed, this time to a Romeo Tp member **Cpl Crouchman**. He limped off the pitch having torn the ligaments in his ankle. We all had a very entertaining day it's a shame about the injuries and the disqualification. The end result was 1st TM Tp, 2nd NCC, 3rd India Tp and 4th Romeo Tp. Our thanks go to our illustrious organiser and may he recover quickly.

ROMEO TROOP - *by LCpl Walton*
Tp Comd **Capt R. A. Hamilton**
Tp YofS **WO2 (YofS)** 'Cobblepot' **A. S. Yates**
Tp FofS **SSgt (FofS) 'Bubblebut' J. L. Collins**

The last few months have seen the arrival of just one member to the Troop, **LCpl** 'Pete' **Tonge**, straight out of the factory and the departure of **LCpl Alford** who has moved across to RHQ. We welcome back **Cpl** 'Nick' **Jenkins** on successfully completing his class one upgrading course at Blandford and **Sgts** 'Taff' **Hamblin** and 'Loggy' **Wright** after finishing their Sergeants course. A number of the Troop attended the recent Squadron PORT Package and the majority of the Troop will be attending the Cross Training exercise due to take place shortly. **Cpl** 'Dean' **Rudd** did his bit for charity by completing the MAXTREX challenge, an endurance mountain walk which required him to ascend and descend Slieve Donard, Co. Down, 10.5 times in 36 hours which is equivalent to scaling Mount Everest from sea level and back down. He managed to raise £600 for the charities, Cystic Fibrosis Trust and RETTs Syndrome. Well done. **SSgt** 'Steve' **Bartleet** organised yet another Troop social event, this time for the families, a good time was had by all, especially the children like **Cpl Brown** and **LCpls Boyd** and **Feldman** who couldn't be kept off the bouncy castle.

INDIA TROOP - *by Cpl 'Jase' Nicholls*
Tp Comd **Capt T. Grey**
Tp SSgt **SSgt K. D. 'Icky' Gratrick**

No good *WIRE* article would start without the obligatory hellos and goodbyes. A warm welcome and message to **Sgt Ian Clark** and ask how do you fit RAM? Please help as you are an expert… **SSgt John Heaton** leaves on promotion, watch out Corsham. **Sgt** 'Tug' **Wilson** leaves to do

his IS Foundation course and then on to 3 Div as a Staff Sergeant - 3 Div be aware he hasn't bought his promotion drinks yet! **Cpl Justin Medcraft** leaves on promotion to Blandford; we wish him and his wife **Sarah** all the best. Data Entry would like to say goodbye to **Sig Steve Lawrie** who has gone to 280 Sig Sqn. Events of late were the Troop Barbecue that after a few postponements finally went ahead and was a huge success. Everybody took advantage of the 'Bouncy Boxing'. The OC, **Capt Tim Grey** decided to take on his entire Troop…and lost (funny old thing)!

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt E. L. McLellan**
Tp SSgt **SSgt P. Mitchell**

Hello's go out to all our recent arrivals; **Sig Adam Holly** from Cyprus, **SSgt Pam Mitchell** from Aldershot and **LCpls Steve Adamson** and **Scott Deas** who have both arrived fresh from the factory. We bid our farewells to **SSgt Sean Alexander-High,** who has volunteered his services in the Squadron Training Wing and **Cpl Lee** 'Ladyboy' **Khair,** who has been posted to 264(SAS) Sig Sqn Tech Workshops. **SSgt Dave Mudway** has moved about 150 yards away to the G6 corridor of power. **Sgt Fred Farnfield** has been posted to Blandford on his Foreman's course and last and by every means least, **Cpl Chris** 'Dogboy' **Holt** and **Sgt Phil** 'Dolly' **Parton,** who both left us for Civvy Street. Good luck to one and all. Congratulations go to **SSgt's Nick Goodwin** and **Pam Mitchell** on their recent promotions and to **Cpl Al Walsh** for finally becoming the technician that he always wanted to be (albeit an Installations Technician). Congratulations also go out to **Cpl Richie Hill** on the arrival of his daughter **Sophie**. Finally, **Cpls Mick Lake, Mick Partridge** and **LCpl Hayden** 'Farmer' **Lawer** represented the Regiment at the recent Corps Football 7's in Blandford and were unlucky to lose to 264(SAS) Sig Sqn in the semi-final. The thought of **Cpl Lee** 'Ladyboy' **Khair** in his cheerleader's outfit was obviously an unfair advantage for the 264 boys. **Lt Liz McLellan** (V) has successfully planned and organised the Troop's adventure training for **Cpls Paul Harris** and **Danny Shovelton, LCpls George** 'Posh' **Lohse, Dave Rice, Dinger Bell, Stevie Hicklin, Shaun Stanham, Jamie Disley** and **Sig Kerry Stewart.** They are away for three weeks canoeing in Ontario Canada and reports have it that they are having the time of their lives.

NETWORK CONTROL CENTRE TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt A. Haresign**
Tp SSgt **Sgt S. Johnson**

It started with 13 (the unlucky 13th member being **Sig Gaz Hitchings**). It went down to 12, then 11, and then 10. Anyway, we ended up with eight brave souls who decided money was no object and that jumping out of a perfectly good aeroplane from 3500ft was nothing to be afraid of. The eventful day arrived and we all jumped into the mini-bus, all that is apart from **Cpl Danny** 'I don't care about losing my deposit, I'm not going' **Pearson**, he didn't score the night before so sulked and stayed in bed. This, as it turned out, was a wise move on his part as the journey up to the Parachute Centre was scarier than the jump itself. The eight became seven. Upon arrival at The Services Parachute Centre (Northern Ireland), the intrepid adventurers started the lessons that would enable them not to kill themselves. These lessons did however put the fear of God into **Sig Gaz** 'Schumacher' **Hitchings**, who decided that the ground training was enough for him. The seven became six. It is worth mentioning at this point the effort **Cpl Shaun** 'I'm a Gymnast' **Barton** put into his para rolls leading to the parachute centre ordering new mats. Apparently the new method of doing this is to roll yourself into a ball and throw yourself onto the floor in the most painful way possible. The time came to do the deed. In the first lift was **Capt Al** 'Airborne' **Haresign, WO2 (FofS) Paul** 'Hulk' **Hubble** and **Sgt Dave** 'Who's bright idea was this?' **Rimmer. Capt Al Haresign** was the first to jump and there were no problems for the Airborne Warrior. **WO2 (FofS) Paul Hubble** was next. The last time he'd jumped was back in 1984, so to say he looked extremely nervous was a bit of an understatement, but he too earned his certificate. Last up was **Sgt Dave Rimmer** who fortunately had no-one left to see the look of horror on his face as he made his way to the door. The next three climbed on board and took the 5-minute trip to 3500 ft. First out was **LCpl Merc** 'free fall parachutist' **Ainscough** who encountered no problems as he had 17 jumps already behind him. **Cpl Shaun Barton** was next. Next! Next! Unfortunately he refused and he never heard the last of it all the way back to Lisburn. That only left **LCpl Dave** 'I only turned 21 yesterday' **Phillips**, who gained his wings but lost his feet on landing. So the final score was Jumpers 5 - Non Jumpers 3.

Footnote: Rumour has it the **Cpl Barton** made the journey back up to the Centre and jumped two days later but the evidence is yet to be seen.

THE LONGEST DAY - *by SSgt Jon Heaton*

In January this year whilst surfing the net I came across an article entitled 'Ironman for mere mortals'. The article explained that 'The Longest Day' competition was the only 'Ironman distance' triathlon run in the UK and consisted of a 2.4-mile lake swim, a 112-mile bike ride and then a full marathon. I'd done a few triathlons in my time and was always up for a challenge so once a doctor had confirmed my sanity as being reasonably stable I threw caution to the wind and posted the entry form. As many will know NI is not blessed with a favourable climate so many a bike and run session were conducted literally soaking up the local meteorological conditions. I was fortunate to have an excellent swimming pool within walking distance and being stationed on one of NI's larger camps meant I could get in a 2fi mile running loop before I had to retrace my tracks. I had raised money for Guide Dogs for the Blind in the past and thought this venture had to be exploited to raise some more funds. Members of Lisburn Garrison were very generous and as the pledges increased, so did my commitment to complete the event.

At 4 am on Sunday 19th August I was stirred from a deep sleep by the dulcet tones of my psion organiser; race day had at last dawned. After the heartiest breakfast I could stomach at that time in the morning we set off for the lake. On arrival there was time for a final bike check, a walkthrough of the route from the lake to the transition area and for breakfast to have the necessary effect on my bowels (if fear of the event was not sufficient). At exactly 6 o'clock the air horn went and we were off - three laps of a lake, a bike ride around most of Shropshire, and a 26-mile jaunt to finish - before returning for tea and medals before the cut-off time of 9:30 PM! The swim went well with good conditions prevailing and not too much rough stuff between competitors racing for the first buoy. On exiting the lake and entering transition the racing snakes ahead of me were already stripping straight out of their wet suits to mount their bikes in soaking wet one-piece 'tri-suits'. Not for me, I was sticking to *my* race plan – wet suit off, complete dry off, on with the comfortable bike gear, eat, drink and then worry about getting started on the bike leg.

Forty miles into the bike leg and things were going well, I was averaging a good rate of knots but then disaster – it was puncture time. I had gashed my rear tyre on some glass, but ten minutes later I was back on the road. Whilst changing the 'tube I had been amazed by the *esprit-de-corps* of the passing riders; all had slowed down to check I had the necessary gear to get my bike back on the road. Sadly, bad luck was to strike me again and about 25 miles later in a downpour of rain I picked up my second puncture. I had used my spare tube, so it was now down to my puncture repair kit to get me back on the road. It must have been quite a surreal scene to the bystander – it's Sunday morning and a fully grown man wearing strange lycra gear is standing in pouring rain on the edge of a major A road patching an inner-tube housed within his shirt to stop the rain getting to it. I didn't care, I managed to repair it and get back on the road without losing too much time.

After about another 2-hrs rain, the sun came out and I continued pedalling away watching the miles gradually click towards the magic figure of 112 on my speedo. From about 80 miles into the bike leg I was beginning to get sore and was desperate to get off the bike and start the run. As soon as I did get off the though, the last thing my legs wanted to do was to start running and a battle of wills ensued with my brain eventually winning after about two or three miles. Helped on by huge support from the crowds who had come to watch with football rattles and air horns I reached the halfway point in sub two hours and felt good. At about the16 mile point, however, I seemed to age to the geriatric era within about 100 metres and the next five miles were tough to say the least. However, the pain reduced and at almost 6:30 PM (12 hrs and 26 mins into the race) I crossed the finish line. I had managed to complete the event and managed to beat my target time by some margin. It was true, it had been a very long day, but the icing on the cake was to get back to where we were camping by 9:30 PM for the tea and medals we'd promised ourselves earlier in the day! Thanks to the generosity of the members of Lisburn Garrison over £650 has been raised for 'Guide Dogs'.

Note: Anyone interested in completing an Ironman distance triathlon can find the 'Ironman for mere mortals' article at www.blackcountrytriathletes.co.uk

40th (ULSTER) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col R. J. Kelly**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Keane**

The Regiment welcomes **WO1 (FofS) Bately** from GCHQ Oakley and **WO2 (YofS) Rouse** from 222 Sig Sqn, 3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt. At last Regimental Operations has the full compliment of regular personnel and can now begin to function as planned all along, although for how long remains to be seen. Welcome also to **SSgt** 'Tiffy' **Stables** who arrives to a comprehensive 'action' column from the recent ECI inspection. Enough to keep you busy 'Tiff'? Farewell to **Maj Graham Leyland** who leaves to reside in Blandford Forum once again, and to enjoy all that is CISM. Good luck **Graham** and thank you for all your efforts in the last two years. We should say welcome to **Maj Mike Fraser-Brenchley** (To be known as FB) who takes on the FTRS Trg Maj slot, once 'Glasgow' are back from leave and can catch up with their in-trays and process his application. Ex Coastal Eagle did not succumb to the restrictions of FMD and proved to be a highly rewarding Annual Camp. The Officer's Mess conducted two Regimental Dinner Nights and hosted a number of both military and local dignitaries. It has to be said that by far the best was the attendance of a pair of Dorset Constabulary Officers, who will remain nameless to protect the guilty.

85(ULSTER & ANTRIM ARTILLERY) SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS) AUGUST 2001

The Squadron recommenced training at the start of August after the summer stand down period with the now annual Foam Party. As usual it was a very successful evening. We had the obligatory Hawaiian shirts and skirts and the cross dressing hard core. Thankfully this year **WO2(SSM) Eddie Hedley** could tell the genders apart without resorting to physical checks. A big thank you to all members of the organising committee for the hard work and effort involved in organising the event. The focus is now on final preparations for the adventure training, which will take place in the Lake District. Scrambling and mountaineering are two activities already programmed.

2Lt Nicole Lamb and **2Lt Martin Mayo** successfully completed TACC over the summer months. Having spent a year at Queen's University OTC preparing for their commissioning course, the two freshly faced subalterns have now taken up their troop commander posts. Congratulations and welcome to the Squadron. The real work begins! Welcome also to **Lt Jeanette Wilson** who joins us as the Sqn Ops Offr. Farewell to **Lt Sam Burgess,** who departs to become the Regimental Training Officer. Thanks for all your hard work as a Troop Commander (the only one the Squadron had for a long time). Keep Smiling **Sam**!

ANNUAL CAMP

Annual Camp, this year, was conducted at Chickerell Camp in Weymouth with the Squadron boasting a good turn out. Various trade and driver qualifications were carried out with most personnel managing to qualify for their next trade class or C+E driving licence. The Squadron is now well placed with qualified trades and drivers. Despite the rigorous camp routine, two members of the Squadron decided that annual camp was not demanding enough for them and headed off to Blandford instead. **LCpl Alan Smith** and **LCpl Joanne Sanlon**, attended and 'mercifully' passed RSCC. Congratulations to both of them. Of course annual camp was not all work and no play. Here are some of the daily news flashes from our camp hack.

Tug of 'tache: OC 85 hosts the first ever 'Weymouth moustache tugging contest' in Harry's Bar. Two girls at the bar refused to believe that his hairy upper lip was for real. However, after several tugs on the bush, its refusal to budge convinced the two drunken females that it wasn't an eyebrow down for a drink!

French Connection: Lt Sam Burgess impressed several French visitors in Harry's Bar with his knowledge of their native language. After repeating the lines, 'Where is the toilet?' 'Have you a room for the night?' and 'We are on holiday?' a few hundred times they were suitably convinced that he did indeed know the language – you can now turn to page two of the French phase book **Sam**! Regrettably English still creates insurmountable problems for him.

Weymouth Tiger: LCpl Fred Amos had a run-in with a Weymouth tigress and survived to tell the tale! Looking more than a touch dishevelled, he reported that he had eaten a Lion Bar and had no idea how he had got all those scratches as he struggled to get ready in time for parade. What was her name again?

It's raining men: Geri Halliwell called into Chickerell Camp to do her bit for the Regiment. The gorgeous Geri (aka **LCpl Neil Telford**) accompanied by two fabulous dancers (aka **LCpl Dave Gibney** and **LCpl Chris Montgomery**) performed her hit single 'It's raining men' for the troops.

Novel Excuse Award: Given jointly to those members of the Squadron who had to carry out large withdrawals of cash from the bank in order to convince their nearest and dearest at home that their entire two weeks pay hadn't been spent on drinking and partying. For their own safety these individuals remain anonymous.

Squadron T-Shirt: For future designers of the Squadron T-Shirts: The design is supposed to be visible!

SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj M. Heaney**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Johnston**

The Squadron has recently undergone a change of command and welcomes **Maj M. Heaney** who replaces **Maj T. Dick**, who now languishes in Bangor. **Maj Heaney**, who recently arrived as QM found himself double hatted on this occasion. The Squadron deployed to Magilligan Camp in order to carry out various military skills training including APWT, NBC, CFT. The padre did his very best to upgrade the moral understanding of his flock but the blank faces and random bleating confirmed the worst. Members of the Squadron competed in the Individual Battle Shoot as part of the XL Trophy but could only manage a close second. The Squadron would like to extend a warm welcome to the newly arrived PSI Tech, **SSgt K. Bremmner** who takes over from the now **Mr B. J. Finnister**. Welcome also to **LCpl Potts** who takes on the role as COs driver. Farewell to **Maj A. Hoensch** who leaves for the vortex that is Blandford. Good luck.

66 (CITY OF BELFAST) SIGNAL SQUADRON SUMMER ADVENTURE TRAINING

The Squadron Summer Adventure training was held in Colreine over the period 17–19 August 2001. The activities consisted of canoeing, run by **SSgt** 'Fat Boy Slim' **McClean**, body boarding by **Sgt** 'Tommy' **McArdle**, mountain biking by **Sgt** 'Bald Eagle' **Collins** and finally climbing and abseiling by the SSM, **WO2** 'Action Man' **Fettus**.

The mountain biking got off to a good start in that they all made it to the first location, well done **Sgt** 'Bald Eagle' **Collins**, a substantial improvement in your map reading! But reading seemed to be quite a problem for young **Sig** 'What's 2.2' DONK' **Blair**? It means you can't stand up while trying to cycle under it, Donut! Young **Sig** 'Willy' **Kennedy** must have been in secret training for the Tour de Portrush, as most of the day he had the yellow jersey and was seen waiting for the others to catch up. All the new members of the 'walk like John Wayne' club are to be in their saddles ready to mossy around the JRC with the PMC and his saddles sores! **Sig** 'QCP's' **Hawe** was also in practice with his wet suit at the body boarding, in that he changed dress four times before it was eventually put on inside out and back to front. **Sgt** 'Tommy' **McArdle** was unable to show everyone how to body board as there was not even a ripple at the beach. Better luck next time 'Tommy'.

Canoeing took more of a Naturalist approach, as they tried to Free Willy, that is **Sig** 'Willy' **Kennedy** and **LCpl** 'Willy' **Morrison**, who were quite content to be held captive by their canoes. The abseiling had its fair share of 'ups and downs' some faster than others. Poor **Cpl** 'Suzanne' **Small** looked like she had had lunch with Hannibal Lecter, with the amount of skin she lost on the climb up. **LCpl** 'Travolta' **Hanna** has taken to the world of marketing with her woolly T-shirts from 'FCUK' well it sounded something like that. The Squadron has a new 'Arnie' in the figure of **Sig** 'Muscles' **McDonald**, who was quite proud of her new gained muscle mass after one climb! **Sig** 'Run Forest run' **Tate** was seen being pulled over by traffic branch for speeding on the promenade after being selected to go on a day trip to Portrush. However, **Sig** 'Muscles' **McDonald** was unable to put her new found strength to any great us after winning the 'Unable to run away' prize of the day trip in Portrush (another marketing ploy for 'FCUK'). **LCpl** 'Bud' **Morrison** and **Sig** 'Six Shooter' **Blair** saw the social side off with a bang, (Targets will fall when blocked). The Yoga classes are paying dividends as **LCpl** 'social hand grenade' **Morrison** didn't have any 'ND's' all night – well done Willy.

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (213)

Maj Andy Knott smiles,
knowing the pager will soon be on someone else's belt

Sqn Comd **Maj D. Craft**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. M. Lockwood**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

It is with a heavy heart this issue that we bid farewell to **Maj Andy Knott** who is leaving us after only a year in command to go to Staff College. We wish you well and thank you for your early finishes and extended bar hours. However, with farewells come hellos, and the Unit would like to welcome **Maj David Craft** in his capacity as OC Sqn, along with his wife **Fran** and his children **Connor** and **Ellie**. We hope your two years here will be very successful and enjoyable.

Congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) Steve Lockwood** who has been selected for commissioning. Well done for achieving this goal at such a young age. The port was absolutely delicious and has set the standard for other promotion news. Congratulations also to **WO2 (YofS) Nick Wood** and his wife **Stephanie** on their recent marriage. We hope you will have a prosperous future together and wish you every happiness. The SHQ

element would like to say farewell to **LCpl Zander Gardener**, who has moved to a somewhat colder position in Norway. We hope you and your flat will be very happy. Do not fear though, looks as though **Cpl Paul Ryan** shall be following in your footsteps in a year or so.

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt S. Y. Richardson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt R. Atherton**

Welcome to **2Lt Steve Bennett**, who arrives on a three month attachment, before attending his Troop Commanders Course in Blandford. He is earmarked to take over as OC Comms Troop in April 2002.

OPERATIONS SECTION

A big Ops Section welcome to **Cpl** 'James and the Giant' **Peach, LCpl Kelly Tweedie, Sig Kevin Groves** and **Sig Jon Perks** who have arrived in the last two months to join the brethren in Syscon. Hope you will enjoy your two years with us. Goodbye to **Cpl Mandie Smith**, who after three months back in Province is moving to the less rainy climes of Belgium. She leaves with a spring in her step and a smile on her face, delighted at leaving the confines of SYSCON behind her. Not one, but two weddings to report this month. Congratulations to **Cpl Matt Gibbons** (2IC Rover Group) and his new wife **Mrs Donna Gibbons**, on their recent wedding. Those who attended the ceremony said it was a party to remember and they wish you every happiness in the future. Congratulations also to **Cpl Mandy Aitchison (nee Smith)** and **LCpl Andy Aitchison** (Late Rover Group) on their marriage at the end of September. We hope you will be very happy together and enjoy your postings to Belgium. By the way **Pte O'Hare** said it was only a bet, he did not think you would actually do it Aitch!

ROVER GROUP

All the boys in the Group have had fun attending weddings and in between times have been ensuring the snatch vehicles are ready for their inspection and return to Kinnegar before the end of September. Then one after the other they are to be posted, so a farewell to **Pte Ken Barlow**, who only arrived in the last edition of *The WIRE*, now moving across the way to join the Pioneers on the gate, and a slightly bigger goodbye to **Cpl Matt Gibbons** who has joined the RP Staff – traitor. Well done to **LCpl Joe Rushrook** who has successfully completed his MLT in time to miss out on two expeds, good timing there Joe, and is currently being the bane of **Sgt Paul Conroy's** life, deleting items from the training wing computer by accident.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION

Welcome to **LCpl Matt Grounds**, our new baby technician recently arrived from Phase II. He has instantly thrown himself into unit life, being an integral part of the 'It's a Knock out Team' and going Adventurous Training, all within his first month of arriving. Congratulations to **Cpls** 'G' **Uppal** and **Chris Lord** on their recent promotions. To celebrate they immediately tried to throw their weight around, only to be quashed by the might of **Sgt Jonah Jones**. They are now trying to set the correct example to others, despite the fact that 'Lordy' has not even started to shave yet, even though others shaved his left eyebrow! Congratulations also to **Cpls Donna Chivers** and **Graham Forrest** who have also just picked up their second tape. Well done, keep up the good work all of you.

RIGGING SECTION

Very little has happened in the Rigging World over the last two months ,save for three members of the section supporting Galloway Cream, the RHF exercise in Scotland. On the pre-deployment **Sig Dean Roberts** and **Cpl Al Temple** spent twice as long rigging the mast as normal due to the slightly inclement weather. The West Coast of Scotland in the rain and gale force winds, nice work if you can get it.

TROOP EVENTS
OPERATION CASTE III – *LCpl Dilger*

When the Chancellor wagon broke down on the Ardoyne, it was all hands on deck

This year saw the inevitable unrest in the capital, and the Chancellor vehicle and its crews were in regular attendance accompanying the resident battalions on the streets of Belfast. At lot of action was witnessed in the Ardoyne area in the north of Belfast, and also in the Short Strand area to the east, seeing the rare deployment of water cannons. More recently, and the most controversial, has been the highly televised and scrutinised Loyalist demonstrations against the Catholic parents and children, who walk through the Glenbryn estate to reach the Holy Cross Girls School. The Chancellor crew, led once again by **Sgt Paul** 'Chancellor' **Faizey** found themselves at the top of the Ardoyne or rather at Hotel Girdwood. This requires the ability to sleep in the back of a wagon not renowned for its comfort. Three in a wagon is just not cricket, particularly when you have **Sgt Norrie Crook** snoring in the Northern Ireland Snoring Competition on National Snoring Day. The Chancellor taskings unfortunately still continue at this time, as the latest bone of contention for the minority, seems to have no resolve.

IT'S A KNOCK OUT COMPETITION - *LCpl Grounds*

The rain was pouring but our spirits were not drowned as 12 MI Coy took on the 39 Bde Cheerleaders at the ancient and noble art of 'It's a knockout'. The event was successfully organised by **Sgt** 'Fram' **Framalicco**, who has certainly been reading the Marquis de Sade's autobiography, as most of the games were twisted and painful – whatever happened to Stuart Hall and dressing up as giants? As the weather brightened a fraction, the game commenced with the Space-Hopper obstacle course challenge. **LCpl Donna Chivers** adopted a new tactic, dazzling the opposition with her nimbleness and also her distracting technique of revealing her assets as she went along. Game 2 - the Matt Le Tissier Challenge confounded all that attempted it, as the goal area, would have made even Michael Owen nervous. However, from the ranks of the 39 Bde Cheerleaders stepped **LCpl** 'Foxy' **Fox** who with a swift right foot made the 12 MI boys lose a second game. The following two games, a caber toss and a bungie run, produced much the same results with 39 Bde entering the last game with a 4-0 lead. Game 5 was the one we had all been waiting for, the S-tank. **LCpl** 'Boadacea' **Chivers** and her Amazonian like tactics of 'hit 'em hard and fast' worked wonders and her opponent entered the freezing waters, breaking the ice on her way in. Two losses and two disgruntled cheerleaders came next, **LCpl** 'Ted' **Tedby** dragging himself out of the water with goose pimples on his goose pimples, and **2Lt Steve Bennett** newly arrived from the factory, lost his wig but managed to keep his dignity, as all he had learnt in the last 44 weeks was wiped out with a colossal thump from the opposition and replaced by water. In order to redeem the team, up came the heavyweights in the form of **LCpl Brad Fox** and **LCpl Matt Grounds**, both defeating the opposition, with **LCpl Fox** being the overall victor.

TRY A DAY FINN 3 - *LCpl Donna Chivers*

On arriving at Coleraine for some down time from Teching and Rigging we jumped on our bikes and rode all around Portrush and Portstewart. It was not until later that evening, sampling the delights of the bars in Coleraine that the complaints about sore backsides started, along with the John Wayne impressions. Day two consisted of fishing, the most eagerly awaited part of the expedition. Our smiles turned to frowns when **LCpl Craig Bate** stepped on to the boat and was promptly hit on the head by a loose bolt. **Cpl Al Temple** was the star of the day, not content with being the only person to catch anything, he even managed to hook two at the same time. Go-Karting followed in the afternoon with **LCpl Donna Chivers** putting the boys to shame with her kamikaze skills of either racing around the track, forcing them to move over, or by cutting them up causing them to crash. As the last group had returned from Water Sports with broken ribs and bruises galore, we decided to have a gentle game of golf before returning to Lisburn. **LCpl Joe Rushbrook** had absolutely no style or technique, but still managed to win, which speaks volumes about the remainder of the group. Many thanks from all those involved to **Cpl Al Temple** who took time away from the Rigging Shack to organise an enjoyable and very successful three days away.

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Maj J. O'Shea R IRISH**
WOIC **WO2 (RQMS) Belam**

Welcome to **Maj Jim O'Shea** who has come to fill the role of Admin Officer. We hope that the time you spend with us will be memorable.

REGIMENTAL QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT

Not content with two welcomes in the last edition, the RQ's Dept would like to have another entry for **Sig Kirsty Galbraith** who has joined the merry men in the stores world. But sadly we must say goodbye to **Sgt Al Kier** and his wife **Helen** who are leaving us for pastures new. We hope 12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn look after you both and wish you well. The most exciting news for the month is the promotion of one of the personalities of the section, **LCpl Kev Pack**, who picked up his tape in September. So overjoyed was he that he rang home to tell his wife, only to learn she had just pranged the car. Bad luck Kev, too much good news is bad for the soul!

EXERCISE NORTHERN FINN - *LCpl Kate Anderson*

Ex Northern Finn was a week's sailing from Ireland to Scotland, undertaken by five Squadron members. After an early start on day one we headed northeast from Bangor, heading to bonnie Scotland. The three junior members **Sig** 'Krusty' **Weller, Sig** 'Gromitt' **Wallace** and **LCpl Kate Anderson**, had yet to find their sea legs and were feeling very nauseous, in fact **Sig Wallace** made a marvellous attempt at modern art on the ocean waves. It was suggested that we turn back to Bangor but the thought of being weather bound in Ireland was too much to bear, so we soldiered on, to coin a phrase. Portpatrick awoke on our second day to the worst storms it had seen in a long time. Having sent **Maj Andy Knott** and **Cpl Keane Steele to** get gas, unfortunately in the wrong direction, the three junior members sought refuge in a drinking establishment, where we waved at the skipper, **Maj John Davis**, on board as he bobbed ferociously in and out of view over the harbour wall. It was only after his distress call that we rushed in to move our exposed yacht to a more sheltered area, braving 4ft swells and gusts exceeding gale force. The two senior members were still merrily heading towards Stranraer looking for fuel. Once the storm abated we continued towards Girvan, somewhat later than planned due to **Sig** 'Krusty' **Weller's** incessant snoring. A fine day's sailing was had, the reward being **Maj Knott's** culinary skills and a quick trip to the pub in preparation for our early start towards Largs. **Sig Gordon Wallace** tried to convince us all that he had seen a dolphin on this leg of the journey, although that could just have been the remnants of his breakfast. The weather continued to be kind over the coming three days as we journeyed to Troon and back to Girvan, in time to sample some nightlife, heading back to Bangor to join in with the 'Party on the Pier' before dropping anchor in Belfast in the shadows of HMS *Caroline*.

LONG SERVICE & GOOD CONDUCT PRESENTATION

SSgt Al Hatton AGC (SPS) has been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct medal after 15 years in the Adjutant General's Corps and Welsh Guards. The Bde Comd, **Brig W. E. B. Loudon OBE** presented him his medal, along with the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal for **Cpl R Hardy AGC (RMP)**, at a presentation in the Unit Club.

SSgt Hatton's boys
look less than impressed at their father's achievement

ARMY INTER UNIT ROUNDERS COMPETITION

The Female Rounders Team, after becoming the Northern Ireland Inter Unit Rounders Champions, went back to the mainland to compete in the Army Inter Unit Rounders Competition. The demon bowling and backstop combination of **Capt Sally McLellan RLC** and **WO2 (QMSI) Matten** ensured that most of the opposition were bowled or stumped out, while the likes of **Cpl Jo McVeigh** and **LCpl Donna Chivers** made sure that rounders were scored to keep the Unit at the top of their group. Once in the final, a tough game was played against Winchester Garrison, but the 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn team were victorious and came back to Province as the Army Inter Unit Rounders Champions. Well done to all the females who took part.

BRIGADE COMMANDER'S THIRD FRIDAY CLUB

The members of the Squadron may have been working and playing hard, but they have also had time to be an integral part of the Bde Comd's Third Friday Club Competition. Run by **WO1 (RSM) Steve Lockwood** and **Cpl** 'Paddy' **Bevan,** they found ways to test and try the minds and physical fitness of members of the Unit. This resulted in a 'Mil Skills' competition comprising of four events; a military knowledge paper, a pistol shoot, a Snatch pull and three Command tasks. Watching the Brigade Officers' team and the SHQ team gave new meanings to the expressions 'Too many cooks' and 'Not enough Indians' as can be seen below. The winners by a healthy margin were Comms Troop – hurrah!

A medley of Officers
resulted in much standing around and little action

September's competition was Orienteering in a local park, praying that no one would get lost! Many members of the Unit came back with nettle stings, bramble scratches and only a few points. Still it gave many people the afternoon out of the office who would otherwise have been sitting behind their desk. Well done to **WO2 (FofS) Dave Cook** who, despite having such little legs, managed to keep up with the remainder of his team as they beasted him round.

8 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (218)

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj F. E. R. Wichelo**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) P. Fleming**

Farewell to **LCpl Karen Bateman** on posting to 'civvie street,' we wish her and her husband all the best. Congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) P. Fleming** on his selection for commission. As ever it has been a busy time in the Squadron headquarters with the clerks moving furniture and offices around to try and confuse people as to where they are located - it did not work! **Pte Stef Hart** has been away winning medals for judo and confirming her selection for the Commonwealth Games as well as managing to scuba dive in Cyprus on adventure training for two weeks. And finally last, but certainly not least, a sad farewell to the Foreman, **WO2 Bob Vowles** who has been slightly short toured (wimp!) and is departing for sunnier (?) climes back on the mainland. We wish him all the best: the Ops/Plans Team are fervently hoping that his successor, **WO2 (FofS) Si Metcalfe** – a warm welcome to you and your family - is not intending to take up the mantle of office karaoke queen. Thanks for all the tunes, but please stick with the day job!

REGIMENTAL QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT
RQMS **WO2 Dave Inman**
Dept SNCO **Sgt Eddie Porter RLC**

It is a very busy period for the RQMS Dept. The forthcoming Logistical Support Inspection is just over the horizon and the marching season and Squadron Adventure Training are just behind us. As the saying goes, 'a new brush sweeps clean', and all the accountants are rapidly finding this to be true. The new RQMS, **WO2 Dave Inman,** has recently been posted in from slipper city, (otherwise known as Lisburn), and has had everyone clearing out the stores, doing numerous hand over take overs and stock checks. This has not stopped the Admin Sergeant, **Eddie Porter** getting as much golf in as he can, as well as two weeks Adventure Training in Wales. Needless to say he has been welcomed back with open arms by the RQMS and **Cpl** 'Badger' **OReilly RLC** and immediately tied to his desk to prevent him escaping again! Congratulations go to **LCpl Kev** 'Old Man' **Rattray RLC** and **LCpl** 'Shilli' **Shillito RLC** who are both posted on promotion. Thanks for all the hard work gents. Sadly we also say farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) Kev Tunstall** after 22 years service: goodbye and good luck in civvy street. Hello and goodbye to **LCpl Winder RLC** who was with us for 37 days before being posted again! Welcome to **LCpl Andy Smith RLC**, his replacement - we hope he stays a little bit longer! Finally, for any one who is reading this and wondering, if we have many Corps personnel here – yes we do, and they come under the guise of **Sgt** 'Robbo' **Robson, Cpl Mick** 'sick chit' **May** and **Sig** 'Youth' **Fowler**! Any Corporals wanting a posting to sunny Londonderry please contact the RQMS!

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP – *by LCpl 'Bucky' Buckingham*
Tp Comd **2Lt Rip Wilson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Steve Mayell**

Here we are! Believe it or not, some large terrorist device has not wiped 8 Brigade off the face of the planet. We, as a well-organised unit, have been run off our feet! What with the marching seasons, the sporting

events and the Squadron social activities, there is a lot to be caught up on. We have had a fair few people come and gone from the nominal role, so here are some of the leavers of the fight against terrorism:

Cpl Marcus 'hairy nips' **Bartrip** has been posted to RSIT, may your lungs never fill with evil oxygen, rather that of the rich taste of Royals. All the lads wish you and **Leanne** the best of luck for the forth-coming wedding. To **Cpl Johnson,** who is posted to 21 Sig Regt: your incredible strength, and ability to not feel pain, is an inspiration to us all, (you weirdo). Congratulations on the wedding. **LCpl Alan Oliver** - posted to Cyprus. May boy bands live on and allow you to chase your dream to join them. Also good luck to **Cpl Gourlay** who is off to conquer 216 Sig Sqn. You should do well: there's no trade week to complete. Last but not least there's **Carl Brown** and **Phil Bloxham** who felt the ranks of civ div beckoning. Good luck on the dark side. The arrivals to the unit have been a steady stream of new and used soldiers, each with a story to tell. So, welcome to **LCpl Jackson** from Cyprus, with your distinctly 'not from this grotty province' tan. **LCpl Tel Frank** from Blandford. **Cpl Phil Marchent** who has aided and abetted **Sgt Flanighan** in changing the 8-BDE-SRT workshop into a 15 SIGs SRT work shop, almost over night. Good work boys. But where the hell is everything? **Sig Alf Garnet** from Cyprus, who since arriving has been put on mail collecting duty, because he revealed that he is a qualified post orderly. Sorry to anyone that didn't get a mention, but if we did mention everyone, *The WIRE* would be the size of an Argos catalogue.

We move on to the events that the Squadron and Brigade have been taking part in. The most recent sports success' achieved was that of the NI Inter BDE sports day. Our volleyball team tipped up with the minimum of practice, i.e. none, and still came second even though **Cpl Andy Ward** failed to attend. And the rounders team really pulled one out of the bag and came first, with the aid of two of our Brigade clerks. Thank you. Our mostly male Brigade is really excelling in 'girlie sports' this year and we like it! And the crowning achievement of this year is the victory gained at NISAAM, where our team of sharp shooters, and all round great guys came first in the minor units and fifth over all.

As the province has so many out of bounds areas, it is essential that we organise our own parties and gatherings, both for entertainment, and the sanity of the Squadron. So on that note, we have held some fantastically successful functions within the closed doors of the world famous 'Waterside Bar'. **Sgt Paul Hounsell** wrote to over 300 companies, asking for donations to the Charity Auction that was held in May. It was in aid of the family's crèche. His plight was heard, and the auction went off with many bargains to be had, in the form of short get-away breaks, cameras, an inflatable Johnny Bravo, car washes by senior ranks and much more. Other functions that were held recently, range from the Vietnam night, which spurred more lines from the film 'Full Metal Jacket' than any body cares to admit, to the karaoke night. It is believed that the karaoke night was not planned as a night of fun. Originally the main aim by senior ranks was to find the 'instant idiots' who would come out of the woodwork when presented with a microphone and an audience. It seems the plan worked a treat, with many a person being told the next day of their awful renditions of an otherwise fantastic song. Had he been present, Robbie Williams would have initiated court proceedings that evening. On a serious note, the Squadron functions are always well attended and appreciated by all, and long may they continue.

VIETNAM NIGHT – SQUADRON SUMMER BALL
by Cpl Andy Ward

After a few months of failed attempts to get certain members of the Squadron to wear uniform, the Squadron hierarchy came up with the ingenious idea of a Vietnam theme to the Squadron Summer ball! The bar was expertly decorated by the committee, in cam-nets and tents, all the things you come to Northern Ireland to avoid! Stunningly turning the waterside into something out of 'Platoon'! There were a couple of original ideas to the fancy dress, but helmets body amour and dog tags were in abundance! The entertainment was provided in the form of a band and later on the stunning mixes of **Sig** 'DJ Disciple' **Longbone**. The cookhouse out did themselves with a fine selection of curry. Strangely, Bde staff won all the raffle prizes: such as **Flt Lt Dixon** taking the TV, and **Sgt** 'Dinger' **Bell** taking possession of the DVD Player. Not even the Squadron techs could fix something that well! All in all an enjoyable night where plenty of alcohol was consumed!

EXERCISE BETWS FINN (WEEK ONE)
by LCpl Bacon

Ex Betws Finn was adventurous training, which took place in North Wales, around Betws-y-Coed area near Snowdon. Approximately half the Brigade and Signal Squadron took part in each week and were based at Capel Curig Camp. The weather conditions were quite good for most of the week, apart from the usual downpour of rain, for which Wales is well known. Activities were well organised by the Foreman of Signals, **WO2 Bob Vowles,** including: rock climbing, done both outdoors and indoors dependant on the weather; canoeing which included lessons on a lake and some on a river; AC Adventures which was a day out consisting of abseiling and rock climbing inside an underground slate quarry. It also included a bit of abseiling and traversing in an open quarry and, a lot of peoples favourite, the 'Zip line' into a small lake, where **Cpl Andy Ward** unfortunately lifted his knees too high and hit the water with a very painful splash! The most energetic part of the week came in the form of two days hill walking, in which **Sig Sid** 'I don't know how anyone gets enjoyment out of this' **Sidorowicz** spent a lot of time leaning on his walking sticks admiring the view even when there were only clouds to see!! All in all, the week was enjoyed by all and a welcome break from life in the Brigade.

WEEK 2 – *by LCpl Calvert*

This was the Squadron main effort for unit adventurous training for the year and it was based in Capel Curig Training Camp in North Wales. I was employed at the climbing instructor for the duration. The package was a split into two, one-week phases. During the first week the weather was not kind to those climbing and although abseiling was possible, the climbing took place on the Beacon Climbing Wall just South of Llanberis. There was some notable death-defying feats achieved, especially **Sig** 'Stuntman' **Vaughan** who, for reasons only known to him, decided to launch himself off the wet abseil as though he were jumping over a wall and not walking backwards off of it. Another rock guru was **LCpl** 'No Fear' **Nelson**. Putting total faith in the instructor, he allowed himself to be lowered upside down an 80ft rock face shouting up 'just go faster'. Unfortunately his Buffalo jacket just couldn't stand the pace and resulting in new ventilation holes. The new Troop boss **2Lt Rip Wilson** proved his metal on the climbing wall, climbing everything that the instructor set him. I see a budding rock god in the making!
The second week of weather was better, allowing us to get out on the crags and spend less time in the cafes! Superstars included **Sig** 'Vertical' **Newitt** who was 150ft up a crag when the instructor pointed out the low flying jet below. He then informed the group that he couldn't see anything because he had his eyes closed! Another potential rock recruit was **Capt Mogs Southern** who succeeded in driving the exercise co-ordinator **WO2 FofS Bob** 'laid back' **Vowles** and the climbing instructor to near insanity by adopting a shop till you drop policy, because 'I can't go on the hill until I get a new Gore-Tex jacket'. In all a very good time was had by all, and the local pubs will probably go into recession now we have all departed!

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP 18 - 25 JULY 2001
By LCpl Calvert

This took place at MTC Magilligan and was split into two age groups, 6–12yrs and 12–17yrs. For the duration I was employed as a rock-climbing instructor, taking the groups abseiling and climbing from Ramore Head in the sunny seaside town of Portrush. This was an obvious hardship!! It quickly became apparent that small children have no fear of height or authority; countless times I was reminded to bear in mind the following: 'Do you know who my dad is?' and 'When I tell my dad you will be in trouble?' That aside, both groups managed to complete the climbing without mishap. I did, however, have one young individual who was desperate to impress the instructors and young girls in his group. However, once tied in and with me belaying him, his climbing prowess deserted him and after climbing 6ft he called down, 'Can you let me down?' On enquiring why, he proceeded to tell me that the rock was not the same as he had climbed before and that he didn't know if he could trust me! All in all it was a good and very worthwhile exercise, if somewhat trying on my mental state!

EXERCISE BALTIC FINN 21 -29 JUN 2001
by LCpl Calvert

This was a squadron exercise organised and run by myself. The aim was to take five JNCOs to Germany and Denmark and then to use the Corps boat 'Quicksilver' to navigate around various ports of call, enabling us to sample the local hospitality. In essence this was completed, but not without problems! Firstly, the charter flights were cancelled and a uncomfortable night in Heathrow airport was endured. Once underway we had a close run in with the port police in Kiel due to **Cpl** 'Popeye' **Gourley** playing chicken with a passenger ferry. **Sig** 'naturist' **Davies** spent most of his time below decks bonding with his sleeping bag and doing a good impression of a ships cat. **Sig** 'Right Hand Man' **Garnett** during the trip became a dab hand at hoisting and reefing sails and must have worn the rubber of his deck shoes with the amount of running about he did. **LCpl** 'Handy Man' **Rattery** excelled himself in the gallery and along with myself cooked up some spicy meals to the unsuspecting crew. Throughout the weather was very good until the final day when it rained and blew and the 'salty sea dogs' finally realised what real sailing was about - not just lounging about on the deck sunbathing!

MERCURY CUP MARCH AND SHOOT 04 OCTOBER 2001
by Sig Preece

Once again 8 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn took part in the annual Mercury Cup march and shoot competition which consisted of an eight mile march, assault course and a falling plate shoot. The teams were eight strong, one of which had to be female. The day of the event did not get off to the best start with one of the vehicles being used for the two and a half hour journey refusing to start. However, we eventually arrived but had unfortunately missed the team captain's brief, leaving us without a clue about where and when anything was happening - oh well! Luckily **WO2** 'BOWO' **Kenyon RLC**, managed to bully some inside information from some of the other teams which was just enough for us to compete.

Firstly the march: 8 Inf Bde came joint first equalling the outstanding time set by 3 Bde of 1hr 16mins 26secs - not even a second between the teams!! I didn't even get any dizzy spells this time unlike during training where on many occasions I brought up the fact that I couldn't see and the world was spinning! The assault course came next and 8 Inf Bde gained the fastest time in this event and another six points, although that is not to say there were no problems! **LCpl Craig Buckingham** had trouble fitting his huge body through the scramble wires and **Sig Rob Vaughan** had to stop and get his breath from laughing at **LCpl Al Paisley's** extraordinary acts when his leg cramped up. The event finished with the shoot: each man had seven rounds and there were fifteen plates to be knocked down from 200m. The team managed to knock down twelve, mainly thanks to **LCpl Craig** 'dead eyed dick' **Buckingham** who knocked down most of them. It must be stated that there was little help from **Sig Rob Vaughan** who had previously boasted 'I'm an alright shot' then blamed his poor shooting on his helmet and cramp…or something. The result of the shoot was that the team came second, gaining five points and giving the team a total of seventeen points and joint first position with 3 Bde. It was decided that someone had to win the competition so, after a decision by the organisers, the competition was given to 3 Bde due to their performance on the shoot, which matters most, apparently. All in all it was a good competition and an excuse to break from the normal working routine. The result was disappointing but there's always next year and justice will be done! Other team members included **Maj Rachel Leighton RLC**, **2Lt Rip Wilson** and **Pte** 'Taff' **Cawbridge RLC**. Well done to all who contributed to what was so very nearly victory!

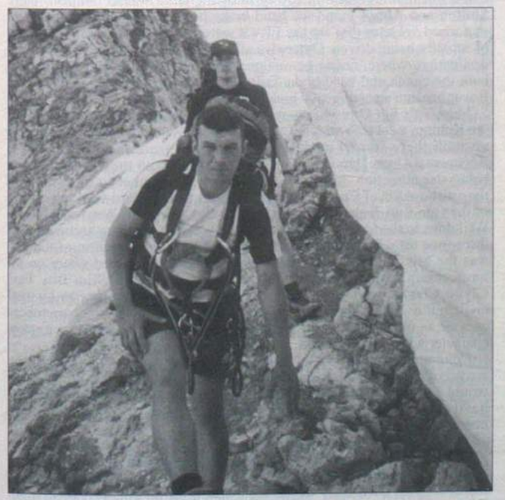
NEWS FROM THE REGIMENTS

1st (UNITED KINGDOM) ARMOURED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

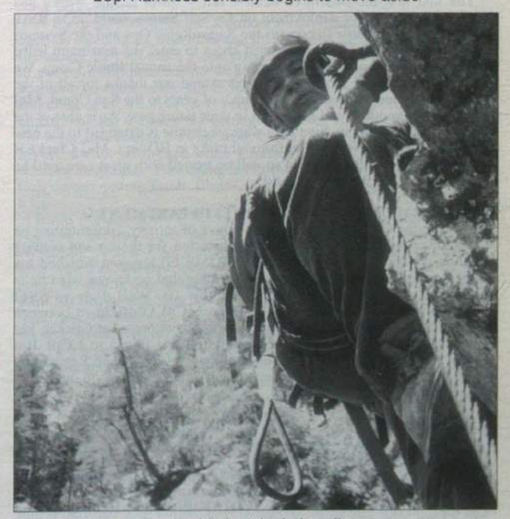
EXERCISE JIMMY DIAMOND - 201 SIGNAL SQUADRON ADVENTURE TRAINING

Sig Jabba Hons stops for a pose whilst Lt Dave Orr will be coming round the mountain when he comes

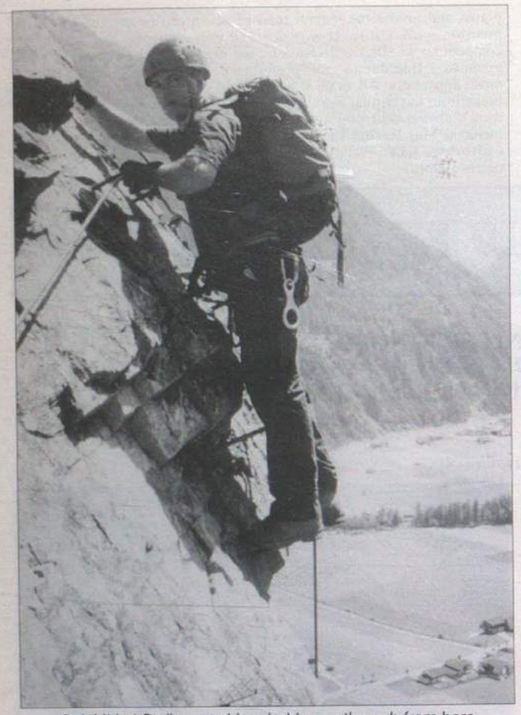
Fearing an impending fall, LCpl Harkness sensibly begins to move aside



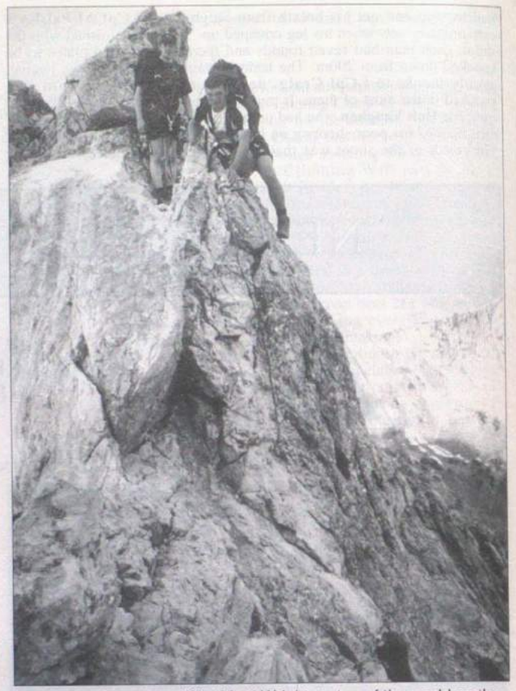
Unfortunately LCpl Cowan and Sig Wright didn't notice the killer blancmange until too late!



'I said, don't look down!'



Cpl 'Mirko' Stojkov could probably see the pub from here



LCpl 'Jim Cowan and Sig 'Matt' Wright on top of the world on the Hinderlanger Klettersteig

2 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col I. Cameron-Mowat**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Frost**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Steve Clarke**
SSM **WO2 Pete Griffiths**

The last few months have been a fairly quiet period which has involved preparing for deployment on Ex Saif Sarrea, build up to RSIT and the continued battle to convert the Radio Relay Ops and the Systems Ops to Area System Ops. We are just about to enter the maximum leave period and straight after we will deploy onto the annual Battle Camp. We would like to wish a fond farewell and extend our thanks for all of the hard work carried out over the last couple of years to the Sqn Comd, **Maj Mike Bailes**, goodbye and good luck in your future post. As is always the case, one out and one in. So a very warm welcome is extended to the new Sqn Comd, **Maj Steve Clarke,** from all ranks in HQ Sqn. **Maj Clarke** is posted in from 216 Sig Sqn and so will be treated with great care until he adapts back to life in the real world.

QUARTERMASTER'S (TECHNICAL) DEPARTMENT

As ever, the QM (T) Dept has been a hive of activity, concentrating on the build up to Cormorant and the preparation for the up and coming Kohima weekend. **WO2 Jim Stille** (RQMS G) has just finished his RQMS course, so now he can bluff to people that he knows what he is doing (but not to the ones who do know it). Well done to **SSgt Macpherson** for completing Trail Walker, **Cpl Oldfield** in between getting either his name or photograph in the local press for Cricket, has just finished his EFP 1. Also congratulations (I think) to **LCpl Jim Carlin** who has just signed up for another five years. The Regimental Open Day is here soon with the department doing their best to outdo Las Vegas with our Casino.

MIKE TROOP
Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Hodson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Swithenbank**

With the hectic summer line up already underway, the Mike Tp crew had to keep the Regiment's smooth running image up to its high standards. To promote this ethos, **WO1 (FofS)** 'Pete' **Hodson** and his sidekick **SSgt** 'Pete' **Swithenbank** carefully selected six of the best from a wide range to do the task. The fortunate members orders were to take the two ERV's down to 600 Tp to be repaired. In the ERV's were **Cpl** 'Dave' **Dodds, Cpl** 'Dangerous Dave' **Shilton, Cpl** 'Wait for me' **Abbot** and **Cpl Thomas**. Driving the Land Rover was **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Davies** and **LCpl Clarke**.

The encounter began with the packet of three travelling down towards Corsham, making good headway until the first Service station. Here **Shilton** and **Abbot** found the hand brake had failed; the state of the art motorised vehicles that are the ERV's were not up to the rough handling of actually being driven. Otherwise all went well until ten miles from the destination, where, not to be outdone, the duo **Thomas** and **Dodds** had both the clutch and hand brake fail. Moments later the back of the Land Rover became an emergency brake buffer.

Mike Tp's **Sgt Om** was a wreath bearer and **Cpl Holmes** an usher for the Kohima weekend, which was a success allowing the Veterans to meet up with there former colleagues. Going on from the weekend, the Regimental Open Day was similarly successful with the White Helmets being star attraction. Mike Tp sacrificed every member to the day, with the artistic skills of **Cpl** 'Van Gogh' **Holmes** and the hard working efforts of the Gun Run Team which was lead by **Sgt** 'Airborne Warrior' **Harris**. Well done to the team who were the first losers by finishing second out of three (one team being disqualified). Mike Tp's main attraction of the day was the Mission Impossible curly wire game that squirted water on all unsuccessful competitors. It was constructed by **Cpl** 'Slim Boy Fat' **Glynn Clarke**, who sadly leaves the Army for pastures new in his real civilian life. His leaving function was well attended by all troop members as well as other hangers on and he was seen off in good style, a great character who will be missed. We all wish him well.

Congratulations go to **Cpl** 'Salty Dog' **Salter** and wife **Vicky** on the arrival of their new born baby boy **Ethan**, who weighed in at 8lb 1oz. We would like to welcome **Sgt** 'Steve' **Dade, Sig** 'Mitch' **Mitchell**, who have actually yet to arrive and me **LCpl** 'Ryan' **Clarke**. Cheers everyone.

With the Troop continuing to resemble the 'Mary Celeste' it was with great joy and relief that we welcomed back the JCUFI lot. To ease them back into normal life (expensive beer in glasses, even dearer fags, roads, ladies and the such like) we decided that, after an eighteen hour flight followed by a six hour drive, we would give them half an hour to get their dancing shoes on and dragged them down town. All of the lads

Onward to the race, a beautiful day in Blyth, the ride was along the coast with a cooling sea breeze, bonus. I did a personal best in the swim and was second out of the water (big mistake). I'd been pushing too hard to start. I got going on the bike and caught up to others from previous waves. Then the energy level started to drop and with it the speed. I got off the bike and with the cheer of the crowd it helped to get me moving on the run. 7.7km became a half marathon. At the finish my body had been taken close to its limits. This only said to me that I need more training (strange how we think when we are knackered). We had finished the race not with times that we had hoped for but still holding our heads high, we are now tri-athletes. We couldn't just stop there so more races were planned and we had the bug. We had to get more people involved so it was decided to start a club in the regiment. The team has had a few changes with the loss of **WO2 Paul McGarry** to Blandford and the arrival of a **Capt Pete Lockitt** (Ironman and years of experience in Triathlon). The Team is now looking to compete in an Ironman in 2002 (2-mile swim, 112-mile cycle and a marathon). This is serious and some hard training is expected over winter.

ISM DEPARTMENT

The little known department consisting of six computer geeks has had a busy couple of weeks. The rumour is **WO2 (Supvr IS) Hague** has nearly exhausted the Army's supply of computer courses and should be putting in an appearance just in time to knock off for Christmas. **Sgt** 'Where's my calipers?' **Geordie McKnight**, has had an even busier time, what with all that sick leave and then time off to see the plumber/carpet fitter and gas man to mention but a few. **SSgts Brown** and **Evans** have had a busy time on the Regimental Battle Camp letting the troops know that we can actually soldier. **Cpl Froggett** after signing off has swiftly signed back on, just in time to deploy to Kosovo. Congratulations to **SSgt Steve Brown** on winning the Regimental Golf Championship. Finally the Department says farewell to **Sgt Dean Nichols** after completing his 22 years service, we actually see more of him now he's left the Army, then when he was still in.

HQ SQUADRON REGIMENTAL GENERATOR BAY
IC Sgt Stanley-Jones

Over the last few months the Regimental generator bay has been very active due to the Kohima festivities and various other Regimental functions. After a well-deserved summer leave **Sig** 'Ski' **Sworowski** finally returned from his civilian deathbed after his nine weeks off. Newly promoted **LCpl Lee** 'Cleggy' **Cleghorn** and **Sig Lee** 'Maverick' **Britton** represented the department on the Regimental Battlecamp. The Department also participated in an LAD shakeout exercise conducted at 30 Signal Regiment, which turned out to be a very worthwhile 3-day venture. Finally congratulations go to **Sig** 'Ski' **Sworowski** on his re-trade to clerk.

INTER-SQUADRON FOOTBALL COMPETITION
by Sig 'Shed' Sheddon

The Inter-Squadron 11-a-side football competition was held over 4-5 September. The first game was between HQ Sqn and 214 Sig Sqn, unfortunately HQ Sqn got off to a very bad start and somehow managed to lose 4-1. The following game was between 214 Sig Sqn and 219, with 219 edging out 214 in a close fought victory. The following day started off with a match that contained lots of action. The match was between HQ Sqn and 219 to see who would play 214 in the final. For HQ Sqn to qualify they would have to beat 219 by at least three goals. The game had barely started when OC HQ Sqn **Maj** 'Benito Carbone' **Clarke** took a dive in the opposing penalty area and was duly awarded a penalty for his trouble, 'Oh and by the way broke his ankle in two places'. As **Maj** 'Carbone' **Clarke** was carried from the field of play a roar went up, contrary to popular belief, the roar had nothing to do with **Maj** 'Benito' **Clarke** being carried off, it was because the penalty had just been converted. The remainder of the match proved to be very exciting with lots of goal mouth action. Fortunately from an HQ point of view three more goals hit the back of 219's net, thus qualifying the HQ Sqn for the final (its never over until the fat lady sings 219). The final proved to be another good game with HQ Sqn reversing the previous days result and beating 214 by two goals to nil (you know it makes sense). Congratulations go out to all of the Squadron personnel who took part, and a special mention to **Sig** 'Gilly' **Gilbert** (even though he is 214 Sig Sqn) for being voted player of the Tournament. This is no doubt the first in a long line of expected successes by HQ Sqn in Inter Sqn competitions.

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Jamie Compston MBE**
CHATURANGA BELGIAN ASSUALT COURSE COMPETITION - JUNE 2001

Monday started early, parading at the cookhouse at 0500hrs. So that meant most people got out of bed at 4.59am. We loaded the minibuses and started on our way to Tournai with our aim being to compete in a Belgian Assault course competition, in Chaturanga. The three teams were:
Team 1: **2Lt** 'Is it going to hurt' **Boag, Cpl** ' Dirk Diggler' **Hayward, Sigs** 'I can't stop talking' **Stopforth**, 'Talk to me monkey' **Gowdy**.
Team 2: **WO2** 'I've been here before' **Smith, Sgt** 'Strawberry blonde with attitude' **Perry, Sigs** 'Schumacher' **Rees**, 'Floppy' **Heron**.
Team 3, **Cpl** 'I hate heights' **Jinks, Sigs** ' SHAPU' **Gilmore**, 'Nice sun tan' **Cassidy**, 'I been round once already' **Rees**.

managed to stay together until **Cpl** 'I don't care what my wife says I'm going clubbing' **Rumford** was seen sneaking off for the last bus at 2310hrs. Since then the Troop has returned to its normal desolate state with the post tour boys touring the world with their copious amounts of unspent LSSA. We look forward to seeing them all back at work with no money and rapidly fading tans. Definitely worth a mention is **Cpl** 'Come on lads she's not bad for 52' **Davies, Cpl** 'Where shall I move this week?' **Salter** and **Cpl** 'Oh God it might be twins' **Shilton** for seeing the light and signing back on. Well done lads we're sure you won't regret it. By the way exactly how much was in those brown envelopes the FofS gave to you?

The Troop closed down for the duration of 'Battle Camp' that was a no fuss, hard working range package. Unfortunately **Cpl Geordie** ' fi a soldier' **Davies** couldn't make it but the few NCO's who did, not only thoroughly enjoyed it but would actually volunteer for the next one. The one exception was **Cpl Dave** 'Don't shoot the builder, oh s…t' **Shilton**, who swears the builder was armed with a 5.56 scaffold pole though. If only they knew the next Battle Camp is an Infantry based Fieldcraft and Tactics camp. We look forward to more useful and progressive training in other areas. Now we have met all three of them we can officially welcome **Sgt** 'When I was…' **Dade, LCpl** 'Picked from a cast of thousands' **Clarke** and **Sig** 'So what's a steering wheel for then?' **Mitchell**.

CIT TROOP *- by SSgt Andy Beel*

The Cormorant Introduction Team (CIT) has had a very busy and successful period over the past months. The conversion courses from Radio Relay and Systems operators to Area systems operators have started and to date have completed three courses and near finishing the fourth. At present there are 13 Troop members comprising, the nominated Cormorant instructors **SSgt Terry Sheils**(OC Troop), **SSgt Andy Beel, SSgt Tom Brand** and **SSgt Neil Cooper**, administration **Sgt Col Brotherston**, Trade conversion instructors, **Cpl** 'Biff' **Bithell, Cpl Andy Carter, Cpl Clark Fatchett, Cpl Tony Orange, Cpl John McDonnell, Cpl Lee Rickard, Cpl Andy Rutter** and **Cpl Rob White**.

A vast improvement on IT skills has been developed by all troop members, especially, **Cpl Tony** 'The Fingers' **Orange** having completed conversion training at RSS Blandford prior to instructing in the Troop. Maintaining the Troop fitness levels **SSgt Terry** 'Medals' **Sheils** and **SSgt Neil** ' Loose-minute' **Cooper** have been busy getting the Regimental Triathlon Club up and running. A fond farewell to WO2 Paul McGarry (Ex OIC CIT troop) posted to RSS Blandford having had the task and pleasure to get the Troop up and running initially with no budget and no manpower, nothing new there then! Big hello to **SSgt Tom** 'The Biker' **Brand** and Family posted in from the planning cell at ASG, RSS Blandford and **Cpl Andy** 'fruit machine' **Carter** posted in from 219 Sqn.

Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Fatch' **Fatchett** and **Cpl** 'Rob' **White** on their selection for promotion to Sergeant, also to **Cpl Andy Rutter** on successful completion of his RSJCC. The Troop is now fully established as the UK based field conversion centre for Radio Relay and Systems operator trades to Area systems operator, vacancies to fill an instructor post may be available to suitable candidates in the near future due to postings and promotions from the Troop. Any interested parties should enquire through their normal chain of command.

'CROSS KEYS TRI' TRIATHLON CLUB
WO2 Paul McGarry
SSgt Neil Cooper (writer)
SSgt Terry Shiels

A few good men from the 'Cormorant Introduction Team' decided that age was catching up with them and they fancied having a go at Triathlon. In January they all made a concerted effort to get themselves fit enough to not only compete but do well. The date had been set, we were all geared to compete in the Blyth Sprint Triathlon. 400 meters, 17km cycle and to top it off a 7.7km cross-country run. (Hardly a sprint!) We carried on training, but we were not getting any faster. It didn't help that one of the team still couldn't swim front crawl. We all started getting more involved (not with each other I hasten to add). We started reading relevant magazines. This changed our training pattern drastically and we then started getting faster. Illness started taking its toll on our fitness as well.

It was decided that we should practice all of the disciplines together to see how we would get on. We made arrangements with the local swimming pool and got started. The swim first. This was not training. This was war. We had looked at each other and decided that we were going for this. I was in luck as my swimming was stronger than **WO2 Paul McGarry** and **SSgt Terry** 'The Fish' **Shiels**. I climbed out of the water and was changed, heading for the exit, passing the fish as I went. As luck would have it, only 100 meters on my bike and I took a wrong turn. This gave **Terry** the advantage he needed. By the time I had corrected my mistake he could now see me racing in the distance. He put his head down and gave the bike everything he could muster. The head down bit was the mistake. Bang he was up the curb and into the hedge of some poor lady's garden. This was the end of his pre-race training. **Paul** was in his own race against time pushing himself on. I got to the Gymnasium, dismounted and got cracking on the run. Cramp was setting in both calves. I had gone too fast on the bike. Who cares I'm almost a tri-athlete. All the way round the run all I could think about was, 'Why am I doing this?' At the end we all met up, totally drained. This sport was fun, it hurt like hell, but we have achieved something special. Proved to our minds and bodies that we could get through it.

On arriving in Belgium **2Lt Boag** dazzled us with his French by asking the guard at the gate to the barracks 'Ou est la COOKHOUSE?' The next day began with yet another early breakfast after which we headed to the competition for a morning training session. This was not the most pleasant experience as it gave a new meaning to the expression 'hanging out'; making most of us regret the one or two beers we had the night before. Team 3 was not running until Thursday so after the training beasting, they decided to experience some of the local delights and develop some new nicknames! (**Sig** 'Happy' **Gilmore,** '2 pint-Tyson' **Cassidy, Cpl** 'Dirk Diggler' **Heywood** and **Sig** 'One-Pint' **Gowdy**).

Wednesday morning, surprise surprise, up early again. Once arriving at the competition grounds we found that we were competing at around 4pm. This meant plenty of time to plan and prep for the race, which involved trying to find the fastest possible way over each obstacle. Before the race, each team member must pass an entrance test, which involved some pretty dodgy tasks, not enjoyable to say the least; especially if you have a fear of heights like **Cpl Jinks**. The first of the entrance test was

In the middle of a fiecely competitive competition, SSM 214 Squadron tells Sig Heron to, 'Chase me!'

a rope crossing that was elevated about 40ft between two hills.

The second entrance test was a 90ft rope ladder climb that had a disturbing habit of swaying in the wind, then throwing yourself off onto the death-slide which is not a very pleasant experience. Teams 1 and 2 raced and produced the goods with two outstanding displays, Team Two producing the second fastest time overall with 20.07 minutes but loosing points on the shooting stands. The night to come was obviously going to be celebration time for those who had now finished. Most of the teams visited a friendly nightspot called 'Mi-Noi', where most locals greeted us openly. One of the highlights of the night was some great entertainment from **Sig** 'Floppy' **Heron**!

The final day was the turn of Team Three to race leaving Teams One and Two to sit back and nurse their hangovers. First on the agenda was the confidence tests. The highlight of the morning was the face on **Cpl** 'Shaky legs' **Jinks** when descending the Aerial slide. Following in the footsteps of Teams One and Two, Team Three gave 100% producing yet another good performance for 2 Signal Regt. The last night a few of the team went out under the command of **Cpl** ' Dirk Diggler' **Hayward** and made a night of it. Overall an excellent competition that is never supported by British teams. All I can say is 'your loss our gain'. Roll on next year!

MÖNCHENGLADBACH MARCHES
'THE FEMALE PERSPECTIVE'

The Teams show off their trophies from the Mönchengladbach Marches Competition (and yes Cpl Donovan we can see your Para wings!)

The International Mönchengladbach Marches (IMM) is a competition run by the German Army Reservists for teams from all over NATO and this year it ran on 22 September. This was its 18th year and, despite not being very well known, was attended by a good number of British Forces personnel, Regular and Reserve/TA. **WO2 (SSM) Smith** who has attended this event on many previous occasions put this year's team from 2 Signal Regiment together. There were four teams of four and included two male teams, a female team and a mixed team. The female team was lead by **2Lt Melanie** 'fancy another bimble girls' **Crawford**, and also included **Sgt Marie** 'Do we have to Ma'am?' **McChesney**, **LCpl Emma** 'Did you know…?' **Atkinson** REME and **Sig Tam** 'Ginger gene' **Ingledew**. The mixed team featured **Sig Sonia** 'Has anyone got any change?' **Jameson**.

We set off at early o'clock Thursday 20 September and headed for Germany. After a few comical situations, including one where two thirds of the team believed they could watch the fish swim in a glass section of the Channel, we eventually arrived at JHQ just in time for tea. The rest of Thursday was spent reminding us of how much fun and cheap Germany can be, sampling the local drinking and eating establishments. Friday was admin day, and was spent ensuring we had the correct kit for the competition, mixed with some essential retail therapy. **Sig Jameson** insisted that she needed to relive her childhood and get hold of some proper German paprika crisps, so she dragged (in true PTI Style!), the rest of the girls (and one poor **Sig** 'Scotty' **Scott**) around the whole of JHQ into every single NAAFI shop to buy some. Not a good move if you have to walk everywhere! Taking this into consideration **Sgt McChesney** made sure she wouldn't run out too quickly and insisted that she bought every single one they had in stock! Friday night all the Team including one hanger on, **Sgt McChesney's** twin sister **Cpl Annette** 'it wasn't me it was my sister' **McChesney** from 16 Signal Regiment, ate an excellent meal in the local Chinese restaurant, then it was an early(ish) night for all.

Saturday was another early start, as we had to book in quite early to ensure the teams didn't get caught up in any unnecessary hassles or delays, when the rest of the teams turned up. The two male teams the Regiment had entered set off early and in quick succession, with the female team around an hour later and the mixed team an hour after them. The course was very long (approximately twenty-five kilometers) and with copied aerial photographs and German maps; you had to ensure that your map reading was up to scratch. Short cuts tended to lead to your team stumbling through the undergrowth (much to our amusement) and losing time between stands. The military skills stands encompassed a variety of subjects from physical ability and stamina to NATO vehicle and uniform recognition. The most enjoyable included a Burma bridge and aerial slide and a fire fighting stand which all the female teams entered seemed to excel at. The competition itself was sometimes demanding due to language barriers and the CQB stand didn't go down too well with any of the teams. 2 Sig Regt did extremely well and managed to win the following:

1st International Female Team
1st British Team
2nd Best Mixed Team.
3rd International Regular Team

Sunday Morning came around far too quickly with another very early start. After a very fast breakfast we were on our way back to dear old Blighty laden down with a considerable cache of the competitions cups and purchases, looking forward to competing again next year.

KOWLOON TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Ratna Pun**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Dharmaraj Gurung**
FORMATION OF KOWLOON TROOP - *by Cpl Om Gurung*

'By your badge men shall know you. Your loyalty, by your behaviour and by your technical skill, they will judge you as men and measure your efficiency as soldiers.' by **Maj Gen LECM Perowne CBE**. These words are as true today as they were then.

The formation of Kowloon Troop has mirrored history and added a new chapter in Queens Gurkha Signals forever. Here I believe that it would be appropriate to reflect a little on the history of Queens Gurkha Signals. Kowloon is not a new name for those members of Queen's Gurkha Signals who served in Hong Kong before 1997. The Queen's Gurkha Signals Regiment used to have 4 Squadrons; 246, 247, 248 and HQ, with each Squadron having several Troops. Kowloon Troop was one of the well-remembered Troops in the Regiment. The handing over of Hong Kong to China saw the disbanding of all but one of the Queen's Gurkha Signals Squadrons. In 1997 this Squadron (250 Squadron) moved to UK and has been stationed in Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote since. Now in 2001 a second Squadron (246 Squadron) is to be formed up by 1 November 2001 in York as part of 2 Signal Regiment. 246 does not exist at the moment, however on 4 January 2000 Celtic Troop formed in York as the first Gurkha Ptarmigan Trunk node Troop. On 16 July 2001, under command of **SSM WO2 Nirmal Gurung**, all the members of Celtic Troop paraded outside the Troop garages, very smartly and proudly to witness this very special day, the day when Celtic Troop became Kowloon Troop. After the SSM handed the parade to the Tp Comd **Lt(QGO) Ratna Pun**, the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col I. Cameron-Mowat**, accompanied by Sqn OC, **Maj J. A. Compston MBE**, 2IC, **Capt(QGO) Rajendraman Gurung**, and Ops Officer, **Capt O. E. R. Gardner**, all arrived. The CO then gave a small speech about what the Troop has done so far and finally he officially announced the formation of Kowloon Troop.

ROMAN TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt P. Hodgkinson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt C Symonds**
EXERCISE KOHIMA WARRIOR - *by Sig Davis*

A week on the coast we were promised, maybe a few pot shots at the odd holidaymaker, maybe even a few targets. No problem. Hopes were slightly dashed when, on the morning of deployment, I was told to ditch the sun cream and pick up the cam cream. Welcome to battle camp York style. Reveille 0600hrs, that wasn't in the brochure! Then off to the ranges under our illustrious leader **Cpl** 'Don't mention me in *The WIRE* or it'll cost me a crate' **Kama**. When we remembered that the rifles fire from the thin end we were alright!

Back to the hotel at 1700hrs to prepare for our first football, softball and volleyball bloodbaths, I mean fixtures. Having drawn the softball and lost the volleyball it was time for the serious stuff, the football. Under the Keegan-esque management of **Cpl** *'Pele'* **Haywood** we battled, jinked, scuffled and lost heavily, 4-0 in fact. We found consolation in the fact that it's the taking part that counts. APWT on Tuesday and it was discovered that our section was in fact a team of crackshots with **Sig** 'Sniper' **Haynes** and **Sig** 'Barndoor at five paces' **Cassidy** leading the line. After this show of marksmanship it was off to do the fire team assessment competition, Joy!

Wednesday will never be forgotten by the civilian dummies on the CQB Monorail range as a dark day, a day when a bloodthirsty 3 Section took out many innocent dummies. Everything was fine until gunshots were heard in the distance, a terrorist was spotted, and the red mist came down. **Sig** 'Danang veteran' **Prithi** had to be dragged from the range laughing hysterically, 'Nam gets to the best of us!' After more live firing and a few more character building competitions, there was only one battle left – the defence of a house which was unsurprisingly easy to defend against dummies and figure 11 targets!

War over and it was off to do a lake challenge and series of command tasks. **LCpl** 'Seadog' **Thurstan** mustn't have got a wink of sleep planning and designing our raft for the river crossing. We humiliated the opposition and collected (drank) our first prize. The week was wrapped up with a good old BBQ and then back to York to watch the England vs Germany football match. I think I will have a bet on the score. What odds do you think I'll get for 5-1 to England?

VIKING TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Mel Crawford**
Tp SSgt **Sgt Jim Mason**

Since returning from summer leave it has been all go in Viking Tp. It all started with the Regimental shooting camp where the Regiment deployed to Shorncliffe at a reasonable 0630hrs on 26 August. This was then followed by two weeks of glorious sunshine and plenty of ranges to contend with. The range package was enjoyed by both the Troops on the ground and the permanent range teams. The 'tastiest' range had to be the RSM's range, where the troops were treated to the culinary delights of the range team's barbecue, deliciously served up by **Sig Emma Lloyd**.

After the Regimental shooting camp the Troop geared themselves up for Ex Chimera Blitz. This took place from the 3-7 September and was the Squadron's big build up to RSIT. Although the Troop had just got back from shooting camp the morale seemed to be quite high. With early morning starts and late evening finishes the progress that was made was significant and the improvement was there to be seen. This was thanks to the hard work of all the members of the Troop. The 'attacks' on the vehicles were as normal spearheaded by the troop Corporals and in particular **Cpl Charlie Kama** and **Cpl Om Gurung**. Before we knew where we were the RSIT team were breathing down our necks and it was now do or die for the Troop. That said there was a quiet air of confidence within the Troop and this was justified when the reports came back. The Troop achieved good results overall, in particular **LCpl Nabinkumar Rai** who did particularly well considering he had never worked on a Radio Relay before. Since RSIT the majority of the Troop have deployed on the Regimental Leadership Course and we are confident that the results will be just as inspiring as the recent RSIT reports.

The Troop in recent months have had a lot of people coming and going so we would like to say welcome to the following: **SSgt Nanda** and his family, **Sgt Kedar, Cpls Man, Sanjeev** and **Un**, **LCpl's Bishnu, Ishwor** and **Nabin** and **Sigs Bhai, Jagdish, Manoj, Padam, Ramesh, Raju** and **Tikaram**. If we missed anyone then welcome to them as well. As well as those arriving we would like to say farewell to the following: **Mr Kev** 'Scouse' **Curlett** who has left the Army after 22 Years service, good luck to him and his family, **Sgt Steve McIntyre** who has moved next door, **Cpl Andy Ireland,** who has gone to 30 Sigs, **Sigs Padam, Bhim** and **Dipendra** who after a short time in the Troop have found themselves posted to Brunei. We would like to say congratulations to **Sgt Jim Mason** who has been selected for promotion to Staff Sergeant and will be leaving soon to go to 15 Sig Regt and also to **Cpl Charlie Kama** who again has been selected for promotion and is off to 261 Sig Sqn.

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj A. B. Stocker**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Renshaw**

219 Signal Squadron has now returned from a fun packed and hectic tour in the Falkland Islands. The first week back saw the reconstitution of the Squadron and the formation of Phoenix Troop, made up of the Radio assets. Having completed this the Squadron partook in a bit of team building in the form of a potted sports afternoon, organised by **SSgt Cassidy.** This was followed by a BBQ where the winning team (funnily enough containing **SSgt Cassidy** AND the SSM) was announced. A good night was had by all and there were certainly a few suffering on the Assault Course competition the next day.

Several members of the Squadron took part in a Charity Car Wash on the main square in aid of Mind, the Mental Health Charity (or in aid of the 2IC cycling a long way in Vietnam, however you want to look at it!). The event raised over £200. The Squadron also managed a Golf Day, where the budding Tiger Woods strutted their stuff on the local golf course (don't give up your day jobs yet). Congratulations go to **Cpl Billy King** for being selected for promotion (and for the birth of his son, **Samuel**), **LCpl Ward** on his promotion and move to HQ Sqn and **LCpl Waters** on his promotion. We say farewell to **Cpl Gough, LCpl Blackett, LCpl Thompson** and **Sig Blight**, who are now employed within the civilian market. Farewell to **LCpl Bennett, Sig Harper** and **Sig McGarrity**, who have been posted to pastures new. We also welcome **Sig Jones** and **Sig Garside** (once he returns from playing rugby in South Africa) straight from Blandford.

EAGLE TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt A. Parkinson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt T. Brand**

The Troop has recently been re-formed under a new role as Radio Relay Tp. As with any reconfiguration, this will involve a vast amount of work. Additionally, we are preparing for what will be a very heavy exercise period as the Squadron reconstitutes after the JCUFI deployment. The Troop bids farewell to **SSgt Eden**, having spent just four days in the Troop he has now handed over the swivel chair to **SSgt Brand** from CIT. Welcome back to **Sgt Hartley** from the Training Wing who has swapped chairs with the short term **SSgt Eden.** We would also like to welcome **LCpl Vickers**, who arrived just in time for RSIT preparation!

FALCON TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Keith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Cassidy**

Life in Falcon Tp has moved up a gear now that the JCUFI contingent has returned from their South Atlantic holiday. Perfect timing as always, getting back the week after RSIT means that some sort of normal service can resume and we can fulfill our share of naff jobs. Things can never be the same again however, as it is with a tear in the eye we say goodbye to our illustrious leader **Lt Dave Haslewood**. After a busy posting at York where he saw some of the world's hotspots (Bosnia, Falkland Islands and Toffs Nightclub) he deserves his 3-year break as a student at Shrivenham. He is sure to save a lot of money whilst he's there - beer is much cheaper on student night. His fresh faced replacement **2Lt Frazer Keith** is now in the still warm chair and surveying the damage. We also say 'has he gone yet?' to **Cpl Bob Littlewood** who after 22 years with the colours is to be released into the community. The Troop wishes him all the best in whatever he does. The Troop's buckets and spades have all been signed out to **Sig Rachel** 'When I grow up I want to be good enough to play for Accrington Stanley' **Allen**. She has promised to buy ice creams for **Sig Gareth Mitchinson, Sig Andy Naylor** and **Sig Paul** 'Levs' **Levin** out on Ex Saif Sareea. The remainder of the Troop are happy to see the Sergeant Major back and the quality of haircuts has improved considerably. Finally, regular readers will remember that a plea went out if anyone knew the location of **SSgt** 'Gaz' **Cassidy**. You will be pleased to hear he has been found fit and well and returned to the Troop only mildly soiled, just in time for the start of the new rugby season.

EXERCISE MERCURIAL MARITIME DIAMOND

Ex Mercurial Maritime Diamond was the annual Royal Signals Sail Training Week in Germany, based from Kiel. 2 Sig Regt entered a boat, which was skippered by Maj Butler from Blandford, who was still keen to join us even after last year's experience!

Sig Welburn keeps a close eye on Sig Bradley as he takes the helm

The crew was made up of **Capt Henderson, Sig** 'Bimbo' **Bradley, Sig Elliott, Sig** 'Gardener' **Welburn** and **Cfn Hardwick**. The trip started at a particularly calm pace, as the first few days were used as training for the Competent Crew qualification. However, things heated up for the first day of racing, which took place just outside the marina at Horsens and as

the crew were relatively inexperienced it was an education to us all! The skipper was keen for the crew to gain maximum benefit from the trip so left us to helm the boat. Some of us had longer concentration spans than others and it was a credit to the skippers patience that **Sig Bradley** survived the trip, as he continually wandered off course. The crew also used the time to blend in with the locals and, thanks to **Sig Elliott's** sun-in, went blond. Unfortunately the crew was unsuccessful in triumphing in any races, however, we put up a particularly good fight and a lot of experience was gained.

REGIMENTAL OPEN DAY – 25 JULY 2001

The Regimental Open Day proved a huge success. An impressive display by the White Helmets ensured that the day began as it meant to carry on. Stands and games were organised by the Squadrons and there was also an Inter-Squadron Gun Run. The event also raised money for local charities.

SSgt Cuffling and Sgt Pinches raising money for the Borneo Challenge

The RSM has another soaking

HQ Squadron Gun Run Team

Cpl Langley concentrates hard on getting the cam cream just right

Cpl King showing some prospective RS Ops around an FFR

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3 (UNITED KINGDOM) HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

MEDALS CEREMONY – 6 SEPTEMBER 2001

Thirty-seven members of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt completed a four-month tour of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia as part of The British Forces Signal Troop (BRITFOR Sig Tp). The Troop was based in Banja Luka, co-located with HQ BRITFOR in the Metal Factory. In a little under two years the Royal Signals commitment in Bosnia has decreased from a Regiment to a large Troop, due to the recently completed extensive commercialization programme. The soldiers deployed with the Troop maintained, repaired and monitored the many communication systems in use ensuring that telephone and computer network facilities were available to all the BRITFOR locations in Bosnia 24 hours a day. The Troop worked closely with the Dutch Signal Company, forming excellent professional and social relationships and became involved in various other communications related projects throughout the tour.

The Troop participated in many sports and entered teams in the football, hockey, volleyball, cross country and mountain biking competitions. **Cpl Smith (703)** was the driving force behind a highly successful Troop fund-raising event for charity, which greatly benefited a local Childrens Home in Banja Luka.

BRITFOR Signal Troop march past at the end of the parade

REGIMENTAL OPERATIONS - *by Sig Blake*

A warm welcome goes to all readers from the Regimental Ops Cell at 3(UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt. As a new member of the Ops Team, it has become clear to me that this is an extremely busy place to work! **Sgt Fieldhouse** has kept me on my toes not least with organising the outgoing Traffic Officers leaving do. Welcome **Capt Rose**, the new Traffic Officer and sad farewell to **Capt Patterson** who has recently left to go to work in HQ LAND. On top of this **Capt Golley** has continued to keep morale high with the Regt rugby team by introducing Wednesday night beer training sessions. The team now seems to be on a winning streak since **Capt Golley** was sidelined with a damaged hand – we're sure it's just a coincidence! Welcome back to the Regimental Yeoman from his holiday in Batus and welcome to the new Training Officer **Capt Warren** who is still getting nowhere with his anti tobacco reign of terror. Finally, a big get well soon goes to the TOT **Capt Schmeikel,** who is limping around after snapping his Achilles tendon on a basketball tour in Australia.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Firstly, welcome to the new Regimental Foreman, **WO1 (FofS) Lance Marshall**. Life within TM Troop remains a flurry of activity. The Troop recently returned from two weeks 'Adventure Training' in Weymouth. The only dangerous training attempted during these two weeks was the socialising with the locals. Everyone had a great time and returned to the normal working routine suitably financially embarrassed. The three new ERV's have arrived and **Sgt Pete Messenger** has been ordered to stop stroking the new wagons as the paint was wearing thin. TM Tp has also seen a revitalised rest room, many thanks go mainly to **SSgt Ian** 'Lawrence Llewelyn-Bowen' **Stallard** and **Cpl Marie Parkinson** - but also to all their little helpers. A lick of paint, a pioneer stack stereo and a 38inch TV have turned it into a home from home. Recent promotions include **Cpl Morris, Cpl Vowles** and **Cpl Martin Cornish**. A big welcome to **LCpl Wallace** and **LCpl Adam Phillips** who have come into the workshop under the loving wings of **Cpl Needham**. This month sees the fall from grace of **LCpl England** who leaves for a harder life in civvy street. Also a fond farewell to **WO2 Dave James**, and good luck to **SSgt Burns** who has taken over the chair - Keep checking that in tray, the promotions in the regiment! Hello to all the lads and lasses from the Troop that are now in the Falklands. Finally a very sad note, we said farewell to a good friend of ours recently. He'd been with the unit for sometime and was a familiar sight around TM Tp. Yes I'm afraid to report that **Sgt 'Mac' McNamara** has shaved off his 'tash'. He still believes that it makes him look younger but no one has had the bottle to tell him the sad truth.... YET!

JNCO LEADERSHIP COURSE - *by LCpl Tipper*

Ex Iron Endeavour was a regimental JNCO leadership-training course, conducted under the direction of the Unit Training Wing over the period of 10-14 September. The aim of the course is to develop leadership and improve practical skills to enable those on the course to carry out their command, management and leadership responsibilities in barracks, in a detachment or in a section. The timings on the course were very strict; this was due to all the lessons we had to do in the short space of time. The course of 24 personnel was broken down into three sections of eight. Each section had a Sergeant in charge, who took the section through all the lessons and controlled daily administration. My section (2 section) was **Sgt Wilson**. On the course we were taught how to operate as a clearing or standing patrol 2IC, take a small parade, give a 10min presentation, give quick battle orders, make a military estimate, supervise a section activity, map read on foot at night (and in vehicles) and how to issue fire control orders. As we progressed through the course the learning curve got steeper and finished with a 2-day exercise in which we put to use the skills we had been taught in the classroom in the three previous days. We arrived back on camp at approx 10am and handed in our rifles hoping to disappear home for the weekend, only to be told to get down to the gym for a final PT lesson. **LCpls Finister** and **Richardson** took the lesson, which involved running up and down hills with webbing for fl of an hour, only to pick up a stretcher and race back to camp taking 25mins! The course was very demanding and a lot was learnt during the week we were there. On completion, everyone felt that they had all achieved something, however no one on the course has yet volunteered for the next one!

206 SIGNAL SQUADRON
CAMBRAI TROOP

Firstly, helloes to **LCpl Maxwell** from Deutschland and **LCpl Lower** from 30 Sigs. GOODBYES to **Sig Malait** and **Sig Ball** to 20 Armd Bde. Also, the formation of MT Docs office Under Command of **Sgt Smith** took **Cpls Andy Wilkinson** and 'Scouse' **Makin** to pastures greener. **Cpls Jenkinson, Wilkinson, Doherty** and **Sig Oliver** were unable to attend Adventure training because of the Freedom of Blandford Parade which was subsequently cancelled however they will be pleased to know that everybody else had a fine time. Surprisingly, those who remained back in Bulford achieved a lot (or so they tell me) without everybody telling them what they should be doing. Also, **Cpl Jenkinson** and **Sgt Cooper** were both relegated from their respective roles of Troop Sergeant and Troop Commander thanks to the timely arrival of **SSgt Crowton** from the SQMS Department. Welcome also to the SQMS whose boots have now been filled by **SSgt** 'Ollie' Magrail who has just become the proud owner of a three-wheeled Mini!

MONS TROOP

Since returning from a much-needed spell of summer leave, the Troop has taken part in numerous events including a medals parade for those returning from a four-month tour in Bosnia. The parade was followed by a presentation in the Sergeants' and WOs' mess by our Dutch counterparts who worked alongside us in theatre. After that was a homecoming party with entertainment provided by 'Hot pants a-go-go' (nuff said) that went down a storm. We also saw a deployment to Westdown Camp in support of the engineers for three weeks with the remainder of the Troop in support of 12 Mech Bde's CAST in barracks. The Troop also took part in squadron adventure training in Capel Curig that tested everybody's stamina both on and off the hills! The Troop would also like to welcome its newest member, **Sig Goatley** and also welcome back to **Sig Harley** and **Sig Smith** from Bosnia. Well done to 'Stu' **Goatley** for signing for a 20ltr jerry can x 70 to make a brew (1400ltrs). **Sig Evans** has been busy on his PTI's course while **Cpl Morris** has just returned from hers. A final farewell goes to **LCpl Sutton** – good luck in your new posting.

NORMANDY TROOP

Normandy Tp was formed in June. It took three existing SAN groups from Mons Tp and three more from the brigades. We were deployed almost immediately on Spring Foray, a Divisional Exercise with a Troop hierarchy consisting entirely of Corporals! After exercise most of our time was spent preparing for the arrival of the annual RSIT and normal day to day work. In late August, the Troop welcomed their new Troop Commander, **2Lt Ford** bright-eyed and bushy-tailed from the factory and **SSgt Greenwood**, who had recently returned from Bosnia where he was Sergeant Major for the Signals Troop out there. Their arrival was a welcome release for **Cpl Lane** who had been previously been at the reins. Mid September saw a welcome break for the troops when we left sunny Bulford for the even sunnier delights of North Wales for some well earned climbing and mountain biking (and even a little sea fishing) and of course some serious socialising. Other welcomes go out to **Sig Morgan** and **Sig Morgans** (AKA Bungle and sister of Bungle) as well as **Sig George**, oops sorry **Sig Brownsword** (CONGRATULATIONS) from Blandford, as well as **Sig Bradley** from 222 Sig Sqn. A fond farewell to **Cpl Lane** who is off to 1(UK) Div and **Cpl Whenman** who is posted to 7 Sig Regt. Congratulations too for his recent marriage to his partner **Sharon**. It has also been a good few months for sport in the Troop with **Cpl Binnie** recently returning from a Corps Basketball tour in Australia and **LCpl Longbottom** who has been on a football tour in Germany. A special well done to **Cpl Richards** who has just become the Army Novice Triathlon Champion and is now also the Reigning AGC Tri Champ (overall winner and open category winner) too……and general Media Superstar!

222 SIGNAL SQUADRON
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Toby Courage**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paula Matheson**

Summer leave behind us now, and it's a fairly quite run up to Christmas. After a week of 1st line inspections it was off to the Lake District for a week of Adventurous Training, then back for a number of small scale exercises, and preparation for the arrival of the new MAPPS vehicles. Once again there was a steady change of personnel in the Troop, with many new faces, and departures of some of the old salts. New to the Troop are **Sgt Mark Whitaker**, coming from 264 Sig Sqn. **Cpl Phil Farrar** from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, **Cpls Lisa Fraser** and **Stu Reid** transferred from HQ Sqn, **LCpl Roy Palmer** from a TA unit somewhere and **Sig Marshall** from 11 Sig Regt. SHQ Troop (especially **SSgt Matheson**) would like to extend a warm welcome to **Capt Toby Courage**, our new Squadron 2IC. Welcome back also to **Cpls Davies-Morris, Kev Limbert, Carl Peters Turner**, all back from a tour of the Balkans. Due to a reshuffle of personnel, the Troop now includes all the Squadrons Lineman, so welcome to **LCpl Wilkinson** and **Sigs Alcock, Brown, Sharp** and **Stevens**. Leaving us for pastures new are **SSgt Si Norris**, who joins 14 Sig Regt, **Sig Vasey** who is posted to Blandford, **Cpl Varney** who joins the Regimental Gene Bay and **Cpl Marshall** who has rejoined the civvy Corps. Congratulations this month to **Sgts Lythe** and **Matthews** on their recent promotions. SHQ Tp have had many sporting achievements including **LCpl Graham** who is currently in Germany representing the Corps at football. **Cpl Varney** (I'm never too old for this!) has competed in Windsurfing competitions at Corps and Army level and a special mention for **SSgt Matheson** who recently competed in the World Duathlon, finishing ninth overall. SHQ Troops Adventurous Training in the Lakes consisted of trekking around Helvellyn, ably led by **Sgt Lythe** and **Cpl Beck** and mountain biking, made more memorable by **Cpl Warner's** cry of 'follow me', just before tumbling over his handlebars and being taken to hospital to have stitches in his leg. Very heroic! Looking to the future, the Troop's time will be dominated by the ongoing preparation for the arrival of the new MAPPS installations, involving a number of courses being run in Christchurch with 21 Sig Regt.

OMAN TROOP

Tp Comd **2 Lt Alisa Labram**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Daph Clash**

The whole week of RSIT prep went without a hitch with everybody mucking in, the Troop seniors included - due to the severe undermanning and lack of experience within the Troop. This help was gratefully appreciated from the people on the garage floor, along with the help received from the SAT's (Soldiers Awaiting Trade) sent from Blandford. With this great team work and high moral the Troop had a very successful inspection. The Squadron had a 'Pace Ex', a regimental communications Exercise before 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt deployed on 'Ex Red Tricorn II' a tactical communications exercise, which was closely followed by 'Ex Spring Foray', again a success for the Squadron. This month we have to say goodbye to **Sig Leach** who has departed for 1 Div – Germany and **Sgt Chris Ogg** who is posted to 34 Sig Regt on promotion. Unfortunately there have been no new arrivals to the Troop.

ADEN TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Steve Knight**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Roy Turner**

Goodbye to **Cpl Stan Knowles** who is off to 7 Sig Regt and **LCpl Dave Whitehurst** who is off to 16 Sig Regt. Hello to **Sig Corr** from Blandford.

EXERCISE ADEN UPTURN

On 27 October the Troop deployed to Royal Navel Station Yeovilton to use the Heli-Dunking simulator – this was a moral boosting exercise let by **Sgt Steve Pickering**. The Troop was subjected to a series of drowning! Half marks were awarded to **Sig Craig Washer** for his one attempt and full marks awarded to **LCpl Nick Graham** on his refusal at the first hurdle. All in all a good day was had by all – but is much safer working on Radio Relay Dets – thank you!

ADVENTURE TRAINING - *by LCpl Connell*

Adventure Training started for the advance party at 0800hrs on Friday 31 August. After packing the essential items, (Stella and dancing rig….oh yeah, and food) they departed for the surfing capital of the UK. Once done, the advance party (later known as the 'original fun boys' but for fear of crating shall remain anonymous) undertook the preparation for the week. For the majority of people the next week was a blur of Adventure Training, socialising with the locals, the glorious win of England over Germany and more Adventure Training. During the day, the Squadron could amuse themselves with canoeing, rock climbing, clay pigeon shooting, trekking and cycling. Since the return of the Squadron from Adventure Training, routine maintenance on the vehicles has resumed, but there have been quite a few 'extra curricular' activities arranged, such as the successful day out to the Corps museum and Salisbury racecourse. We would like to welcome our new Troop Commander, **2Lt Zelaya** into the fold. May she have a long and glorious reign over Sharjah Troop upon return from her Troop Commanders Course.

TRIATHLON/DUATHLON ROUND UP

Supervising Officer **Maj Bert Appleton**
Triathlon Officer **SSgt Paula Matheson**

It has been a busy, yet fun and rewarding season for the Triathlon/Duathlon team. There are now 21 personnel at 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt who are involved in the sports. Over the season there have been many achievements – some have come as quite a shock! Most of the team has never tried either of the sports before but the grueling training, commitment and dedication put none of them off. The season started off with **SSgt Paula Matheson** qualifying to represent Great Britain at Duathlon in Rimini in September 2001 and achieving second place at the Army Olympic Triathlon Championships at Bournemouth in July 2001. **Cpl Jim Richards** has also had a good season – despite coming off his bike and fracturing his nose! He achieved Army Novice Triathlon Champion at the 5 Div Sprint Triathlon on 5 September 2001. **Cpl Richards** also won the guest category at the AGC Triathlon on 12 September 2001. Well done to **Cpl Richards** who is looking to make the Army Squad next year, **Sgt Pete Farmer** has returned to the sport after many years of respite from it! He has done extremely well representing the regiment both individually and as a team member. The female team had a storming Biathlon race at the 5 Div Biathlon Championships (swim/run) gaining a credible first place and a large trophy! This seemed to impress the Regt 2IC – **Maj Bateson,** (Something had to be shown for the sports grant that was spent on Triathlon kit). 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt male team also did well and won the relay category at the 5 Div Sprint Triathlon Championships (I must add that they were the only entry for relay teams). All team members have had a busy season – many have entered local and national civilian races and achieved good results. The team is now looking forward to a winter of good base training in preparation for season 2002. The team will be sorry to say farewell to **Maj Bert Appleton** who is leaving the Army in November onto pastures new. Good luck!

Maj Bert Appleton presenting the Relay Team with their trophy, 'Chalky' White receives the trophy

SSGT MATHESON - WORLD DUATHLON COMPETITOR
16 SEPTEMBER 2001

On a cold wet Welsh Sunday (29 April 2001) I stood in transition wondering what to wear for the forthcoming race…. warm kit/cool race kit… the dilemma was echoed throughout transition to the changeable weather. On the start line there was a mixture – I opted for the warm stuff! Swansea was one of two races on the calendar where you could qualify to represent Great Britain at the World Duathlon Championships. It was a hard race – 10km of a grueling cross-country followed immediately by a 40km bike race. The bike course was flat but extremely windy! A 5km cross-country run decided the final positions. To my amazement I was the National Age Group Champion and had qualified to represent Great Britain in Rimini in September.

Preparations were immediately underway. Flights, accommodation, acceptance to the race, race kit and most importantly training!! The season was excellent with lots of races in preparation and lots of structured training with the Army Triathlon Association on numerous training camps – including Cyprus. All was going well until a severe ankle injury just 4 weeks before the race. With lots of advice and physio the injury healed slowly but surely. Despite no run training prior to the race I was able to keep my fitness up with swimming, cycling and weights. I arrived in Rimini on Tuesday 11 September ready for the administration and parade of the nations phase – it was inspiring and motivational. I was there five days before the race – to watch other age group races and the elites race.

My turn had come. Standing on the start line produced a mixed feeling of pride and determination – despite the healing injury – I wanted to do well. The weather was good, although a little warm – the course was flat and fast. It was a hard race – I was competing against the best athletes from all over the world. The weather held out for the race and competition was fierce. I was glad to finish an overall ninth place in my age group, a position that has secured me an automatic qualification to represent Great Britain again next year – this time in Atlanta. With a good off-season of base training I hope to secure a higher position next year. Some other achievements this year have been:

Second at the Army Olympic Distance Triathlon
First at Cambridge Olympic Distance Triathlon
Third at Waterlooville Triathlon
National Age Group Duathlon Champion
Part of Army female team that came second in the National Triathlon Relay Championships

I would recommend Duathlon/Triathlon to anyone who likes to swim, run or bike. It is an extremely exhilarating sport and the benefits are just too long to list, an excellent end to a fun but hard season of Triathlon and Duathlon.

CORPORAL JACKIE DAVIES
GB 1 BRAKEMAN WINTER OLMYPICS 2002……..WHO!

Those new to the Regiment will not even recognise the name, and it has been so long that I'm not sure that even I (Regt 2IC) would recognise the face. She does at least always answer her mobile, but I couldn't vouch for her ITDs being in date! After almost a year of full time training **Cpl Jackie Davies** has been selected to be the brakeman of GB1 (2- man bobsleigh) on this winter's World Cup circuit. This obviously puts her in an excellent position for selection for the British Olympic Squad for 2002. Congratulations.

7 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col J. E. Richardson MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. T. Archer**

229 (BERLIN) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj D. L. Webster** RA Signals
SSM **WO2 (SSM) ACE** 'Taff' **Burdge**

The Officers and SNCOs of 229 (Berlin) Signal Squadron

The few months have been a particularly busy time for Squadron HQ as the galactic battle for information in the communications world rose to new heights with the squadron re-rolling to form RSC Headquarters in support of the ARRC. The change from the normal Trunk role was initiated to take over from 16 Signal Regiment as they warped at light speed to Oman. Much of the exercise planning had been done by the Ops Team who were intrepidly commanded on their quest by their illustrious leader **Capt** 'Radio Rob' **Francis** with his loyal Jedi **Yof S** 'Yoda' **Boase** and **FofS** 'Fraggle Rock' **Frangleton** whose juggling of many hats on exercise was impressive. The OC has been going around as happy as a wombat in a waterhole as he counts the days until his departure down under. Apparently the European weather is a trifle chilly! The preparation for the mammoth Christmas move to Bruggen is well underway with the cobwebs being shaken out of some very dark corners with some stores rivalling the Corps museum at Blandford for content! We look forward to the busy months ahead and wait earnestly for the tasks to follow (and the trip to Berlin).

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Dixon**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Littlefield**

EXERCISE ARRCADE WARRIOR

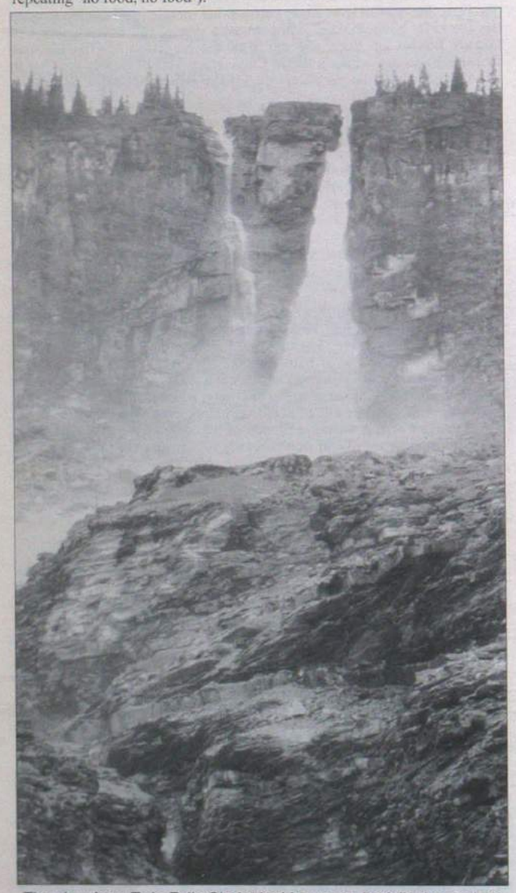
Ex Arrcade Warrior was the start of the ARRC training exercise season for 229 Sig Sqn. Usually operating as a trunk squadron the two trunk nodes hastily re-rolled to form a MAN and provide a headquarters support to RSC. We deployed early morning and arrived at a disused military fire station close to the Dutch Border. ARRC Support Battalion had already finished off their sweeping and gardening duties and had reclaimed the site from nature once more. Within three days we had set up the Headquarters and solved the majority of our teething problems allowing the staff to exercise in preparation for the forthcoming Ex Arrcade Fusion. The evenings were livened up by quizzes to rival the best Saturday TV game shows and lessons were prepared and given by most Troop members, in the sumptuous luxury of the admin area designed and co-ordinated by **SSgt Littlefield.** The days provided ample opportunity for every high-ranking officer in the area to come on a visit and provided the ideal environment for all manner of creative briefs as to what exactly we were up too. The final days allowed us to welcome **Sgt Yuill** who joined us on exercise from sunny Blandford. Special mention to **LCpl** 'Ten Marks' **Rodmell** for enduring his final exercise with 229 Sig Sqn prior to departing to 16 Sig Regt and thanks again from the Troop, for the gift he left under cab C and the grapes, also the departure of **Sig** 'Patch' **Adams** who recently left the Troop and the Army, all the

best in Civi Street. The Troop looks forward to the forthcoming exercise to watch with mild curiosity to see if anyone manages to pull out their hair again!

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON ADVENTUROUS TRAINING
SSM **WO2 (SSM) M. Browitt**
EXERCISE CANADIAN BACKSTOP

During August, six members of 232 Sig Sqn were deployed on a two-week adventurous training expedition to the Canadian Rockies. We flew into Calgary and then headed south for the Rockies with the aim of trekking unsupported in the remote Yoho National Park. The trek started with the ascent of the 4000ft Burgess Pass, which was an experience in itself as we were all carrying equipment for five days. After several hours climbing we reached the top and stopped to catch our breath. We then continued along the Highline Trail, which gave us amazing views of glacial lakes and distant end moraines of glaciers towards our first nights camping at Yoho Lake. The only incident of the day was when **Sig** 'Blondie' **Thorburn** announced he'd lost the map and compass somewhere along the trail. Fortunately for him a spare was at hand. The campsites along the trail were all backcountry camps and their only facilities were a bear pole and a portaloo. The more hardy members of the expedition then dived into the lake to cool off which at 3 degrees didn't take long!!

After our first nights wild camping we set off along the Yoho Trail towards Twin Falls campsite. Some of the downhill sections proved to be difficult for all of us as we each took it in turns to fall over. We then visited some of the highest and coldest waterfalls in Canada as they all originate from glaciers thousands of feet above. Along the trail we were always on the lookout for bears, which we never saw (much to **Sig McColm's** disappointment), I think that was due to the amount of noise we were making which meant every bear within a large radius had left. Later that day the Boss had promised cakes and muffins at a chalet she had visited some years before, one and a half kilometres uphill above the campsite. Some of the team actually ran to the chalet only to be disappointed as the only thing being offered was lemon tea (**Cpl Neil Cansfield's** face was particularly worth mentioning especially as he kept repeating 'no food, no food').



The view from Twin Falls Chalet looking up at the falls themselves

The next day started with a tough climb to the top of Twin Falls that left us all gasping for breath and quite hungry so we stopped for a few more photos before we set off along the Whaleback Trail. Our destination was Little Yoho campground, which was high, and therefore cold at night, another early night beckoned. **Sig** 'Stainsy' **McColm** is worth a special mention here as he single-handedly grabbed the golden blanket award along the trail by being in his tent snoring before 1700hrs every night!.

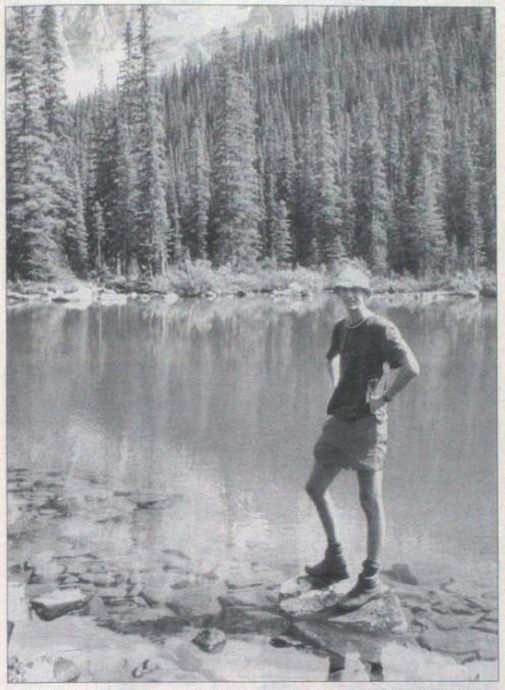
The next day saw us climbing Kiwetinok Pass, which was only a half-day walk to allow the two blister kids 'Stainsy' and 'Blondie' to rest their feet. We then returned back to Little Yoho and settled in for the night.

The Team move along the Iceline Trail, behind is one of the glacier fields

The next day's walking was definitely the best of the trail, as we walked along the Iceline Trail with views of some spectacular glaciers. It was like walking on the moon at times, as there was nothing growing at all at such a high altitude. We were headed back to Yoho Lake for the night again on our arrival nothing stopped some of the team sampling the glacial waters of the lake which were apparently colder than before. This was to be our last night on the Trail so the talk shifted to what we would eat and drink on our return to civilisation. In the morning everyone was keen to set off early but we had time for just one more photo before we left.

The Team before we set off for Emerald Lake in the rare sunshine

We were headed to Emerald Lake the colour of which definitely lived up to its name. On our arrival the tourists must have taken one look at us to think we'd been in the backcountry for weeks! After a well deserved rest we headed towards a campsite with showers for a well earned BBQ. We then drove to Vancouver for a day of R & R, which included a baseball game, which was excellent and the team now has six new fans. We then headed back to the trail and Lake O'Hara that was a 24mile day hike to one of the most secluded lakes in Canada. It was well worth the walk in, we then tried to find a campsite for the night but several had been closed due to a grizzly bear being seen in the area. We eventually found a spot and set up in the dark. We then managed or should I say **Sig Jack Hawkins** then managed to get lost. This did cause us a bit of concern as we all were in our sleeping bags, but not for long as **Sig** 'I'll find him!' **McColm** set off on a rescue mission. As he wasn't within two feet of the tent he then came back and said 'Is he back yet?'. Fortunately **Jack** found his own way back and hadn't been eaten alive. It was all over so soon but there was still time for **Sig** 'Blondie' **Thorburn** to buy yet more fridge magnets, and it was time to board the plane after a fantastic expedition to the Rockies and one we won't forget.



Sig Hawkins adopts the catalogue pose at the shores of the lake

PARACHUTE JUMP 29 AUGUST 2001 - *By LCpl Cave*

On 29 August 2001 ten UFOs where spotted above Bad Lippspringe airfield. Was it a bird? Was it a plane? No, just a group of nutters from HQ Sqn, attending the RAPA one jump parachute course. The day went off to a flying start when, following a 5am wake up call, organizer **Sgt** 'Kick Him Out First' **Middleton** asked **LCpl** 'What Map?' **Cave** for the directions when he realised that the driver **Sig** 'Dusty' **Binns** didn't know exactly where the centre was. However, with the aid of one of those friendly German policemen that you find lurking about, we finally arrived at our destination, fingernails bitten and nerves well and truly on edge. A day of intensive training lay ahead under the instruction of **Gunner** 'Buz' **Busby**. Following a morning which involved laying about on our stomachs and exiting imaginary planes, midday saw us all strapped into suspended harnesses practicing drills, whilst **Sig Binns** painfully came to the realisation that maybe his leg straps where not fitted correctly!

A few more hours of running about in Ompa Lompa style orange jump suits and we were all (sort of) ready to take the plunge. Surprisingly, no one bottled it and we all managed to leave the plane before landing, although **LCpl** 'Scare Story' **Griffin** took a little more convincing than most. Jump of the day award went to **LCpl** 'White as a Ghost' **Roberts**, who managed to leave the airfield in a plane and arrive back in a Range Rover. After achieving an almost perfect exit, she decided half way through her descent back down to earth that she had probably reached the top of this particular sport and should focus her efforts on the game of golf. Last seen disappearing behind the tree line, she was discovered in the middle of the putting green surrounded by a group of bewildered golfers. Other participants in the course included **Sgt Ashman, Cpl** 'Trigger' **Routledge, LCpl Depport, LCpl Hart, LCpl Darwin** and **LCpl Cave.** At the end of the day we all piled into the minibus, along with a few extra grey hairs, all ready to plan our next visit, oh and pick up the application form for our Para selection of course!

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj I. N. Hunter**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) K. Weaver**

Since the last edition of *The WIRE* the Squadron has undergone a fairly busy period. It deployed on its first ARRC exercise since its reformation in March this year after a period of summer leave. The exercise whilst hard work was a success and has made the Squadron ready for the major exercise of the year – Ex Arrcade Fusion in October. The Squadron will be in the Sennelager area for the entirety of the exercise. There are elements of the Squadron that are still on deployment elsewhere, in the main this is the majority of Radio Tp who are deployed to Oman on Ex Saif Sareer. Unfortunately they have been struck by the dreaded 'Dheli-Belly' and they have to cope with the extremes of temperatures out there. The rest of the Squadron wish you fellas all the best and look forward to welcoming you all back in November. We would like to say congratulations to **Cpl** 'Cass' **Caswell** whose wife **Jo** gave birth to a baby boy last month. Well done and best wishes.

JOINT SERVICE SIGNAL UNIT (AYIOS NIKOLAOS)

CO **Lt Col R. A. Sharp MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Richardson**

The 2IC Sqn Ldr Bob Keeley RAF presenting a cheque to the Ayios Georgious School on one of his last duties before posting

840 SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Sqn Ldr M. Edwards**
WO Eng **WO Dave Watson**

STATION FETE

Despite recent events the Station Fete went ahead as planned. The weather was kind to us such that it wasn't oppressively hot although the Commander British Forces caused a few flutters by arriving one hour before he was programmed to. The Commanding Officer's twin brother **David Sharp** also caused mayhem by confusing everyone as to the CO's actual whereabouts.

Air Vice Marshall Rimmer judging the no-tie competition from the Fete Organizer's (L-R): Sgt Osborne, Ft Lt Neasham, CBF, SSgt Jennings (winner), Cpl Devine, Sqn Ldr Keeley

Sgt(SI) Lisa Dunne APTC on It's a Knock-out

Sgt Steve Gibbons (L -white-belt) showing off to Sgt Nip Fowler (black-belt) that's he's next for a kicking

234 SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj A. R. Urwin**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Smith**

Welcome to the new 2IC, **Capt Dave Devine**, all the way from sunny 14 Sig Regt and farewell to **WO2 Tony Quinn**. As a previous Cyprus Slimmer of the Year it's fitting he's posted to Shape?

SUPPORT SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj M. G. P. Bohanan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. Buxton**

Whilst the other Squadrons receive the headlines, Sp Sqn go about their routine in a business-like fashion. 'The job ain't finished until the paperwork is done.' The demise of the Log Sp Trg Day (Mondays only) was replaced by Sqn Adv Trg. The most recent expedition coincided with a visit to the Unit by MCM Div. They were shocked to find Cyprus is not all sand and brandy-sours but were instead treated to a 10km assent up the Caledonia Falls to Troodos Camp. What made it worse was **WO2 (SSM) Rick Buxton** insistence of going the long (wrong) way. That's your next posting to the Falklands.

Maj Mick Bohanan (far left) and WO2 (SSM) Rick Buxton (far right) before the detour

MCM Div on the roadside asking for directions back to Ayios Nikolaos

14 SIGNAL REGIMENT (ELECTRONIC WAREFARE)

CO **Lt Col N. J. Borrill**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Staniford**

Congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) Palmer** on your recent commission into the Officer Corps and a fond farewell to you and your wife from all those at 14 Sig Regt (EW) as you leave us to take up your new post as an RCMO in Germany. Welcome to the new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Staniford** and family as you join us following a loan service post in Kuwait. Talk about going from one extreme to the other!

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Standen**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Newton**

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP - *By Cpl Damian Gunn*

Well, its time to catch up with the goings on within TM Tp, and it's not been without its share of ups and downs. First of all may we wish a warm welcome to **Cpl Matthew Grant** and **LCpls Dean Gibson**, **Derry Evans**, **Rob Lawton**, **Vinnie Smith** and **Adrian Nichols**, and best wishes to **Cpl Daz Owen** and **Cpl Mat Turner** who are off pursuing their careers in the form of their T1. Not forgetting **Cpl Pete Byrne** and **LCpl** 'Gonzo' **Reid**, who are off to relish the delights of Germany! Those within the Troop who almost departed, but didn't quite get out of the Troop's clutches are **Cpl** 'Taff' **John**, whom despite getting his posting order didn't manage to make it out of the door, and **LCpl** 'Dougie' **Douglas** who remained for reasons we won't go into at this stage! It seems it's going to be a busy month for TM Tp, processing the return of the guy's from there six month holiday in the Falkland Islands which included **LCpls** 'Stav' **Constanti**, **Steve Lavin**, 'Nige' **Gerrish**, and **Sigs Chris Turnbull**, **Rutter**, **Andy Davis** and **Andy Poole**. **Sig Andy Poole** managed to dismiss the theory about Scots and their money while in Montevedio with **Sig Davis**, when he was quite willing to spend considerable amounts of money on local 'entertainment'! Also, returning from 'the wars' is **Cpl Mat Turner** who still retained the unofficial 'boxing' title between TM Tp and MT Tp while out in Kosovo, and of

course, not forgetting our own ops, doing our bit for the Welsh countryside during Op Penninsula. During our eventful few months, while most were away on ops, the rest of the Troop managed to get away adventure training to Weymouth, courtesy of the LAD. Cheers lads! The week started as it meant to go on. First with the hill walking, which was about 14 miles long and seemed to include every hill in Dorset. Also, **SSgt Dave Evans** seemed to be stripped of his sarcastic powers until at least the early afternoon. Perhaps it was left in the car park toilet! Then onto the sailing, in which, despite warning **Sig Roy Theobald** about the dangers of losing his glasses, he assured everyone that it would be okay because he had sailed before. Needless to say **Sig Theobald's** glasses remained on his head for about 20 seconds before plunging to the depths of the ocean! Other events that filled the already eventful week included climbing, drinking, abseiling, drinking, pot holing, and, yes, drinking! Last, but not least, the HQ Squadron Summer function went well, and a good time was had by all, thanks to the planning and preparation of **Sgt Dave Greenstreet** and **Cpl Tony Livsey**, as well as other departments personnel

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
Sqn Comd **Maj Gillespie**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Watson**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS TROOP – *by SSgt Norris*
Tp Comd **SSgt Norris**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Kinsey**

Having just arrived in the Squadron and taken over from **FofS Andy Amies**, who has moved down stairs to 237 Sig Sqn (EW), it has been hard to talk to anyone within the Troop due to them all being away on either Op tours or running pre-para courses. Having said that the Squadron has been running smoothly and there have been numerous changes to both the garages and the SHQ corridor, which now boasts a new conference room designed by **WO2 (SSM) Watson**, supplied by **SSgt (SQMS) Sorley** and painted by **SSgt Norris**. The Squadron is due to get the majority of soldiers back from Macedonia including the OC Sqn and half the Ops team. In their absence the Squadron organised a golf tournament at the local golf course and all had a brilliant day. The best shot was a close call between **Sgt Morgan**, **SSgt Norris** and **Capt Jones**. **Sgt Morgan** hit the ball off the tee with that much power it was last seen on the way to Swansea. **SSgt Norris** hit the ball off the tee, on a par three, and the ball was way off target then it hit a small mound, shot across the fairway and landed six inches from the hole. But the shot of the day must go to **Capt Jones** who hit the ball with his wood and looked as though it was going to go 200 metres straight down the fairway. Unfortunately the ball hit the main power lines, which were directly in front of him travelled down the line for about 20 meters before going out of play. On the equipment front the Regiment is preparing for its first Regimental Exercise in a long time, planned for the summer of 2002 and this has left everyone running around trying to find vehicles that belong to them but they have never seen! I am sure that by the time it comes round to the exercise everything will have been sorted out.

640 SIGNAL TROOP (ELECTRONIC WARFARE) - *By LCpl Hunt*
Tp Comd **Flt Lt Rayner**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Head**

EXERCISE AGGRESSIVE IRON

Ex Aggressive Iron was an MND (C) military skills competition held over the period 25-27 June 2001. The long journey to Vogelsang in Germany began on 23 June. 226 Sig Sqn (EW) sent over a team of 11 to compete with teams from Germany and Belgium. Unfortunately the Foot and Mouth restrictions and troop exercises severely hampered the training programme. On arriving at Vogelsang the team Captain, **WO2 (Supvr Rad) Crawley**, booked the team in and drew the team number for the competition. There were 14 teams entered into the competition, and every team had to participate in eight events over two days and the final march and shoot held on the third day. The eight events were pistol and rifle shooting, sniper stalk, night navigation, orienteering, recce, tactical shoot, machine gun and logistics. The team consisted of eight members with three reserves, but we rotated the reserves in and out of the team so every one had a chance to participate. The various stands were spread over the Vogelsang Training Area, so the teams were allowed to use their vehicles to move between the stands. The stands were well thought out by event organisers and tested many aspects of military skills.

'Was this taken before or after the march and shoot?

Every member of the team enjoyed all the events they took part in, even when they did not do particularly well in the event. There were some exceptional performances from certain team members during the competition, especially the various shooting stands. We were let down by our pistol shooting but it was a different story on the rifle and GPMG. Every member of the team shot well but special mention should go to **SSgt Andy Davies** and **Sig Steve Langhorne** who dropped 5 figure 12 targets from 400 metres. A feat not matched by many teams in the competition. The march and shoot on the last day was over 10km and involved going over the assault course after the first 1.5km and watermanship skill (crossing a lake in a RIB, a distance of about 700m) after approx 5km.

The team did very well at this finishing seventh out of 14 teams in a time of two hours. On the whole the team did very well, especially as there was very little training done before the event. We finished fifth out of the ten Combat Support Arms Teams and we are looking forward to next year's event where we intend to improve on our final position. The whole event was finished off with a BBQ and beer drinking in which we participated fully; obviously!

The Team

LEWT
Tp Comd **WO2 Russ Foster**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Mick Brown**

With the early cancellation of many exercises due to the foot and mouth outbreak, the last few months have been a relatively quiet period with the Troop deploying on only one major exercise. 16 Air Assault Brigade's Ex Eagles Strike saw the Troop deploy a CP element and two patrols with 2 Para Patrols Platoon in support of the Battlegroup. Three days of exercise prep, followed by four days deployed in the field was finished off with the customary six-hour drive back to Brawdy. The following couple of months were the usual mix of demos to various organisations, and saw the departure of **Cpl (Sgt-to-be) Dave Janvier** and **Sgt Bren Matthews** to Macedonia, **Sgt Simon Green** doing his PTI thing on 216 Sig Sqn's pre-para and the arrival of **WO2 Russ Foster** as the new Troop boss. Finally good luck goes out to **Sigs Mooney** and **Luxford** who are off on P-Company in October and to the others who are going on the November course.

226 SIGNAL TROOP (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
OPERATION BESSEMER

Well it was 15 August 2001, slap in the middle of the summer leave period and it finally happened; the call for Task Force Harvest. Members of 226 Sig Tp (EW) were dotted around the world happily on holiday and had only a matter of days to arrive back to deepest and darkest Wales from where they would deploy. The furthest away was OC 226 Sig Sqn (EW) **Maj Jonathan** 'Its all my EW assets' **Gillespie**, who at the time was enjoying a sailing holiday in the middle of the Greek Islands. Unlucky **Maj G!**

After the usual on and off the bus, courtesy of the RAF, the Troop led by **2Lt Eddie** 'Tripod' **Maskell-Pedersen** managed to get out to the FYROM in dribs and drabs ready to deploy into action, only to find that when we arrived, we could not get permission to deploy our dets onto high ground. So this meant that we had to stay at Camp Able Sentry (CAS), an American camp whose 24hr cookhouse kept **Sgt Bren** 'Just one more pancake' **Matthews** happy for the extra mornings spent there. We finally got permission to deploy the Troop and the EW team got working straight away. While the Weapon Collection Sites were open we also deployed mobile teams to each of them to provide direct force protection to the BG. We supported all three of the BGs; the French who would never deploy without their beer and wine (much to the team's joy, as they had to do the political thing and help the French drink their supplies), the UK Weapon Collection was led by 2 PARA and finally the IT BG whose Pizzeria is the best in theatre.

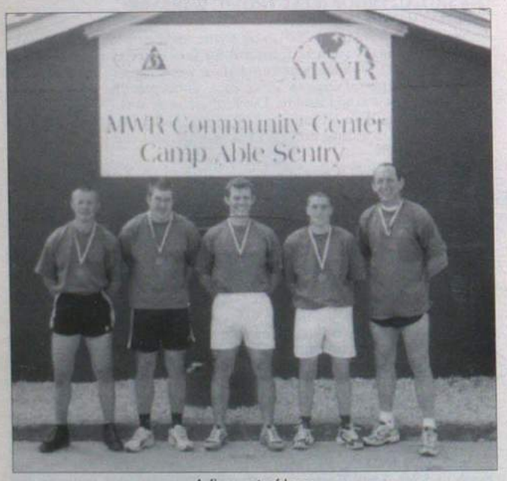
The first collection with the FR BG was nearly cancelled, as there was a small contact ahead of the convoy. This situation was quickly resolved as the French Foreign Legion stop for nothing and decided to carry on regardless. **2Lt** 'take cover' **M-P** was left a bit twitchy after this incident, much to **SSgt Andy Barber's** amusement he nearly took cover on the next operation at the mere sound of the weapons being put in the ISO container (Well that's the story he is telling everyone, but of cause **2LT M-P** will tell it differently). **Sgt Matthews** and **Cpl Dave** 'give me a bigger bergen' **Janvier** managed to get out on many of the LEWT tasks and received the pleasure of tabbing up large hills to set up the OPs for

the Weapon Collection Operations. While all this was going on, the running of the Troop CP in **2Lt M-Ps** absence was left in the capable hands of **Q Paul** 'I am the Troop OpsWO' **Crawley**, insuring that the deployed teams needs were catered for and that they were ready for fixture tasking.

While all of this was going on we still managed to enter a team in the 5-man relay run competition, which was hosted by the Americans at CAS. Even though the team consisted of those not on shift, we still did the Regt proud and in a tight fought competition and came third overall out of 20 teams. **WO2 Mel Richards** was one of the team members and for once was not the oldest member taking part in the competition, but once again his experience paid off in him beating a large majority of the younger competitors in the race. Also during the fast pace of the deployment there was still time for the sprogs to complete their class two exam. So a well done to **Sigs Chris Rees**, 'Lofty' **Hannam** and **LCpl** 'Clive' **Clayton** for all successfully passing their class two and also the **YofS Lee** 'I'm far too busy' **Davis** for finding time in his busy schedule to fit in these important tests.

We have managed to get off quite lightly with only one casualty of war in the form of newly promoted **Sgt Lance** 'just one more can of coke' **Beaton**, who managed to get an early flight home as he had a bit of a stomach ache from downing two cans of coke. The remainder of the Troop is in good spirits and looking forward to the end of the deployment. **Cpl** 'must be massive' **Carnall** has not felt satisfied unless he has spent at least an hour a day looking at himself straining in the mirror in preparation for returning to his lady friend **IT Lynch**. **LCpl Trearty** is keeping himself busy with the odd run when be can fit it in and **Cpl Brumfield** has kept himself very busy reading all the mail he received and topping up his tan (it's a very demanding life in the Balkans). Now in the final stage of weapon collection we are all working around the clock for the final push. Just as morale started to drop we received two massive boxes of goodies from Woolworths, which meant for the final few weeks of the tour the whole Troop had to fight off the 'chocoholic' **Sgt Jane Bottomley** to get any themselves. We are definitely ready and looking forward to returning home to the UK for some well-deserved leave.

What a motley crew!



A fine set of legs

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)

Sqn Comd **Maj Drinkall**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Mitchell**

Farewell to the Sqn 2IC, **Capt Mark Davies** who is posted out to become **Maj Gen Shaw's** ADC. Congratulations must go to the SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Dave Mitchell** who organised the Charity Bike Fair at Cawdor Barracks in aid of the Paul Sartori Cancer Research Foundation. His efforts and the efforts of those who helped managed to raise over £2000.

SQUADRON OPERATIONS

OpsWO **WO2 Sean Carden**
YofS **WO2 (YofS)** 'Taff' **Thomas**

Op Agricola 5 saw our Antipodean Exchange Officer **WO2 Sean Carden** deployed to Kosovo then on a three-week tour of Europe to see the sights on his return, while back here in UK we say farewell to **WO2 (Supvr R) Tony Watters** who leaves us to head up the Regimental Recruiting Team, **WO2 (Supvr R) Mike Osborne** who leaves us to become the Regimental Ops WO, **SSgt Sue Jackson** who is posted to Northern Ireland and **Sgt** 'Mac' **MacDonald** who moves back to workshops. He is to be replaced by the incoming **WO2 FofS Andy Amies** who is joining us from upstairs from 226 Sig Sqn (EW). Finally, a farewell to the Yeoman, **WO2 (YofS)** 'Taff' **Thomas** who is posted to Oman for two years.

TANGO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Liz Robson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt** 'Taff' **Baynham**

The Troop has been involved heavily in Kosovo on Op Agricola 5 and in Sierra Leone on Op Silkman where **SSgt** 'Jaffa' **Martin** is currently keeping his head down. Triple congratulations go to **Cpl Tommy Tucker** and **Sig Julie Parry** who were recently married (in a castle and then honeymooned in Barbados!) and again on his pre-selection to Sergeant and his Yeoman of Signals course. Farewells go to the Tp Comd **Capt Phil Waddell**, posted to 21 Sig Regt after his return form Kosovo, **Cpl Dave Hall** who is off to JSSU Oakley, **LCpl Biggsy Hancock** who is posted to 16 Air Asslt Bde and **LCpl Dave Orme** who is posted to EOD Catterick. Finally a big hello goes to our new Tp Comd **2Lt Liz Robson** who joins us straight from her Troop Commander's course at Blandford.

VICTOR TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Ed Maskell-Pedersen**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Steve Newton-Roberts**

Farewells from the Troop go to **LCpl Gemma Officer** and **LCpl Steve Jones** who leave us to join the Regimental Recruiting Team. Farewell also to **Cpl** 'Jinner' **Garner** who leaves us shortly to go to JSSU Ayios Nikolaos and to **Sig** 'Tips' **Tipple** who is enjoying working in BATUS.

MOTOR TRANSPORT SECTION

MT Sgt **Sgt Brett Newton**
MT Cpl **LCpl Pete Russell**

The Troop would like to welcome **LCpl Glenn Russell** into the fold. He joins us from 7 Sig Regt and we would like to congratulate **Sig** 'Mac' **McLaughlin** who achieved a commendable second place on his recent cadre course.

The Royal Corps of Signals

Saturday Night at the Proms

Saturday 20th April 2002
Poole Arts Centre

The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals
The Pipes & Drums of the Royal Corps of Signals
Swindon Male Voice Choir
and the
Meridian Youth Wind Orchestra

Concert Starts 7.30 pm

Booking Hotline - 01202 685 222

XVI 16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col A. Morphet**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) N. Fisher**

These last few months have been very hectic for the Regiment where a great deal of attention has been directed towards preparation for and deployment to Oman in support of Ex Saif Sareea. The subsequent mass exodus of troops has resulted in a degree of quietude back home, but we are not complaining.

REGIMENTAL FAMILIES DAY

This year's Regimental Families Day was a major undertaking that fell squarely on the shoulders of **WO2 RQMS Mark Giles** and his very small team of helpers from the Quartermaster Admin Dept. The day itself took place just prior to block leave and coincided with the visit of the Lord Mayor of Leicester. In what turned out to be an exceptionally busy week manpower was very much at a premium and the RQ and his team slaved long and hard to ensure all was right on the day. Indeed as **RQ Giles** was soon taking up a post with a youth training team in London he was determined to make the event his September song, as indeed it turned out to be. The weather gods smiled very favourably and the RQ's prayers were rewarded by excellent weather.

The main thrust of the day was very much geared towards the children and there were plenty of activities to keep them amused. Most popular was the TOYS R US Road show that provided a large number of battery operated cars, bikes and trikes complete with circuit and stewards. This attraction proved to be a magnet for the youngsters and allowed parents to observe from and take advantage of the many watering holes that abounded. The bigger children (ie: the troops) kept themselves, and a large audience amused, with a tailored down version of 'It's a Knockout'. The event was spread across the afternoon and involved plenty of water and bouncing about on inflated things. The tug of war became a little disjointed and was eventually won by **Sig Snooks** and two hundred others. The eventual winners of the overall event were a composite team from Headquarter Squadron.

Another attraction was the exotic pets' stand run by **LCpl Driver** and **Cpl Blears.** There was a time when soldiers sought permission to keep gerbils, hamsters, budgies and the like with the odd request for exotic pets such as tropical fish. On parade this day were several pythons, a boa constrictor, rat snakes, a tarantula, lizards and a strange looking South American Toad, all property of serving soldiers. The stand nonetheless proved very popular, perhaps as a type of therapy allowing people to confront their fears! Although it was noticeable of the wide berth a number of people elected to adopt when passing.

Snakes Alive!
The Regimental Reptile Club at the Families Day

REGIMENTAL BOXING

On Wednesday 24 July the Regiment took on the Support Battalion HQ ARRC in a charity boxing match. The event was held outside No. 2 Gymnasium JHQ, fortunately the weather held to allow for an excellent night's entertainment for all. The event was put together by the **QMSI Bob Price** ably supported by a number of people but in particular **Capt Kev Stainburn** and **Sgt Rob Kirk** who are singled out for special mention. The preparation of the Regimental team was meticulous and consisted of trips back to Aldershot for technical sessions in addition to the physical prep around the local area. A great emphasis was placed into developing a comraderie amongst the team and this was particularly evident on the night when skill, fitness and spirit were key factors in the Regiment's excellent victory of seven bouts to one. There were many notable performances on the night but the best boxer prize went to **LCpl Sonny Faid** for his performance at Welter weight. A special mention goes out to **Sig Nikki Horton** who competed in a ladies exhibition bout narrowly losing on points.

In addition to the competition two framed autographed soccer shirts donated by Newcastle and Man United were auctioned. This raised the grand sum of 1700DM which will be donated to the JHQ community primarily to be used to enhance the limited youth sports programme. The event was sponsored by BMW and **Mr Robert Day** flew in from UK to be present at the contest and present some of the prizes.

The Regimental Boxing Team
Rear (L-R): Sgt Kirk, Sig Scott, LCpl Unsworth, RSM, CO, BMW Rep, WO2 Bob Price, Sig Taylor, Cpl Robson
Front (L-R): Bdr Muxlow (RASU), LCpl Driver, Sig Horton, Cpl Richardson, Sig Grainger, Cpl Blears, Cpl Faid

BATTLEFIELD TOUR - YPRES

On Tuesday 28 August some 38 Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs of 16 Signal Regiment conducted a Battlefield Tour of the Ypres Salient. The event was organised by **Lts Pittaway** and **Knightly-Brown** and concentrated primarily on 'Third Ypres', perhaps better known as the Battle of Passchendaele. The day started with a visit to the Flanders Field Museum, in the town of Ypres. This is an excellent facility, well laid out and very informative. After lunch the party embarked on a guided tour of the Salient finishing at Tyne Cot Cemetery on Passchendaele Ridge. The cemetery is the largest of those owned by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It is very impressive and leaves a lasting impression of the great sacrifices made by the 12000 soldiers that are buried there. At sunset the group attended the very moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. The ceremony was conducted by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col A. N. Morphet**, who read a verse from the poem 'The Fallen' before laying a wreath on behalf of all ranks of the Regiment.

Lt Col Morphet at the Menin Gate during the Last Post Ceremony

LEICESTER TROPHY

The Leicester Trophy Sports competition is an event that extends over a 12-month period and is competed for at troop level. The event encompasses all the conventional sports disciplines with the exception of the final one, which is the indoor obstacle and endurance event, a total of 12 events in all. Those who have served with the Regiment will know the importance and emphasis placed on the competition and it is a splendid way of engendering sport within the unit as well as establishing contacts between personnel within a unit that is relatively so geographically fragmented. This year's endurance event coincided with the Lord Mayor of Leicester's visit and he was a keen spectator. It was an extremely hot day and fortune favoured the teams that got off early. The event was eventually won by Support Troop of 255 Squadron. However, the overall trophy went to SCPR of 252 Signal Squadron. Unfortunately with this years large overseas exercise and next year's two major operational deployments, coupled with the Regimental move to Bruggen the forthcoming Leicester Trophy Competition will be a sawn off version and will be contained to a five day period in January.

Members of the 230 Signal Squadron Team close to the finish of the endurance run

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj G. L. Richards**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) L. Crossing**

QUARTERMASTERS (A) DEPT

QM (A) **Maj** 'Scotty' **Handibode**
RQMS (A) **WO2 Andy Baird**

The Department would like to welcome to the new Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Admin, **WO2 Andy** 'Commando' **Baird**, who has taken the leap across from being the Headquarters Squadron Sergeant Major. No more waving that stick at us 'Sir' all in the department would like to wish him well in his new post (he will need it on the big move to Bruggen) at the beginning of 2002. A farewell to the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Admin, **WO2 Mark Giles**, after serving a year at Wegberg DCSA (G) as RQMS, followed by I am sure two long hard years at 16 Signal Regiment as RQMS (A), it is time to say goodbye and so long. **WO2 Mark Giles** has moved on to a somewhat cushier job at a Cadet Training Team in Middlesex. He will be missed by all, but I am quite sure after a couple of weeks in London he will not be missing us. 'Good luck for the future' and keep those eyes focused on the job.

HEADQUARTERS MOTOR TRANSPORT - *by Sig Lee Lester*

MTWO **WO2 Stewart**
Tp Sgts **Sgt Tanner & Sgt Morley**

Firstly, I think we should say a welcome to **LCpl** 'Rev' **Reveley** and his family who have arrived from 15 Sig Regt, also **Sig** 'Gaz' **McQuillen** from the factory at Blandford. This month we have seen some of our friends disappear into the sun on Saif Sarea II **Cpl** 'It's gonna be a swan' **Mead** was looking forward to a holiday away from the sharp end and an opportunity to shed some weight taking with him **LCpl** 'Di Canio' **Scott, Sig** 'Butt' **Elston, Sig** 'Macca' **McCann** and **Sig** 'Davy Boy' **Needam**, see ya all in November boyz. A fond farewell to **LCpl** 'Jobbo' **Jobson** on posting leaving **LCpl** 'Smiley' **Hawkes** to run the Regimental Servicing Bay (on his own) keep up the good work **Andy**! After having his legs fixed its good to see **Sgt** 'More metal than a T2000' **Tanner** getting back to his fitness regime again with a little help from the lads and **Sgt** 'Just a quick 60 miles on the bike' **Morley.**

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Regtl FOS **WO1 Lewenden**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Bath**

The month of August has been a very busy one for the lads and lassies of TM Troop. We have been inundated with kit for the forthcoming exercise in Oman and have also had to say goodbye to three major personalities from the Troop. First of all I would like to say cheers to 230 Sqn for the prompt way they handed in all their faulty kit just before block leave, it was really appreciated. Whilst on the subject of Saif Serea we would like to wish **Sgt** 'Get your knee down' **Spruce, Cpls** 'Posh Lad' **Cadogan** and 'Horse Face' **Meardon** all the best in the sand. We can't wait until you get back to JHQ so you can visit Pike's garden again.

The Troop, as aforementioned, has lost three major personalities this month due to postings, but I'm glad to say that every one of the lads has gone out with a 'BANG'. The first to leave was **Cpl** 'I'm loved up' **Shepherd** to 280 Sig Sqn. For Shep's leaving-do we all went on a excursion to Six Flags in Amsterdam and as usual it was a barrel of laughs from the word go. The day started with us all leaving JHQ in convoy at eight in the morning. What followed was like something out of wacky races, with people overtaking all over the place and the world's fastest McDonalds pit stop. Once we arrived at the park we all split into our little groups and embarked on our mission to try every ride in the park. **Cpl Andy Carter, Cpl Jowett, LCpl Andy O'Neill** and myself managed to get sideways under the power on the log rides. Well after that the day went brilliantly and it wasn't long before we were back on our way to sunny JHQ and the 'BAR'.

I'd also like to say hello to the new guys in the Troop, **LCpls Hart, Jarvis, Sheehan, Bray, Simpkins, Briggs, Ellison, Young, Heydon** and **Robson.** None of them have got a clue about anything yet - apart from **LCpl Robson,** but he looks about 40 anyway. On a sadder note we have to say farewell to **Cpl Andy Conner** and **Cpl Andy Carter**. They will be missed a great deal by the Troop and we wish them well.

RAO DEPARTMENT

RAO **Capt Stainburn**
Det Comd **WO1 Williams**

For some years we relied upon the Rheindahlen Army Support Unit (RASU) for our pay and administration. With a move to Bruggen planned for early 2002, it was decided that 16 should have its own AGC Detachment. I was delighted to be offered the post of AGC Detachment Commander and working in conjunction with the Regimental Administrative Officer, **Capt** (Major WEF 30 September 2001) **Kev Stainburn** we set about the task in hand. After almost six months of slogging it out, getting such necessities as desks, chairs, office furniture, phone lines, computers, UNICOM and, most important of all, staff we were up and running. With the majority of the staff in situ by the end of October 2000 we opened our doors to the 'public' in November 2000, providing a full service less BFG documentation, which was retained by RASU. With the implementation of Pay 2000 in April 2001 and the annual Pay/Documentation inspection in July 2001 we have had a very busy year. It is to the whole Detachment's credit that we managed to transfer across to Pay 2000 with very few anomalies and pass the inspection in both disciplines. Remarkable achievements considering the diverse roles and locations of 16 Signal Regiment personnel and the limited time we physically had with the documents themselves. On our move to Bruggen we will employ additional staff in order to perform our secondary role of Central Services Support for Javelin Barracks. This will make us one of the largest AGC Detachments in any major unit. We look forward immensely to the Bruggen move and the challenges which no doubt lie ahead.

QUARTERMASTER (TECHNICAL) DEPARTMENT

QM **Capt Paul Horton**
RQMS **WO2 Giles**

From the happy campers in the corner of Krefeld Lines, JHQ. Everything is coming up roses with the Board of Officers. LOG SP Inspection and Battle Camp completed to a high degree of satisfaction. Has anyone seen our 'GULF'(or do I mean GOLF) heroes? Last seen on the nineteenth hole with beer in their hands, well done to **Capt (hole in one Horton) BEM**! Where are the drinks lads? The department says farewell to **WO2 (RQMS)** 'Clarence' **Giles** on posting to the Army Cadet Team. **Sgt Ian** 'Where's my posting?' **Taylor** cracks on with our ET with little help from the steam driven computer system that we have. **Sgt John** 'Where are those twenty televisions?' **Hoskins, Cpl Mark** 'Nearly a real Corporal' **Ellis** as he is on his Corporals Course. **Cpl Paul Munslow** on his forthcoming posting back to no LOA in the Iron Division in UK. All the lads and lasses look forward to our little camping trip with AARC on Ex Arrcade Fusion.

REGIMENTAL GENERATOR SECTION

Since the deployment of 230 Signal Squadron on Ex Saif Sareea II, the GRS hasn't been too over loaded with work. LT OOU has kept us busy with the MEI'S and some work has come from them. One thing to happen is the very much overdue and well-deserved promotion of **Cpl Bruce Findlay**. At least he will get plenty of skiing at 249 Signal Squadron when he arrives there in January.

LAD DETACHMENT

OC **Capt John Reynolds**
ASM **WO1 Simpson**

EXERCISE FIRST RIDE 2001

On the evening of Tuesday 26 June 2001, a team of three riders (said very loosely**), Sgt Gaz Paterson, Cpl Ged Quinn** and **Cfn Ian Saint** and chief mechanic **Cfn Matt Squires**, set off to Achme Training Area Osnabruck, to compete in the BAG and REME Motorcycle Championships. On our arrival at the training area we immediately set up the BBQ and discussed our tactics for the forth-coming event. After a very uncomfortable mosquito and horse fly bitten night it was time to forget about the nerves and get down to some serious motorcycling. Well sort of. The morning trial sections were as ever difficult, even for the experienced riders let alone the complete novice. After a few minor mechanical faults we all managed to return to the parc ferme. The next stage of the day was a timed lap of the motocross circuit with a bogey time of 2 minutes 20 seconds set by **Mr Bill Buckley**, with a point per second over the bogey time added to your final score. **Ged** and **Ian** unfortunately were over the time; **Sgt Paterson** completed his lap with a storming 2 minutes and 12 seconds. **Sgt Paterson** was asked to ride the main jumps section so the photographer could take some action shots, however on his last jump he snapped his foot peg off, it was a mad dash to the parc ferme, to renew the foot peg ready for the final stage. Last were the enduro stage 4 laps of a 23-kilometre circuit in a time of 2 hours 30 minutes maximum. On the start gate riders number 1 **(Sgt Gaz Paterson)** and number 2 were waiting for the signal to start the engine. The signal was given, however, his bike failed to start and he had to push it over the start line and round to the pits, with some help from the master technician **Cfn Matt Squires**, he was mobile again but set off behind rider number 12. 1 hour and 45 minutes later he crossed the finish line second. The results of the competition were:

REME Motorcycle Team Runners up -
16 Signal Regiment LAD REME **Sgt Paterson, Cpl Quinn, Cfn Saint**
REME Motorcycle Champion Runner up - **Sgt Paterson**
British Army Germany Runner up - **Sgt Paterson**
Fastest Special stage (motocross Circuit) - **Sgt Paterson**

A special thank you to 2 Close Support Regiment RLC for the loan of the motorcycles and the OC and ASM of the LAD for allowing us the time off to compete. Last but definitely not least to 1 BN REME for hosting as ever a fantastic and well-organised event.

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj G. Pickersgill**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Hannah**

Life goes on in the busiest (and truly operational) Squadron in the Regiment. As usual there have been the plethora of comings and goings. For those who have left, we wish you all good fortune for the future, and for those arriving we hope you will enjoy the challenges, trials and tribulations of working in an Infrastructure CIS Squadron. We continue to support HQ ARRC exercises (Arrcade Warrior, Arrcade Fusion) with 'operational hubbing' and are heavily involved in a number of new equipment trials (ATICS) as a part of the overall CIS capability that is being offered in support of their deployable headquarters.
Furthermore, as a result of being 'targeted' by the Non-Deployable Establishment Review (NDER) we expect a number of major changes to the way we will be doing business in the near future. We will be aligning more closely with HQ DCSA (Germany), the Agency tasked with providing infrastructure communications and information services across the Germany Theatre. We await the outcome with baited breath! Finally, we have been lucky to have enjoyed the company of **Sgt Jena Lea** of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals on an Ex Long Look attachment, her report follows. We wish you all the best for the future, **Jena**, and if you are ever in our neck of the woods again - pop in for a cuppa tea.

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 2001

Sgt Jena Lea - Royal Australian Corps of Signals, G'day!

In April this year I was quietly minding my own business at 7 Signal Regiment (EW) in sunny Queensland, when the boss rang and asked if I wanted to go on Ex Long Look. Silly question really! I arrived here in Germany, five days later than planned, on 27 May (apparently the RAF took a while to master the art of tyre changing). I was met at Hanover airport by **Sgt Andy Humphris** who, quite rightly, recognised that I was delirious with fatigue from the 24 hour flight and so promptly asked me to do a little map reading because 'I think I know how to get back to JHQ from here!' When we finally arrived at JHQ, I met my host **SSgt Jayne Lawrence** and immediately found myself in the middle of a leaving do, where the amber fluid was flowing freely. It would seem that this set the tone for the rest of my time here. Before I give the wrong impression, I'd like to make it clear that I did do some work while I was here. I was here to replace **SSgt Paul Youd** at EST (A), 252 Sig Sqn and did, in fact, accompany the team on tasks in Guttersloh, Wulfen and Krefeld. (A quick note to those of you at 7 Signal Regiment… not everyone who wears an Australian uniform is a male officer…it was somewhat disconcerting to notice that the cries of 'Good morning, Sir!' accompanied by a smart salute were being directed at me!) I also spent four weeks with the EST(A) UK team, during which time I was fortunate enough to be able to get away and witness the Edinburgh Tattoo. I also had the opportunity to accompany the team on a task in Cyprus. It was truly unfortunate that I was unable to gain clearance to enter the area where the team was working and so was forced to find something else to do. The beach had a certain appeal…It would seem that Lady Luck was with me during August. It became apparent that there was a position available on an Australian Army adventurous training exercise…two weeks sea kayaking around the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. After partaking of the battlefield tours and seeing the truly horrendous nature of the ground at ANZAC Cove, I will commemorate ANZAC Day with greater understanding and respect for the fallen. It was truly, a once in a lifetime experience. The Long Look experience is unique. In addition to the opportunity to see how another country's defence force does business, one can travel to the other side of the world and experience a different culture. For anyone who ever thought about applying for Long Look and never quite got around to it…. What the hell are you waiting for? I would like to extend grateful thanks to the CO and members of 16 Signal Regiment who went out of their way to make me feel welcome, particularly the members of EST(A), **WO2 (FofS) Jim Vincent, Sgt Andy Humphris** (that's two crates, mate!) and **Sgt Paul Henderson**. I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank **SSgt Jayne Lawrence** for her unstinting efforts to ensure that I saw as much of Germany as possible (and a couple for you too, girl!).

255 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Ashley Hayden**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Al Ironside**

Well its back to the cheap seats for **Capt Kevin Barker** who returns from his momentary bit of fame and fortune as acting OC to being 2IC as we welcome in **Maj Ashley** 'Arthur Daley' **Hayden** as the new OC. Just arrived from Cyprus, it was '255 Dodgy Motors' as the new OC embarked upon his latest wheeler dealing in his endeavours to establish a used car lot. Currently in possession of five cars (including his monster truck), jet ski and assorted other toys we are awaiting the latest enterprise. Rumours that we are about to buy a Squadron yacht appear to be unfounded at this stage but we will let you know if anything happens. The Sqn Ops Team welcomes Lord Lucan, otherwise know as **WO2 (IS SUPVR) Patrick Hurge Mogg.** If anyone has seen the whereabouts of H-M please do write to us. In fact we do know what he has been doing in his spare time as we say congratulations to both him and Judith on the birth of baby **Jonathan**. With around a third of the Squadron being in temporary exile with the Saif Sareea grouping it still leaves us with more than 100 pers at JHQ and Bruggen. We still have the Brigade's complete CIS support in the field to maintain whilst Bruggen Tps are still entertaining us. The remainder are temporarily reformed into a Maint Tp whilst we await the re-uniting of the 255 family upon return from the Oman. A big thank you to 229 over at 7 Sig Regt for taking on our RSC commitments for ARRC exercises whilst Saif Sareea rumbles on – unlucky!

CIS TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Herbert**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Kielty**

CIS Troop has been extremely busy over the last month what with Ex Warrior Falcon which was your usual ARRC affair say no more and Arrcade Fusion coming around the corner very shortly we don't know whether we're coming or going. A few good bye's **Sgt Robson** and his wife **Sharon** who are both of to the emerald isle - good luck to the both of you, and of course not to forget **SSgt Harry Harrison** who has gone back to 7 Signal Regiment after a particularly long six month attachment.

BRUGGEN TROOP

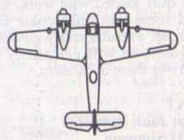
Tp OC **Lt** 'Quail Butties' **Rickman**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Sunny Cyprus' **Tinsley**

Hello to the following victims: **LCpl** 'Soon to be a Rodney' **Brown** Goodbye, to the following members of the Bruggen escape committee: **Cpl** 'Petrochelli' **Swarbrick** to Civ Div, **LCpl** 'Dirty Dog' **Sherratt** off to 259 Sig Sqn, **LCpl** 'Gym Queen' **Deacon** off to 259 Sig Sqn, **Sig** 'Soon to be the next Mrs Swarbick' **Barrett** off to Civ Div, **Sig** 'Striptease' **Brown** off to 2 Sig Regt, **Sig** 'Yorkie bound' **Dent** off to 2 Sig Regt, **Sig** 'Civvy' **Brown** off to Civ Div, to any body I forgot my apologies.

BRUGGEN LIFE

No change in the intensive life and work role of Bruggen Troops in the past four months we've been to Ascension Islands, Falkland Islands, Kosovo, Bosnia, Nepal, Oman, Sierra Leone and all over Germany. The Troop is about 64 soldiers strong with around 20 being deployed at any one time in support of any of the above mentioned locations. Bruggen is, however, changing. The past few months have seen all the flying Squadrons leave and now the Rock Apes are due to leave and that just leaves the engineering and ops squadrons to go. Plans are in full swing for the imminent arrival of both 7 and 16 Sig Regts, with Bruggen Troops being heavily involved in the restructuring of communications systems within the new Javelin Barracks set up. On Friday 21 September 2001 the Troop decided to have its final big bash before the rest of the British Army move in. After much hard work and some excellent planning the final function was held at the D oranje Hotel in Roermond. Starting with a champagne reception and moving onto a huge international buffet and copious amounts of Beer the Troop danced the night away till the early hours of the morning. Special thanks to the man who made it all possible **Cpl Dec** 'Airborne' **Maher** and his selected posse for laying on a truly great night. On Tuesday 26 September 2001 it was decided to invite our fellow members of 255 Sig Sqn down to the bar for a games night. Games included darts, pool, golf bowls, table soccer and nails. Food from the local Chinese was brought in and, once again, lots of beverages were consumed. The eventual winners were the guests but the lads and our token lass won the boat race. Thanks to **SSgt Gaz Tinsley** and **Cpl Mick Makin** for setting it all up and may be next time we will kick rump.

21 SIGNAL REGIMENT (AIR SUPPORT)



CO **Lt Col I. Hooper**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Rook**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON - *by WO2 (SSM) Chapman*
Sqn Comd **Maj T. A. Dean**
PROTEUS CAMP 8 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2001
OC Proteus Camp **Capt Masson**
Camp SSM **WO2 (SSM) Glanville**

Proteus is a CCF training camp situated two miles outside of Ollerton, near Newark, Nottinghamshire. The OCs aim for the Squadron training camp was to provide a challenging, diverse environment combining the Regular and Territorial Army elements of Headquarters Squadron, 43 (Wx) Sig Sqn (V) and HQ Tp (V). The training covered was ITDs, progressing to advanced military skills and arduous events. To set the scene the main party paraded at 0800hrs on Saturday 8 September, ready to deploy, when the rain started over Colerne. 'If it ain't raining it ain't training' was the overwhelming response. On arrival **WO2** 'Gunny' **Giles** shouted, 'Collect your monkeys and parrots and let's move,' the training had begun. The first week comprised of revision with shake out drills to bring the three units together. Everyone began to jell immediately, with the training groups being made up from all ranks. Ex Red Jade, which was to confirm lessons taught was conducted on the local training area. It began to rain as we deployed to the first location, a farmhouse in Beckingham Training Area, where a defensive location was set up using the supplied defence stores. The heavy rain continued until 2100hrs, which gave the standing patrols enough time to get soaked.

Advance One and Be Recognised

Sig Porter and LCpl Turnball 'A force to be reckoned with'

The enemy attacked at 0207hrs for long enough to encourage **WO2 Giles** to tell the Platoon OC to move at 0500hrs as their position was compromised. The move by Bedford to Proteus Training Area B, with **2Lt** 'Columbus' **Fish** in command ensured the drivers saw most of the North of England. The exercise continued with the platoon being split down into the three sections, in separate locations carrying out Reece's, wooded defence locations and ambushes against the other sections. The exercise finished on Friday 14 September 2001 at 1045hrs with all exercise personnel and those left in Proteus camp parading at 1100hrs, in the field, to observe the three minutes silence for those affected in the atrocities, in America, on Tuesday 11 September 2001. The mid-way point in the exercise involved NBC on Saturday morning, followed by a BCFT, in preparation for the cultural visits and a few beers on Sunday. Week 2 began with a 3-day range package on Beckingham Ranges. This finished with an LSW competition shoot and a difficult Rifle 5.56, 400m standing position competition shoot put together by **SSgt Ken Snell**. At the end of the package the standard of shooting by everyone had greatly improved and was enjoyed by everyone. The training camp culminated on Friday 21 September with a patrol competition over a 10mile course, devised by OC HQ Sqn, **Maj** 'Not long enough' **Dean**, with 4 x 8-man teams completing the 10miles and six stands, including an assault course and 25meter range. The CO, **Lt Col I. Hooper**, and **WO1 (RSM) D. Rook** escorted each section during various legs of the course. **2Lt** 'Columbus' **Fish**, in charge of 1 Section, was true to form by taking her section straight past Stand 1, 300m from the start, whilst escorted by the CO and RSM.

March and Shoot Section 3 'Happy Days'

The event proved to be very competitive with Section 1 and 2 being headed by two young officers, Sections 3 and 4 led by **WO2 (SSM) Chapman** and **WO2 (TWO) Giles**. The result was decided by the overall course time and penalty points picked up on each stand. The final winners were Section 2 Led by **2Lt Hannaford**, ably assisted by **SSgt** 'Spence' **Ord.** The winners were presented Tankards by the Commanding Officer, as were the shooting competition winners, Best Rifle 5.56 shot **Sig Hamblin** and Best LSW shot **Sgt Scott**. The camp clean up had been mainly completed by **SSgt (SQMS)** 'Trev' **John** who had done an outstanding job with his team. Saturday morning 22 September 2001 the buses arrived to transport us back to Colerne and Bath. The camp had been a great success, with the TA and Regular elements meeting new colleges and achieving a wider understanding of each other.

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj David Bizley**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Paul Williams**

The Squadron has finally arrived in the scorching desert in Oman for Ex Saif Sareea II. The previous couple of weeks have been frantic as each department has completed their pre-departure admin. With a flood of second lines, a Squadron audit and a rush of BPFAs, not to mention over 120 personnel getting inoculations for Oman, the Squadron finally left Colerne in early September, in a slight drizzle- who would have thought that we would now be missing our typical British rain! We have been fortunate to be located at the APOD in RAFO Thumrait, where the RAF facilities are second to none. With swimming pools, daily trips to Salalah, internet terminals and a gymnasium, the troops are well catered for- especially compared to other Signals units who have been located in Camp South, now aptly re-named 'South Park'. The Squadron has been making full use of these facilities prior to our move North, where such luxuries are unheard of!

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Pete Brunton**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Phil Render**

Firstly, a quick welcome to **Sig** 'Bram' **Bramfitt**, who has arrived straight from the factory and has quickly got settled in to showing off his footy skills in the inter-squadron football competition. This month we say goodbye to **Cpl Stu Hunt** and family who have moved onto the greener pastures of civvie street along with **LCpl Chris** 'someone please employ me' **Kirkman**. Lastly we say farewell to **Sig** 'Tash' **Coope** who has been posted to sunny Northern Ireland to join 15 Sig Regt- Good luck to you all! Alpha Tp is currently preparing for the summer deployment to Turkey on exercise Adventure Exchange. With the PACEX and boat load complete and two weeks still to go until our flights, the Troop has been fulfilling the guard commitment prior to us disappearing until April next year. Time has also been found for sports and PT with **Cpl Kemp** and **Sig Weekes**, **Grisdale** and **Hall** representing the Regiment at athletics and **Cpl Woodall** and **Sig Albury** competing in the 5 Div swimming finals. Lastly we would like to congratulate **Cpl's Murphy** and **Brookwell** on their recent promotion.

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Neil Clements**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Andy Gill**
EXERCISE RED HAND HIKE

On 20 August, Bravo Tp deployed to Willsworthy Camp on the edge of Dartmoor for a Troop level exercise involving numerous activities. The main aim of the week was to get the Troop together, welcome new members and develop an identity prior to deploying on Ex Saif Sareea in Oman. When we arrived, we were told by **SSgt Andy Gill** that we were going to try out our walking boots and trousers on the moor. We all thought we were in for an afternoon of walking but when we arrived on the moor after a very short minibus journey, we were confronted by a playing pitch with boxes as goals and a ball in a sock. We had to throw around **SSgt Gill's** sweaty sock and roll around on the ground, which we all delighted in and got right amongst it! Following this were some team building exercises, which we all completed in true Bravo Tp fashion. On Day Two, the group was split in two, with half cycling and the others enjoying a trip to Exeter. Well, I think we all earned the Tour de France yellow jersey that day. After a few wrong turns and **Sig** 'It's just up this hill' **Doveton** taking us on a tour of the local area, we all made it back in one piece, after completing about 30 miles. That evening was a quiz night, which was enjoyed by all, especially **Sig Frank** 'Don't argue, I'm always right' **Reeves**. Following that was our trip to Exeter to spend some of our hard earned cash. A local leisure centre provided a relaxing swim for some and for others a trip to McDonalds and relaxing by the Quay was the order of the day. That night was a skits evening. All the groups, including DS, did one. A great night was had by all and **Sig Mike** 'I've got ginger hair and wild dogs chasing me' **Lake** did a fantastic impression of the boss, **2Lt Neil** 'I love the outdoors' **Clements**. Day Four found us all tearing round a go-cart track. **Sgt Gaz** 'I will win' **Chapman** didn't quite make the grade, but had a good go. The final victory went to **Sig Frank** 'Ed Winchester' **Reeves** who we are sure cheated. On to our final night, which found us all in Exeter. Needless to say, we all had a great night. Friday morning was the usual end of exercise clear up and then the trip back to sunny Colerne, all refreshed and ready to deploy on Ex Saif Sareea.

EXERCISE SAIF SAREEA

The 2 July saw the eight members of the pre-advance party deploy as a maintenance team headed by **Sgt Craig Brooksbank**. Our role was to maintain the Regiment's first vehicles arriving at the SPOD on 5 July. First impressions count for so much, so after a quick evaluation of the APOD we moved quickly down to the port of Salalah. Greeting us there was air-conditioning and a relaxing couple of days waiting for the vehicles to arrive. However, nothing ever runs to plan and sure enough the ship arrived earlier than expected. We soon got to grips with checking the vehicles and comms equipment. Sadly, we then had to leave our new home of Salalah to move North to Thumrait, the APOD. This move involved transporting 28 vehicles with just the eight of us- not surprising then that it took five days! From air-conditioning to 18x24 (The Savoy to the Travelodge) was quite a shock, but 261 Squadron put us to task immediately. The Radio Relay was tasked to assist in a comms trial between Thumrait and Camp South. The Radio Relay moved around constantly- much to the crew's surprise. Nevertheless, the crew performed well and the task was undertaken with enthusiasm. Thanks go to all the eight pre-advance party- especially **LCpl Craig Chilvers** who managed to maintain power with very limited resources and **LCpl Chevvy** 'Magpie' **Stanway** who worked constantly repairing cables, coaxes and headsets with no spares. We also thank 261 Signal Squadron's ERV and SQMS whom, without their assistance we would have had serious kit problems. We wait now for the remainder of the Squadron, enjoy your acclimatisation- you'll need it!

Life in the Desert

TERRITORIAL ARMY
FORWARD AIR CONTROL TROOP

Despite the restriction placed upon training for the first half of the year, the last ten months has been one of the busiest periods the Troop has seen for some time. A total of 22 taskings have been completed during this period. The first major 10-day tasking led by **Maj David Bird**, along with **Maj John Morgan** and **Maj Nick Sparks**, and supported by **LCpl Andy Fairington**, was spent on the bombing ranges at Cape Wrath, Scotland. The trip was a total success, with the team controlling A/C on both day and night Close Air Support (CAS) missions. This was followed by the annual deployment to Canada on Ex Western Vortex.

Two teams spent five weeks working with jets from a number of NATO countries. Due to the amount of mini tasking running concurrently, manpower was stretched, giving the opportunity for **Cpl** 'Val' **Valance** a Regular soldier on loan from Alfa Tp, to work with one of the TACP's. It also gave **LCpl Paul Sirett** the chance to break the mould of exercising in Germany. Because of the shortage of helicopters to lift the teams in and out of the Operation, both teams spent a considerable amount of time living in the wilderness 1500 miles form the nearest civilisation. Resup was by air and the list of requirements became more varied and fanciful as time went by. Whilst this was going on, the Tp supported Ex Flying Rhino in Germany, and **Capt Alan White** embarked on a series of exercises in Wales. Also during this period the majority of FAC's within the Troop were also deployed on CAS taskings. All CAS in Wales was dry, with inflatable tanks being used as targets for the A/C to lock onto.

Despite problems with the electric blower, all targets where eventually inflated, however, **Sig Harry Harris** decided to make life more difficult for the jets by letting one of the targets down as the jet was making its attack run from Initial Point (IP) to target. In addition, support has been provided on a number of other major exercises, the latest being the Fire Power Demo held on Salisbury Plain Training Area, which saw **Maj Nick Sparks** and his team bring in six A/C firing a mix of cannon and CRB 7 rockets. Quit an impressive sight if you haven't seen it before. **Maj John Morgan** and **Capt Alan White** aided by **Cpl Andy Wheeler**, **LCpl Martin Salter** and **LCpl Damien Black** covered six Squadron Jaguars, two Squadron Tornadoes plus one Squadron Harriers for a multi-location exercise in Wales. The Exercise ran well, but occasionally jets were called off their approach, as civilian light aircraft circled the target area waiting to view the action.

LCpl Andy Fairington monitoring the range safety net on Ex Welsh Flight, Wales

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

CO **Lt Col N. A. W. Pope**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) R. J. Pye**

EXERCISE ARDUOUS CYGNET
JNCO'S CADRE COURSE 2-19 SEPTEMBER 2001
by LCpl Ian 'Nasty' Atkins

It was a pleasant Sunday morning when the Cadre-mates from 30 Signal Regt set out to Crowborough Training Area on 2 September. Morale was high and nobody seemed too worried about what might be in store for them when they arrived. Everything seemed fine until we moved into our accommodation and discovered one light and one plug socket between eight people! After taking most of the night to iron our kit, we settled down for a few hours sleep, only to be woken by **SSgt Stu** 'Airborne Beret' **Fidler** for a five am PT session. What a way to start a course! Training soon got under way under the direction of **Capt Mal** 'Combat Estimate' **McGeoch**, **Sgt Mitch** 'Johnny Bravo' **Mitchell** and **Cpl Dave** 'Evil' **Knowler**. Lessons covered everything from drill, NBC, Map-Reading to Tactics, Orders and Mission Analysis. We were kept busy from morning until night and if we ever got bored with the classroom work then there was always the option of a quick PT session with **LCpl Danny** 'Knees to Chest' **Thwaites**! The classroom phase lasted for a week and a half after which we took our end phase exams. Particular mention has to go to **Sig Paul** 'Scouse' **McLoughlin** who managed to mistake every single conventional sign on his map reading exam, and also to **Sig Stu** 'Mr Burns' **Hemming** for his 100% exam results proving that he does know what he's on about! The final phase was a five-day exercise in Ashdown Forest, which got off with a bang after **Sig Ritchie** ' Is that a ditch?' **Hancox** managed to roll a Bedford with the whole of Two section in the back! Once we rescued **Sig Andrew** 'my arm' **Risley** from under the Bedford and got it back on the road we carried on in 30 Sigs fashion, arriving in the nick of time for standto! The exercise carried on from then with everyone taking their turn at command appointments from recces to casevacs with the exercise culminating in a final attack through the coldest river in southern England and up the longest slope in the training area!

Special mention has to go to **Sig Chris** 'BDF' Charnock for his heroic carry of the CO on the Casevac and also to **Capt Steve** 'Still Smiling?' **Holt** for his inspired leadership of the enemy forces. The exercise finished back in sunny Bramcote where I was pleased to be awarded top student and promoted but then less pleased at having to buy a round for 20 people! In conclusion I can say that I definitely got a lot out of the course, including my promotion, and I would definitely recommend anyone to go on the next one.

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. Adams**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. Keen**
A TROOP
Tp OC **Flt Lt Paul** 'RAF' **Pearce**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paul** 'The Maggot' **Storey**

OPERATION SILKMAN

One of the few pleasures that members of Alpha Tp, 256 Sig Sqn, had in Sierra Leone was organising beach BBQs. After piling too many people into one of the local's fishing boats, the lads, led by **SSgt Gaz** 'Pikey' **Shuck**, much to the locals disappointment, sank the boat. He did however soon make them empty the water and managed to get it floating again. We always managed to get down to the beach and have a few beers and a game of football/volleyball with the locals and on rare occasions we were allowed down town to the local club sampling the different drinks.

Beach Football, the stresses of an operational tour

The last full day in the resort started off with a couple of games of table tennis, followed down with a few last 'Stars'. The Hill Top Club had been our local bar for most of the tour. As this was the main focus point of the tour it was only right that we took home a few trophies from the bar.

The journey home was a long slow unending one. It was a bumpy hour and a half to the port, until at last some 'not so bad' food for the first time in four months. When we eventually managed to unload all our kit, we were all able to have a few drinks to help us sleep on the ship.

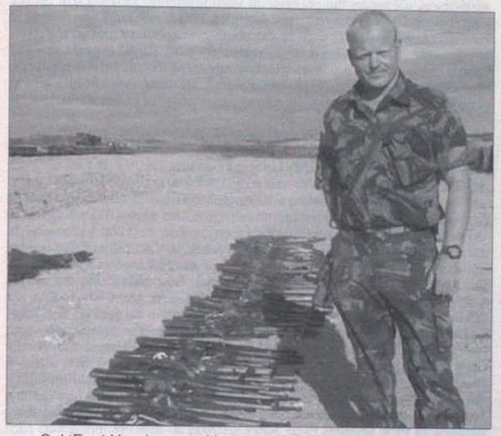
The following morning everyone was pleased that we were finally going home. As always we were supposed to leave at around 1300hrs but the plane was delayed and we eventually took off at 1600hrs. We were all over the moon when we landed at RAF Brize Norton, although our smiles were quickly dropped when we realised the transport was going to take three hours to get to us and another three hours getting back to Bramcote. At last we arrived at camp, unloaded our kit and met our partners ready to start our two weeks leave. It only hit us when we got back to the rooms; the smell of Sierra Leone was with us, and here to stay at least for a few days. Most of us dumped off our kit, repacked another bag and left for 'leave and home'. We reached our homes to see family and friends that had just been photographs for the last four and a half months. Although they were glad to see us they did smell us first and hesitated before coming too close - within the day all civilian clothes had gone into the bin. The only place that most of our clothes had been washed was in the local rivers, so as you can guess, they were not very clean. We all soaked for hours before getting ready for one of the biggest drinking sessions of our lives. Unfortunately there was still a 'small smell', as people were being noticed backing away on the dance floor. This did come in handy for your queue jumping as people cleared a path for the smell.

After leave was up it was back to work for all of Alpha Tp, straight onto 'Spearhead' exercise and 'on the bus, off the bus' that we all know and love. I would just like to thank a few people, **Flt Lt Paul** 'Shakin Stevens' **Pearce**, **SSgt Paul** 'Ginger Stink' **Storey** and **SSgt Gaz** 'Pikey' **Shuck** for a lovely tour and pray that we never have to visit that place again. Goodbye to **LCpl Dan** 'Nobby' **Clarke** who's gone to 249 Sig Sqn, we hope he has a good time with them. Also to **SSgt Paul** 'Ginger Stink' **Storey** and **LCpl Alan** 'Hand Grenade' **Smith 631**, who have left us to form a relationship in the 256 Sig Sqn stores and to **LCpl Smith**, congratulations and good luck with the wedding. Hello and welcome to Alpha Tp **SSgt Chaz** 'Bald Eagle' **Chambers**, we hope that he enjoys himself and gets the beers in for the lads!

C TROOP
Tp OC **Lt Lucy** 'Big Bird' **Pim**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Singly' **Joyce**

OPERATION BESSEMER, MACEDONIA
by LCpl Si Powell and Sig Richie Harrison

Readers should note that 30 Sig Regt was deployed on this Operation, despite the reports in many papers and Soldier magazine. (2IC 216 is thanked for recognising this when speaking on the 5 o'clock news).



Cpl 'Egg' Henderson with some of the harvested weapons

The Troop was put on standby in July for Taskforce Harvest (TFH), the NATO deployment to Macedonia to collect weapons. Though we were chuffed to be prepping to go on another op, it meant that half the Troop was unable to go to Alderney for a two-week comms exercise and jolly. But no matter, we soldiered on, and by the beginning of August we were ready and raring to go. We went off on leave, having been told that we almost certainly wouldn't be going anywhere until September … how wrong they were!

Sig Shaun 'whaaaa' **Marsden** was given the task of phoning us all on 16 August to pull us off our leave, and to let us know that we were due to deploy to Macedonia on Saturday afternoon. After a long day's work on Friday, several of us began our journey from Brize Norton on the first operational C-17 'Globemaster' flight, which was delayed two hours due to the media's interest - with **Cpl Nath** 'I know it all' **Hadley** becoming a TV star! We arrived at Camp Able Sentry (CAS), the American base in Skopje late that night followed, a few hours later by the rest of the Troop, under the guidance of **Sgt** 'Waggy' **Wagstaff**. After three days at CAS we eventually set off on the short journey to the future TFH Bde Main HQ. On our travels to our new location **Sig Marsden** and **Cpl Billy** 'Burners' **Hotchkiss** came across a lorry driver who let them know exactly what the locals actually thought of us being there!

We got to the new location and were shown where they wanted us to set up the det - straight away we got to work. After the initial set up we began to break into a routine and got our heads down on the factory floor with minimal amenities - no showers, no laundry, and those scrumptious rations! We spent the first two weeks roughing it on the floor. Week three kicked in and loads of tents were thrown up to house the majority of the 500 brigade force. Once we were settled into these, things got better and at last the camp was starting to take shape. Then came the Germany - England game, and we were fortunate to have the game shown on German TV! Nerves were there before the game but not for long as we out-classed ze Germans - this gave a hint of morale to the lads…(but not too much)! It wasn't long before **Capt** 'Jovial' **Crapper** and **Cpl Hadley** were due to depart theatre (just a few days before they qualified for a medal!). **Cpl Nath Hadley** was leaving us to go on his Class 1, and **Cpl** 'The Egg' **Henderson** was sent out to relieve him as 501 Det Comd. **Lt** 'short tour' **Pim**, our Tp OC, was flown out to relieve the Ops Officer, **Capt Crapper**, after her three week jaunt in China! **Cpl Henderson** soon settled in, and it wasn't long before he got talking to all his mates from 216.

As the Op progressed more welfare and 'things to do' were introduced, including a 5-a-side 'football' pitch that was set up in the corner of the camp. **Sig** 'Nige' **Mansell** soon got a team together consisting of himself, The Egg, **Cpl Billy Hotchkiss** and **Sigs Richie Harrison** and **Andy Dawson**. The team proved to be quite successful as 216 and the Czechs found out to their cost! As the Op continues, dates for our return to UK are here, there, and everywhere (for a change)! But **Sigs Richie Harrison** and 'Wyatt' **Earp** aren't bothered if the Troop's out here till Christmas - they've got tickets home by 14 October for a course in York (Ding Ding - cheers lads)! For now things are running smoothly and we reckon there's a couple of weeks left of the sun yet to enjoy, but who knows what the future holds for us…!

VSC 501 Sienna at TFH HQ Skopje, Macedonia

258 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj P. Deans**
SSM **WO2 D. Forrester**
DELTA TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Chris Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jim Lyons**

In August, the Troop handed over the R1 readiness role as JTFHQ to 256 Sqn. Following that we departed Bramcote for a well deserved 3-week's summer leave. Whilst the remainder of the Troop were on their leave, **Sig Ian** 'I have no Kit' **Atkins** was showing his stuff on the CO's Cadre course. Congratulations goes out to the now **LCpl Ian** 'I've lost everyone else's Kit' **Atkins** on promotion after being placed first on the course. Due to the large commitment from our Squadron in Oman on Ex Saif Sareea, on arrival back to camp after our 3-week break we were tasked with being the Rear Details Troop and picking up the next task when it comes along. The Troop would like to say farewell to, **LCpl Richie Maybank**, who has left us for 249 Sig Sqn, and **LCpl John Peach** who leaves us for 39 Inf Bde.

ECHO TROOP - *by Cpl Tony 'Bones' Gallagher.*
Tp Comd **2Lt** 'Thelma' **Smith**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Elmo the Bedfinder' **Combe**

We deployed to Oman on 4 September 2001 and were welcomed into the midday sun. We soon found out that we had arrived in theatre about two weeks early for the HQs, which gave us plenty of time for acclimatisation with **WO2 (QMSI)** 'Terminator' **Blade**. With two PT sessions a day (0545hrs and 1700hrs) for the first week we soon all became very acclimatised. One of the Troop, however, did not make it to the 'acclimatisation phase' in Camp Sha'afa; **Cpl Tony** 'Sandy' **Seville** managed to dislocate his shoulder while waiting for the transport at the beloved Camp South with the help of **LCpl Dion Fotheringham**. While waiting for the CJFHQ staff to arrive, the lads have been working hard: improving their knowledge of the kit; starting work on a tan and moving screens with the assistance of an Omani Brigadier or two. The rest of the Troop is due to join us on 24 September, when **LCpl Sarah** 'Right mate' **James** arrives with the stragglers. Before I nip off to the next PT session, a few mentions to: **Cpl** 'Ronnie' **Barker** and **Cpl** 'Lucy' **Mason** who have the opportunity to serve with an elite unit, namely Echo Troop, and **Cpl Darren** 'Camp Crypto Custodian' **Mcdonald** – 'HIYA'. Finally, **SSgt Al** 'QB' **Barker** who has managed to escape another BPFA – but why break a tradition, you've been dodging them for the last three years, why stop now? I would love to stay and finish the whole exercise with the lads, however, sunny Blandford is calling me back for my Class 1, so I'll see you all in the New Year for T and T (touch wood)!

FOXTROT TROOP - *by Sig Brennan and Sig Lawrence*
Tp Comd **Capt** 'Des' **Holbrook**
Tp SSgt **SSgt** 'Rabbit' **Smith**

After years of planning, Ex Saif Sareea II has begun. The Troop is currently deployed in support of 1 (UK) Armd Div and 101 Log Bde providing strategic communications through VSC 501s (Maroon & Quince) back to the UK. Since our last exciting instalment in *The WIRE* there have been a few changes within the Troop, so to bring you up to date here they are: **Capt Bill Holbrook** leaves the relative safety of troop command to accept the challenges trials and tribulations of Sqn 2IC. **2Lt Julian** 'paperboy' **Tydeman** arrives full of gusto straight from his troop

commander's course shortly. **Sgt Brendan** 'girls love me' **Plant** has at last been successful in his initial step towards his ambition to become a YofS and this copy of *The WIRE* will find him well engrossed in his books on A&P (culture shock coming handbag!) **Sgt Brian Wilson** steps up to take his place from the Regimental Crypto Cell, welcome to him and good luck **Sgt Plant**.

Another potential 'comms god' has been successful on his YofS selection, **Cpl Harrison** has been promoted to Sergeant and will begin the YofS course after a short tour in NI. Congratulations also go to **Sig Wilkinson** who not only has got married and had a baby in the last two months, but has been promoted and posted. Our new arrival, **Sig Caulfield**, is welcomed into the 258 Squadron fold from 1 ADSR and due to the air conditioning is truly thankful. Presently half way through the Oman exercise, spirits are high and the routine well practiced. The exercise began with the deployment from UK on a C17 – Globe Master, the aircraft recently rented from the USAF. Apparently the army, let alone the Regiment are not used to such luxury – but I think I coped well with the new experience. Being fresh from RSS Blandford this was my first deployment and as a Radio Sys Op crewing a VSC 501, I have an extremely steep learning curve. Forget VRC 353, Batco and EVHFs I have been communicating half way around the world using a 11/2 tonne Skynet 4 satellite in a geo-synchronous orbit above the equator, ATM switches and new Cogent digital telephone exchanges. Nothing could have prepared me for the colossal amount of new information I would have to absorb.... and I thought I was fully trained.

It has been interesting working with Staff Officers for the first time, and with the help of 1 ADSR personnel the det has provided the staff with services they would normally never deploy with, such as plentiful access to the ATN, VTC facilities and secure voice and data with Patron and Brent. The arduous nature of the exercise has ensured that we learnt lessons quickly, dealing with the potential health hazards and equipment problems associated with the extreme heat, the exercise has been a brilliant welcome into my first working unit. The heat does do strange things to people and his troop has been no exception. **Cpl Paul Roberts** exclaimed 'exercises were good as you got to make things' and the phase 'star gazing' was borne from the requirement of using the deep trench field latrines at night to avoid the flies and obvious discomfort. I'm looking forward to the rest of my tour.

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Emma Rae**
Tp SSgt **SSgt (SQMS) Lawton**

The Troop has been extremely busy preparing to deploy out to Oman. The SQMS department has had a greater work load than usual, not only down to the forthcoming exercise, but also due to two members of their staff **Cpl Andy Moffat** and **LCpl** 'Bart' **Homer** leaving them for civvy street – we wish them well. The majority of Support Tp has deployed to Oman with just a handful staying back to hold the fort. The Troop would like to welcome **LCpl** 'Dinger' **Bell** to the MT Section, coming from 1 (UK) Div, and **Sig** 'Ant' **Caswell** straight from his Class 3 Ins Tech course.

Oman – The story so far: Upon landing in Oman we were swiped into theatre and then driven to Camp South, or 'South Park', for our arrival briefings. At first the heat seemed to affect everyone, apart from **WO2 (QMSI) Martin Blade** APTC. This was due to him only recently returning from his fourth holiday of the year in Greece. The QMSI had considerably more baggage than everyone else. The main reason for this being the amount of hair gel he goes through in a week to hide that ever-increasing greyness. The stop over at Camp South was only for one night with a few people staying behind to collect vehicles and transport the freight. It was then a nine-hour drive to the North of the country. Following this initial phase we are now firmly ensconced in Shafa Camp, our home for the rest of the Exercise.

CHARLIE TROOP (23 PIONEER REGIMENT RLC)
Tp Comd **Lt Tim Crossland RLC**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Neil Davies RLC**

The Pioneer Tp deployed with the JTFHQ who cannot wire or sandbag, so there was plenty to do. O Groups were a problem, they provided a test, but it was always interesting to hear about the DAPBX. Patron and Indigo, routes red and black, It's extremely difficult to hold my yawns back. But the Bleeps and the Chunks make a fearsome combination, and we all cannot wait to leave this hot, dusty nation. Having deployed to Oman on 5 June (NOT September!) the weather-weary Pioneers had been eagerly anticipating joining the 'slipper city' party with the Signals up in Shafa. We were not disappointed and the wind and sandstorms of South Park soon drifted to the back of the memory as we sat by the poolside in Butlins sipping ice-cold soft drinks. The real eye-opener for the Tp Comd, **Lt Tim Crossland** was sitting in on the O Groups. Being used to the number of abbreviations in the RLC, it was somewhat of a surprise to realise that the Royal Signals actually have a thing or two to teach us in that respect. Life out here is similar to Groundhog Day, and we look forward to Endex and (hopefully!) getting home for Christmas.

250 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj J. J. Cole**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Guatam Gurung**
SQUADRON WIVES DAY – 10 AUGUST 2001

The Wives' Day was held on 10 August 2001, with all wives from the Squadron and QG SIGNALS wives from the rest of the Regiment invited. The aim was to provide an enjoyable, relaxed event and to entertain the wives who support the Squadron so faithfully. There were a number of humorous, challenging and not-so-challenging activities. On the day 30 ladies turned up dressed in their husbands uniforms, which you can imagine fitted like gloves! They were then briefed by **Lt Davenport** and given some basic instruction in drill by **SSgt Lalbahadur** 'hune walla Guards RSM' **Gurung**. The ladies were split into five sections of six and spent 30 minutes at five different stands. The days activities were Command Tasks, camouflage and concealment, an indoor firing range, first aid, potted sports and, just to add insult to injury, the ladies then had to cook their own lunch on hexi-cookers. At the end of the day the ladies met at the Regimental sports pitches and were paraded in their sections. The Sqn OC, **Maj J. J. Cole**, presented each lady with a Certificate of Participation. Needless to say the day was a great success and was enjoyed themselves throughly – the party after was not too bad either! The date was followed by farewell celebrations for Sqn 2IC, **Capt (QGO) Santa Pun**, who was retiring from the Army after 27 years of loyal service.

The successful attendees with their certificates

PUBLISH IT IN THE WIRE
The Editor is always pleased to receive interesting articles and action packed photos

31 (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col Paul Wenlock TD**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Young**

PERMANENT STAFF ADVENTURE TRAINING

After months of change due to FMD **SSgt Mick Burke** finally informed us that he had found a location for the annual Permanent Staff adventure training. Tulloch (near Fort William), a small blip on the map was to be our home for a week of what promised to be a well-needed break for all of us.

The advance party left early to take over the accommodation, with an ulterior motive. **WO2 Andy Lothian** had managed to rope in **SSgt** 'Straight Up' **Burke** into competing in an Adventure Race around Argyll. It was a very tired pair who turned up at Tulloch to sign for the hut and wait for the rest to turn up. At 0600hrs on Monday morning the remainder turned up, after having driven all night. The only absentees where **Maj** 'Competitive Dad' **Cooper**, **SSgt** 'Non-Smoker' **Fardy** and **Cpl** 'Anything but' **Light** who had ran out of fuel and had to wait four hours for a local garage to open!

The group split itself down into three groups for the day's activities. **WO2** 'True Handicap' **Smith** took the lead in arduous golfing activities. Fort William Golf Course was treated to the rare sight of **LCpl** 'Aren't Officers Great' **Lafferty** being shown how to play by **Capt** 'Tommy Hilfiger' **Pope**. **SSgt** 'Show my picture in the WIRE please' **Wringe** and **Sgt** 'Bacardi Breezer' **Carter** opted for the mountain-bike option and set off to explore the surrounding undulating countryside. The remainder took to the local hills, with 'four seasons in one-day' weather waiting to greet them.

Tuesday was to be the day all of us decided to tackle to most extreme downhill course in Britain – on mountain bikes. The bikes were hired and the first four volunteers sent up the hill. The course involved a descent of over 1800m on a 3km course. Needless to say no one made it down without kissing dirt. **Sgt** 'Wilf' **Kempton** mistook the idea of the course and decided to come down by cable car. After much derision and a cigarette he bravely boarded the cable car and flew down the mountain, nearly passing **WO2** 'Shabba 2' **Pearson** who was busy waving at the lovely ladies in the cable car.

The weather really closed in on Wednesday that meant only golf and the indoor wall were available. The golfers set off for one of the wettest days golfing they can remember. The indoor wall at Fort William proved to be the ideal location for **SSgt** 'Russian fisherman' **Wringe** to show off his mountain goat like skills. On Wednesday night **Capt Fiona Stewart** the new Adjutant arrived and immediately got into the swing of the week joining in with the evenings book-reading club. Thursday saw the greatly anticipated Golf competition with **WO2** 'Shabba 1' **Smith** and **Capt** 'Nice Shirt' **Pope** placing more than pride on the outcome of the event. The clever money went on the dark horse **SSgt** 'I could have represented GB' **Fardy**. Mountain biking and fun-yaking were the day's activities for the rest of us. **WO2** 'Not far now' **Lothian** along with **SSgt** 'This is a great bike' **Wringe** and **Sgt** 'Nice orange jacket' **Carter** decided to bike to the start location, a small matter of 15 miles. **SSgt** 'Nice calves' **Burke** killed it in no time unlike **Sgt** 'Wilf' **Kempton** who was riding the Titanic. The mountain biking passed in no time at all due to the slightly moist weather.

SSgt Mick Burke and WO2 (RQMS) Andy Lothian enjoying the fine Scottish weather

Funyaking 'What's that?' we asked. Well it's a cross between rafting and kayaking. We split ourselves down into three two-man teams, with **Capt** 'Competitive Dad's Daughter' **Stewart** pulling the short straw and being in **Maj** 'Don't worry, I'm good at this' **Coopers'** boat. **WO2 Andy Lothian** and **Sgt Justin Carter** seemed to spend most of the trip in the water, not on it. It took a double pronged attack from **SSgt Mick Burke** and **SSgt Tony Wringe** to force the competitive family into the water. To add insult to injury **Capt Fiona Stewart** found out the hard way that chivalry is dead as she was made to carry the deflated boat all the way back to the support vehicle. All members of the permanent staff took advantage of the local facilities on Thursday night and gave **Sgt** 'HGV' **Howell** the chef some time off. Everyone enjoyed the week and thanks must go to **SSgt Mick Burke** for the entire organisation.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Capt Guy Bewsher**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Clarke**
MAYOR-MAKING DINNER 2001

The Regiment held its Annual Mayor-Making Dinner on Thursday 6 September 2001. The Regiment hosts the Mayors, Mayoresses and Deputy Lieutenants of the five Mayoral Boroughs within London with which the Regiment is affiliated (Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Eastbourne, Wandsworth and Croydon). It is a great opportunity for the Regiment to build relations with those with influence in the local Boroughs and to thank them for their unwavering support over the previous year and the evening was a great success.

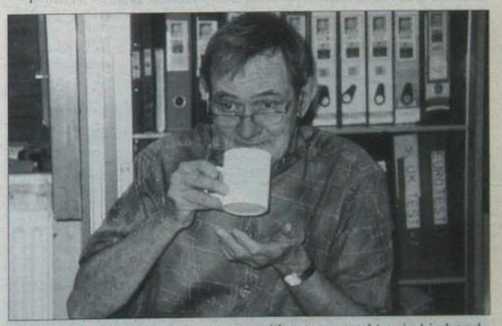
(L-R): Lt Col Paul Wenlock TD, Mrs Anne Wenlock, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper CBE TD DL, Cllr Tony Holt, Lady Elizabeth Craig-Cooper, Mr Tim Wood (Worshipful Company of Innholders), Dr Wood and Maj Toby Lankaster

41 (PLK) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Steven Ong**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Watson**

Congratulations to **Cpl Alan Bryan**, and to **LCpl Kris** 'SOTY' **Todd**, both of who gained a stripe in September. Both are very well deserved. Congratulations also to **Sig Michelle Critcher** who passed her Recruits Course in September. The Squadron would like to extend a huge welcome to our two new PSIs, **SSgt Shaun Fardy** and our PSI Tech, **Sgt Will Kempton**. Both were thrown in at the deep end when they joined the Squadron on Annual Camp but they seem to be surviving well. We hope you enjoy your time with the Squadron. A temporary goodbye and good luck goes to **LCpl Kris** 'SOTY' **Todd**, who has deployed to Bosnia with 97 (BRITFOR) Sig Sqn. We wish him all the best, and hope he enjoys his time there.

GOODBYE TO SSGT JOHN MACKINS

It was with much sadness that the Squadron said goodbye to **SSgt John Mackins**, who has served in the TA for over 40 years. **SSgt Mackins** joined the TA in 1958, after his National Service. He served with 41 Regiment as it was in those days, and has been with 41 (PLK) Sig Sqn since it was formed in 1967. Once a highly organised and efficient Det Comd, **SSgt Mackins** quickly worked his way up to become SSM. **SSgt Mackins** became the first Sqn NRPS in late 1983, when the posts were created and has held that position ever since. He will be a very tough act to follow, and will be sorely missed. **SSgt Mackins** will be remembered for phrases like, 'Cup o' tea Cocker?' and 'Slack handful'. He seemed to exist on tea and cigarettes, and was always on hand to offer help and advice when needed.



SSgt John Mackins – never seen without a cup of tea in his hand

On Saturday 8 September 2001, the Squadron officially said goodbye to **SSgt Mackins**. **Sally Bentley, SSgt (FofS) Maurice Byrne, Sgt Simon May, Cpl Julia May** and **Cpl Maria Traynor** all worked very hard to organise a surprise dinner at the TA centre for him. The number of people who attended, including many past colleagues, was testimony to his popularity. **Col Keith Bruce-Smith**, the President of the PLK Association spoke fondly of his memories of **SSgt Mackins**, as did **Capt John Robson**, who had initially joined the TA with **SSgt Mackins** in 1958. The Squadron presented **SSgt Mackins** with an engraved silver platter, a holiday voucher, and a stereo system. John, we hope you enjoy your retirement.

THE MACKINS CUP COMPETITION

The month of August saw Offrs and SNCOs in the Squadron competing against the ORs for the 'Mackins Cup', in a fun military skills competition. The competition was devised and run **by SSgt Bob** 'Beaker' **Stanton** with a bit of help from his friends. The stands consisted of a stretcher assault course (run by **SSgt Bob** 'Beaker' **Stanton**), navigating landrovers around a course whilst blindfolded (run by the LAD), an archery shoot (organised by **LCpl Pearl Sethna**) and a PT evening (run by two of our Sqn PTIs **Cpl Alan Bryan** and **Sgt Tanya Camp**). Special thanks go to **LCpl Sethna** for arranging the archery shoot for us. Obviously the outcome of the competition was in no doubt, and it was with much pride that **Lt Speakman** collected the 'Mackins Cup' from **SSgt John Mackins** on behalf of the victorious Offrs and SNCOs.

56 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Sarah Streete**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Godden**

With a continued emphasis on recruiting, **LCpl Dave King** and **LCpl Paul Renaud** have been seen walking the town wearing their sandwich boards in order to attract recurits. The RRT has even found time to go and stand in the pouring rain at the recent Freshers' Fair to try and press gang those recruits into joining. Congratulations go to **Sig Paul Pettitt** who returned from his Recruits Course at RSS Blandford, having finished up in first place. We also welcomed an old face back as **Sgt Mick Dowds** has finally returned to the fold having threatened to do so for several weeks but never actually materialising! We said 'goodbye' to three of our soldiers, **Cpl Richard Baldwin, Cpl Jo Reader** and **Sig Stuart Jenkins** who are off to join 97 (BRITFOR) Sig Sqn in Bosnia and wish them luck for their tour. We also congratulated **Cpl Richard Baldwin** on his promotion. As far as retention goes, we are pleased that our PSI, **SSgt Willie** 'I'm still here' **Loch** has now been with us for five years and he threatens to stay until Scotland qualify for the World Cup. He could be with us a while!

EASTBOURNE AIRSHOW - 16–19 AUGUST 2001

This event is the largest of its kind in the South of England and among the highlights are the Red Arrows and displays by various other aircraft such as F16, Harrier, Hercules, a Spitfire and Hurricane - and for the first time, 56 Sig Sqn (V). This year, numbers attending were up 68,000 from last year's figures, to 571,000 people over the four days! It was an ideal chance to do some recruiting on our own doorstep and to put the Royal Signals very much in the public's view. A stand on the promenade manned by Squadron members for the four days gave out thousands of Army and TA stickers (much to the annoyance of our RAF colleagues). Face painting with cam cream kept many of the children amused and an FFR and recruiting trailer allowed the public to see the military side to Squadron life. TA brochures were also given out to potential recruits. However, the highlight for the Squadron was actually taking part in the Airshow as a joint RAF Army exercise. **Lt Keiron Francis**, in liaison with 27 Sqn RAF and the JHSU based at RAF Odiham arranged a beach landing by Chinook, which then developed into a mock battle on the shingle beach! Every day, twenty members of the Squadron were picked up by Chinook in Eastbourne and then flown around in true 'roller coaster' style before being dropped on the beach to destroy an enemy position, (often up to its knees in seaweed and water). Some, like **Sig Steven Jukes** became so attached to their lifejackets that they ran up the beach with it hanging off their webbing! Others, like **Cpl Jo Butler** decided to trip in a rock pool and go swimming (cunningly pretending they were diving for cover in the sea). The smoke and the firing was something not seen in Eastbourne for many years, if at all.

Troops from 56 Sig Sqn (V) dismounting for a section attack at the Eastbourne Airshow

After winning the battle convincingly, the Chinook returned to sling-load a Landrover and fly off back home for tea and medals. 56 Sig Sqn (V) meanwhile, remained on the beach to take the applause and were cheered off the beach everyday, rather like England winning the World Cup! The whole event went down very well with the public and we have our place for next year already. Even the RAF Regiment was impressed with our infantry skills!

BATTLEFIELD TOUR OF NORMANDY 28-30 SEPTEMBER 2001

Twenty-two members of 31 Sig Regt (V) took part in a battlefield tour organised by **Capt Fred Southey** QM (V). The overnight ferry from Portsmouth to Ouistreham (Caen) was quite calm and a couple of beers in the bar ensured a quiet night for us all! The first of our visits was to the American cemetery at Omaha Beach. The scale of the cemetery and graves was quite overwhelming. Next was the artillery battery at Point du Hoc, where the US Rangers climbed up sheer cliffs to take the position. Here **Lt Keiron** 'Pyromaniac' **Francis** kept digging up cordite from the artillery magazine that blew up in 1944 and set fire to it, to the amusement of other visitors. The sarcasm and humour from our driver **SSgt Graham** 'Blackbeard' **Browning** kept morale high as we then headed back to Arromanches where the Mulbery harbour and a D-Day museum kept us occupied for several hours. Then back to our 'chateau' for a formal dinner and a taste of some of the local alcoholic beverages. As the evening progressed some of the party felt a desire to sample French nightlife with some of our waitresses! However, after a ten kilometre drive, the local nightclub 'Le Cosmos' ended up being a barn in the middle of the countryside surrounded by cows and dodgy looking French men!! Good job we didn't plan tabbing back alone either, otherwise we might have missed our boat home. Day Two of the tour commenced with a visit to the famous 'Pegasus Bridge' and the Airborne Forces Museum. The museum was one of the best to be seen anywhere and a lecture on what happened at Pegasus Bridge was given by **Maj Alec Ferguson**. A visit to the nearby British cemetery let by chance to the discovery of a grave from a PLK soldier. Finally a visit to Caen ended a superb and very educational weekend.

ADVENTURE TRAINING - *by Sig Martin*

After he had just fallen off a 30 foot telegraph pole, one Signaller was heard to say that he couldn't believe he was getting paid for being on the weekend. I have to agree. Adventure training with 56 Sig Sqn (V) definitely lived up to expectations, providing opportunities to get to know other members of the Squadron, whilst doing many new and challenging activities. Much of Saturday was spent trying to get as far above the ground as possible at an activities centre near East Grinstead, whilst on Sunday most hugged the ground trying to survive paintball. Through the course of Saturday there were four activities: Abseiling, Jacob's Ladder, The All Aboard and The Perch. The day started off with the fitting of harnesses and helmets, obviously essential for safety. The first task was billed as a confidence booster and was certainly aimed at those trained soldiers and recruits who had little experience at working at height and helped them to develop a sense of trust in their equipment. Of course, more experienced soldiers treated this first session of abseiling as a warm up and soon **WO2 (SSM) Kevin Godden, Cpl Jo Reader** and **2Lt RobWood** (to name a few) were seen zipping down the 35' wall with great ease and skill.

As the Squadron was split into three groups, there was more than enough time for everyone to try out each challenge as much as they wanted to. Jacob's Ladder involved climbing up a series of horizontal poles that were increasingly further apart. Three people attempted the obstacle at a time and used each other for balance and to help each other up! **Sigs Harding** and **McLaughlin** topped off this obstacle by performing a can-can on the top rung!

To successfully complete The Perch, it was necessary to climb a thirty-foot telegraph pole and then stand on top of it. This sounds simple enough; however just making that final step up onto the top of the pole was one of the hardest challenges. Thirty foot up in the air balancing with one foot on the pole all you had to do was step up and stand. Convincing your brain that you wanted to do this was the beginning of the battle; telling your brain to the ignore the swaying of the telegraph pole, the wind whistling through your hair and the drop that stretched out beneath you made things worse. The second stage to The Perch was a leap out onto a trapeze; a straight forward dive forward was all that was required and then, once you were hanging from the trapeze, letting go and trusting the safety rope and belay to bring you back to earth. **Sig Jukes** deserves special mention for successfully and spectacularly missing the trapeze. In many ways, The All Aboard was very similar to The Perch except that four people needed to stand on top of the telegraph pole. Once all four had reached the top, they had to lean out and support each other by linking arms. A number of the recruits seemed to enjoy the close proximity of the all aboard! Formations that were achieved consisted of hand stands, supporting people on each other's shoulders and backs, not to mention the quite impressive three man stand which combined one man sitting on another man's shoulders who was also supported on another's back. With this as a finale, the Squadron left the activity centre and returned to the TA centre in Eastbourne to an excellent barbecue meal and ten pin bowling.

The paintballing was a great laugh and saw the Sqn split into Blue and Red teams. The Blue team pulled together time and time again, beating the Red four games to one. Each game was closely fought over as members were shot and removed from combat; each game then culminated in a thrilling dash for the objective. By the end of the day, a number of the Squadron had especially impressive collections of paint marks and bruises. **Sgt Kevin Young's** back was spattered repeatedly and **WO2 (SSM) Kevin Godden's** coveralls were heavily covered in paint. During the course of the day, **LCpl Rich Baldwin** had also caught a paintball dead centre on his face-mask! The adventure training weekend was an excellent combination of challenging activities that fostered team spirit, problem solving skills and helped some to overcome personal fears. Writing as a recruit, the weekend was also an excellent opportunity to get to know other soldiers within the Squadron both as part of a team and also in the relaxed, competitive environment of a bowling alley!

83 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Alec Ferguson**
SSM **WO2 Bob Steven**

A fond farewell is extended to **Maj Julian Carmichael** from the Offrs, SNCOs and soldiers of the Squadron as he takes up his new appointment on FTRS, in Sierra Leone. We wish him luck and say thank you for all his enthusiasm and dedication to the Squadron over the past two years. In his place, we welcome **Maj Alec Ferguson** as the new Sqn OC and hope that he enjoys his command. Yet again the Squadron finds itself saying good luck to **SSgt Dave Alleyne** who is on his way back to Bosnia as part of 97 (BRITFOR) Sig Sqn (V). We wish him all the best and look forward to his return in the New Year. Congratulations to **Sgt Mark Eastwood-Bell** and **LCpl Gareth Burgess** on their recent promotions. We wish them both luck in their new appointments.

SQUADRON RANGE WEEKEND 8-9 SEPTEMBER 2001

It was time for the Squadron to have a range weekend and not one that just contained the usual APWT. The task was given to **2Lt Mike Zazzi** to organise a range package to improve the 83 Sig Sqn shooting and to provide something interesting and challenging. The Squadron deployed to Henley Park ranges and spent Saturday morning with the traditional grouping and zeroing, assisted by **Capt Liz FitzPatrick, SSgt Dave Alleyne, SSgt Matt Cahill** and **Cpl Mark Eastwood-Bell** in coaching techniques. To hone shooting skills and introduce them to the pistol the Squadron broke down into syndicates with some firing 'Application of Fire' practices on the ETR whilst the other half under **SSgt Matt Cahill** fired the pistol. To end the day on a competitive edge members were put through the Rifle LF Practice 8. The competition was won by **2Lt Lee McEvoy.** Saturday evening was spent with a Squadron dining out for **Maj Julian Carmichael.** The evening's activities started in one of the local drinking houses followed by half the Squadron including the OC partaking in Laser Quest (as if we hadn't done enough shooting for one day!) Guess who won again? **2Lt Lee McEvoy** (the lowest score was the OC!) It was time for food and in the finest Army tradition we headed straight for the nearest curry house and tucked in. Sunday was Competition Day. Broken down into three parts: an assault course, followed by a march around Pirbright Camp and finally the Whitehead Cup. **LCpl Cheryl Duncan** pushed the teams of four around the assault course then dragged them around camp for the speed march. The shooting was enjoyed by all and was new to most of the Squadron members. The winning team was made up of **Capt Liz FitzPatrick, SSgt Dave Alleyne, SSgt Matt Cahill** and **2Lt Lee McEvoy** despite tripping them up at every stage.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND 15-16 SEPTEMBER 2001

With an unexpectedly high turn-out for a comms training weekend, and most unseasonal weather the troops had a welcome chance to catch the last of the summer's rays on the Regimental Exercise weekend. **Cpl Gary Carey** and **LCpl Stuart Farquharson-Roberts** decided that their comms skills were sufficiently up to scratch that it was time to improve their map reading skills on the route between Longmoor Training Area and Southfield's TAC on a mission of mercy to collect spare parts for the LANWARD vehicles. 41 Sig Sqn had the unenviable task of running the Longhaul link and talking to the distraught Americans in the immediate aftermath of the attack on New York. The Squadron is now looking forward to proving that it is still the best in the Regiment.

EXERCISE COCKNEY MACKENZIE

by WO2 (FofS) Jamie 'Danny Boy' Harper (31 Signal Regiment (V))

Ex Cockney Mackenzie was an arduous adventurous training exercise in Canada sponsored by this unit, canoeing approx 180km down the Mackenzie trail to where the Mackenzie River meets the Black River in British Columbia. To tell you everything that happened on Ex Cockney Mackenzie would take ages and probably take up half a rain forest in paper to do so, so I thought I'd give my report in a diary format from extracts from my personal journal, detailing main events. Here goes!

16 JUNE - At Gatwick, got lost! Can you believe it, we went down the wrong corridor to the wrong gate. What did we do wrong……. We followed the officers! ..... Bad move. Flew out about 1800hrs, landed Edminton 0340hrs, then onto Vancouver.... got into hotel 0620hrs (all times GMT). A long day! **SSM Ewan** 'Do you accept plastic' **Hall** had his wallet stolen on the flight.

17 JUNE - Everyone stuffed themselves at breakfast (continental! not a fry-up in sight... sigh!).... Then off to the airport for an internal flight to Prince George (PG). Took off…. God what a beautiful view..... it was like being on the teeth of the world. Huge snow capped peaks, massive white molars growing up from lush fir woodlands. Words do fail me (which is unusual!) ... it's so amazing. Almost lost my camera at the x-ray machine, what a spadufa! Best thing was **Capt Guy** 'These rapids weren't here eight years ago?' **Bewsher** taking the Mickey out of me whilst getting off the plane at PG, only to have someone ask who had left his or her sunglasses behind on the plane. Poetic justice I'd say. Got met by the **WO1 (RSM) John** 'Grizzly Adams' **Gibson, Maj Tim** 'Tigger' **Cooper** and the RSM's side kick **LCpl** 'PJ' **Johns** on loan from 19 Mech Bde. Went for a 'Last Supper' (lunch) before setting off down a dirt track for 168 km to a drop off point. It was forest ALL the way. You just can't comprehend the vastness of the place. We then had to tab in about 8km from the drop off point to the river. It was hard going but enjoyable.

18 JUNE - Got up at 0530hrs (local).... Morning routine was sorted..... 35 years experience of playing 'Outdoors' between myself and **Ewan Hall**..... the others were somewhat more relaxed.... but hey that's the TA. Going for a wash there was bear stools everywhere. Bears do 'do it' in the woods.... 'Alles ober die platz' ..... huge steaming piles of it. Good day canoeing, some scary rapids, but we got through unscathed, well almost! **LCpl Warren** 'Odie' **O' Driscoll** and **Sgt Dickie** 'Kayak' **Bonner** now realise that you can't do an Eskimo roll in a Canadian Canoe! (First blood to the river). Had to portage canoes twice down some rabbit runs, hard work carrying them overland through the bush. Got told we would have to do it again in the morning.... deep joy..... its bloody hard work. Hid the food with **LCpl Stu** 'Works on one cylinder' **Farquharson-Roberts** tonight. Found an excellent spot ... open clearing.... and hid the food (from the bears, health and safety and all that!) Only after we had finished the task did FR bring to my attention the piles of bear pooh around and huge paw prints and what looked like a bear run into the clearing..... Needless to say we didn't hang about, I've got this thing about living…… I want to do it for as long as possible!

19 JUNE - Almost too tired to write, went down some small rapids then had to portage the canoes again, about a km, however, by the time you shuttle the canoes then the kit you end up doing sometimes triple the distance. Normally between six and eight persons to portage a canoe, hence about four journeys is what you end up with…. We were all slightly fatigued to say the least. It was hot and sunny and there were lots of mosquitoes to stop you from daydreaming. Finally got into some slow water but the hard work started again on the lake..... 16km across to a point just prior to Chine waterfall. Rafted up three boats to a raft and made a sail as well. Rafted up with the girlies (the terrible twins) **LCpl Pearl** 'Melts Pans' **Sethna, LCpl Cheryl** 'Massage' **Duncan**.... and **LCpl Paul** 'Marsbar' **Starbuck** and **Sig Chris** 'Disco' **Todd**. We got going at a fair rate of knots, Pearl held the mast up, the wind took the sails and we shot forward. **WO1 John** 'Where's my bags' **Gardner** (London Training Team) our team medic even had a kite out to help him! **Capt Tony** 'The Trout' **Potter** and **WO2 (SSM) Kev** 'Rolly' **Goden** from 56 Sqn even managed to catch a couple of fish while their raft was sailing across the lake but they were too small to eat unfortunately.

20 JUNE - Another sunny start to the day.... **Ewan Hall** was still in a bit of pain from last night, he fell into the water at the shoreline and because he was wearing sandals his toes got badly mauled by the shingles there. Got this cooking lark down to a tee, have been experimenting with the dehydrated stuff they call food! It was a good laugh on the raft today as we finished off the last leg of the lake, singing and telling jokes. Moral was high. Had to portage again (isn't this meant to be a canoeing Exped!)..... then **Ewan Hall, Maj Toby** 'Tiny' **Lankaster** (OC 41 Sqn) and **John Gardner** with myself ferried the canoes down a bad 1km stretch (that's after carrying our kit down first) I had to go back four times! It was hard going but worth it. **Ewan Hall** and myself went down one of the water shutes backwards! Way hay (if you've got it, flaunt it)! Got totally soaked and it was raining. Things went 'Pete Tong' today and a canoe overturned; the kit inside went floating down the river! Yes **John Gardner** was NOT impressed (an unhappy teddy bear doesn't even come close, and he didn't have the teddy to throw in the corner because his mascot teddy from his daughter was with the kit that got lost). Everyone soaked and moral has taken a battering and it's on a downward slope. Left my flask of hot chicken soup with the guys and girlies, they are all huddled under a canoe trying to keep the rain off and keep warm, hopefully it will return a semblance of a smile to their faces. Just call me the morale man. Decide to cut our losses and camp down for the night at this location, just as well because 'Marsbar' slipped and damaged his back on some of the rocks. Got the tents up a fire going and they broke out the Drambuie..... Aaaaah amber nectar! We will not now make the resup RV with the RSM and back up crew (JP). Food (such that it is) will have to be rationed as we do not know if we will manage to get to them tomorrow either. Cooking with the girlies now, had to, they put a massive hole in one of our Trangia pans (typical), burned a hole all the way through! **Tony Potter** caught some fish and we cooked and ate them.

21 JUNE - It was absolutely freezing through the night. I thought the 'Softy 6' was meant to go down to Zero degrees! I may have to have a word with the manufacturers over this! I had my bivvy bag and ground matt, fully clothed and I was still cold!

Had to portage twice today, each one was over 500m, took three boats per team, then Bergen's and equipment. To say my body aches is an understatement. My whole body is battered. The whole group is suffering. We even had to abseil the canoes and equipment down a 70ft moss covered scree slope, and when I say slope I'm not talking of a gentle incline either! Went down more rapids towards the second lake, got swamped a couple of times but not as bad as **SSgt Graham** 'Dive! Dive! Dive!' **Browning** and **John** 'Up Periscope' **Gardner** whose canoe always seems to turn into a submarine whenever they went over rough water. **Graham**, to his defence, mentioned that they were carrying a lot of spare equipment though (I noticed, mostly around the waist! Ahem! Second portage and the falls! **Ewan Hall** (my rudder man) had the good sense to save us at the last minute just before Chine falls (good 5m drop), we broke out in the very last eddy, about 40m from the falls, speak about leaving it to the last minute! Got to the lake but no food and we've eaten our emergency rations! It's getting late, almost 2200hrs! Went with **Tim Cooper** to find food. Found the food a few kms later and sent a boat team to collect it ... bit dangerous really as it was dark.... had to use lots lumi sticks. Fuel ran out tonight for the Trangia cookers as well and no fuel with the resup! Means we have to start cooking on the open fires from now on! Everyone is shattered. It's midnight and we are still cooking and trying to get sorted out. The girls have cooked some food and we decided, due to lack of pans (as mentioned previously!), to eat out of a communal bowl. It's not so bad, the girls are quite small in stature and they don't need a lot of food, myself and **Ewan Hall** on the other hand are growing lads, result!

22 JUNE - Freezing through the night, woke up at 0600hrs, couldn't get the zip of the tent open for ice! Fully clothed and still freezing. 0800hrs, roasting, suns out! Had mellow morning, the group needs to recharge their batteries. **Tim Cooper** and **Tony Potter** have gone to meet the back up crew for some more rations and **Guy Bewsher** has been med-Ex out due to a fight with a tree, which he lost. Set sail across the lake..... made a brammer of a sail, shot forward for about a 100m and then had to paddle the rest of the way (wind was in the wrong direction!). Stopped down river on the far side of the lake (which incidentally was 8-9 km across). Its been a fairly easy day .... Morale is high..... we were at it again going across the lake... singing and telling jokes. Currently sat around the fire telling stories. It's been a good day, long may it continue.

23 JUNE - Rafting again but wind in our face all the way, it's been hard work. Scorcher of a morning, I've burned my nose and am using my lip salve with its UV protection. Managed to get the raft team to sing all three verses to the 'Flower of Scotland' and the 'Yogi Bear' song! Met a couple of Yank fisherman, up for the day from San Francisco by seaplane. Trying to find out what the waters like further on (they gave us a couple of cans of beer (FR almost died racing to get to them!)). Decided to medic off FR when the back up crew comes in tomorrow morning. He's having problems breathing properly. It's been raining heavy for a few hours now and everyone is drenched. Hope weather is nice for tomorrow. I burned my socks at the fire trying to dry them sat under a poncho in the drizzling rain, also burned my walking boots as well! Will I never learn..... to make matters worse I burned **Pearl** 'Black belt' **Sethna's** as well!.... Maybe she'll only break a few of my ribs and leave me my teeth!

24 JUNE - This has been by far the best day of the Exped so far. It was bloody freezing again when we got up. For some reason the tent flap was open, was it me!? RSM, PJ and a couple of Indians came in to take out the spare canoes and FR. Didn't know what was down river after the lake so **Ewan Hall** and myself, **Graham Browning** and **John Gardner** went for a recce, tried to stay about a km in front of the main party. It was good water for about 10-12 km, rapids interspaced with normal flow, some good Grade Two technical (lots of fast water, boulders and trees). Three boats got swamped and overturned on the way down. We arrived at Kluskoil Lake where we are camping tonight. There are two sets of falls that we had to portage past to go on (only 600m this time!) at least the track wasn't too bad. After carrying them we went for a swim (gave the girlies a hand, they tried to say the water was cold, don't make soldiers like they used too!). Arms and face are all burned, it was such a scorcher of a day I stripped to the waist, and I have run out of sun cream. Having to use the lip salve again for my noise, any more sun on it and I think it will drop off! Going across the lake was like sailing across a mirror, it was so still and calm, and it reflected everything. Clouds, sky, everything. It was magnificent, hard to ascertain where the water picture finished and the reality began. Lots of Eagles today, you can hear them screaming as they catch the thermals and sail upwards. I feel so much euphoria at being here; you just can't put it into words. The sounds, the smells, the scenery, the sound of the canoes cutting through the water, the sounds of the forest seemed to boom through as though it was on loudspeakers. We are all sat around the camp fire now, everyone has finished cooking on it. **John Gardner** past around the last of the Drambuie and we all sat around watching him do his card tricks, he is good, remind me NEVER to play this man at poker! Started singing songs now! Fires burning low, there's not a cloud in the sky, stars are out and all you can hear is the wolves baying in the distance. You just can't describe the feeling.

PS - Still no sign of any Bears yet, lots of Eagles, Beavers and even a Pine Martine but no Bears. Apparently the back up party has seen loads. The RSM can now do the 100m sprint in just under 10secs (amazing as he's over forty!) but he did have a bear chasing him at the time. When a Bear stands up and growls at you he, doesn't like it when you to growl back at him..... Take note **John**!

25 JUNE - 182km later, yes, we have finally reached our primary objective, the 'Bridge'. Had another good days paddling (30kms) and would have had to portage over a real bad stretch if we (**Ewan, John, Toby**, myself and **Tim** on the last run) hadn't ferried them down for the main group. Lots of rapids on the way down. It was meant to be mellow water for the last stretch, what a shock! **Toby** went first in the C1 and disappeared! He was meant to recce ahead and give a whistle blast when he wanted the main party to come through, he never did. **Ewan** and I went next, as we hadn't heard anything from him? We went around the bend straight into a massive shute. No way out, no way round, no way back, and definitely no sign of **Toby**! we both said in unison, 'Let's go for it' says **Ewan**..... '*@#?!' says **Jamie.** 'Paddle, paddle, paddle' screams **Ewan** as we take a bow wave full on followed by some manic high braces by me to stop us going over. Got through and bow cut out into some slacker water. 'Jump out and pull us in' say **Ewan**; not being rudder-man, I dully do so and go waist deep in water! **Ewan** went to warn the other group while I ran down the river with a Throw Line trying to find **Toby** 'Missing presumed dead' **Lankaster!** Couldn't see him anywhere, went down about a km, but came to the conclusion he must have broke out above us somewhere on the opposite bank. Yep, I was right. Ended up ferrying the canoes down a few chutes that day, good fun (high-grade two technical). Rest of journey good, grade 1-2 (some more grade two technical). Absolutely soaked all day because of the shutes! However, the weather has been scorching so it's not that bad. These past few days have become a blur, I've forgot where one day starts and another ends. Everyone has made it to the bridge (minus casivacs obviously) and are camped down. Back-up crew have come in with lots of rations including eggs and bacon ..... Hoooooray (and some acohol Frei beer! Cheers lads)

26 JUNE - The day has been a scorcher, another 20km's ride but its gone fast. We are now at the Indian Reservation, totally knackered. Thankfully the ordeal is now over. Tried playing with the Frisbee but no one has the energy to chase it! **Tim Cooper** and **LCpl Richie** 'Smiles lots' **Leyland** went over at a 'strainer' (very nasty) but through the quick actions of the group the situation was contained and controlled. The RSM, PJ and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Linda Harrison (TD)** along with **Guy Bewsher** have arrived. RSM had burgers with him and garlic bread..... wayhey! Not to mention beers (3 cans only though). Going to Quisnel tomorrow morning, can't wait. Went looking for bears tonight in RSM's 4x4 pickup but didn't see anything..... oh well.

27 JUNE – QUISNEL - Got picked up 8am from reservation. Loaded truck, had to do two loads as there's not enough room in **RSM's** 4x4 for everyone. **Guy** will come along later in the mini bus. Journey took about two and half hours. Stopped half way for a pit stop. AAaaaaaah..... PORCELIN! Arrived at hotel (Tower Inn), went and got rooms and cleaned up. Did laundry with **Ewan** and the girls then went to visit FR in hospital. Got told by the hospital staff not to make him laugh as it will cause him some discomfort (one of his lungs had collapsed), red rag to a bull really, still don't think FR has forgiven me! Got him a personal stereo and some tapes for the hospital. Had a meal in the hotel with everyone on the Exped and the CO, and then headed out on the town with the RSM and the rest of the party. Cemented Anglo-Canuk relations over a bottle of Canadian 'Crown Royal' whiskey, an interesting story for another day!

28 JUNE - NOT feeling too great this morning ... in fact neither are the rest of the die-hards, **LCpl Warren** 'Odie' **O'Driscoll** and **Chris Todd** to name but a few. Ended up cradling my Bergen in the hotel lift to maintain my balance because the lift kept swaying, it must have been a technical defect, ahem! Arrived in Vancouver in much the same state. Had quick look around. Real nice place but went to bed for a few hours to restore my constitution. A group of us went to pictures at night to see Gladiator then onto to 'Mahooneys' sports grill bar afterwards for a couple of drinks. I stayed on cola... yes I was still bad and suffering.

29 JUNE - Up early for breakfast, feeling really good. Did a bit of tourist shopping. Went to 'Stanley Park' and the aquarium with some of the guys, then for a walk along the waterfront to watch the seaplanes land and take off. Ended up in the games arcades! Went for supper with everyone, an aperitif at 'Hooters' first then onto 'TGI Fridays' for the food. The 'Die-Hard's' then went onto a few discos. A good night was had by all. Sang all the way back to the hotel, whilst avoiding a water fight outside a restaurant (yet another story for another day!)

30 JUNE - Did last minute shopping before going to the airport and getting on the plane for another long haul flight. Although this has been an experience of a lifetime everyone is now looking forward to getting home.

EPILOGUE - These are a somewhat shortened version of accounts from my personal diary during the period of the Exped. For all the fun and jesting that took place, there was a serious side to the exercise; this was a very arduous and demanding Exped. Once you started there was no way of going back, the team had but themselves to rely on. There were lows and highs during our time together, during the lows the team rallied round and boosted moral, during the highs they generated that greater bonding which only ever occurs in situations like these. People's characters were brought to the fore and new found respect generated between all individuals. Adventurous Training is meant to be arduous, challenging and fun. Ex Cockney Mackenzie was all of these. It built team spirit, tested endurance, challenged the individuals, threw spanners into the planning works and tested everyone's sense of humour to the limits. *'I've been Bewshered'* is now a Regimental term, however I would actually like to thank **Capt Guy Bewsher**, on behalf of the team, whose brainchild the expedition was and for all his enthusiasm and drive, creating an experience of a lifetime for us all.

Foot Note: **LCpl Farquarharson-Roberts** fully recovered from his injury and returned to the UK a month after the end of the expedition.

32 (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col J. K. McKee MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S. J. Russell**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Cammy Payn**
SSM **WO2 Norma Sproul**

GLASGOW HALF MARATHON

Members of the Squadron, young and old, participated in the Glasgow Half Marathon on Sunday 19 August. The event was used to raise funds for the Erskine Hospital Appeal Fund. The chief fundraiser, **Capt Keith Anderson**, ran the race with his magic bucket collecting funds along the course. At the ripe old age of 61, **Sgt Jackie Dollen**, should gain special praise for his time; well under two hours – well done to him and to all those that took part in the race.

LORD LIEUTENANT'S PRESENTATION

On Tuesday 14 August four members of the Squadron were presented with the Lord Lieutenants Certificate for Meritorious Service. The Ceremony was held in the city chambers by the Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow, **Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant** and **The Right Honourable Alex Mosson Esq**. The awards were presented to **Capt Alex McLaughlin**, **WO1 Terry McVey**, **Sgt Jackie Dollen** and **Sgt Danny Beattie**. The event was attended by the CO and RSM and a number of city officials in Glasgow.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Regiment would like to say a belated farewell to the Training Major, **Maj Gordon Anderson**, who will now be firmly entrenched behind a huge in-tray at DCSA. We wish you the best of luck in your new job and hope you enjoy Corsham as much as you enjoyed Glasgow. We would like to welcome his replacement, **Maj Andy** 'Honestly I play of 15' **Roberts** and his wife **Beverley**, we hope you will enjoy your time in the Regiment.

51 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Andrew Thompson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Lynn Bertram**

ANNUAL CAMP 2001 FORT TREGANTLE (PLYMOUTH)

Annual Camp this year took place at Fort Tregantle on the South Coast of England. The camp was split into two main parts; week one was adventure training and week two military training. Due to the Squadron covering two other exercises, 51 and 61 Squadrons merged to form an infantry Platoon for the final exercise. Week One consisted of a variety of adventure training activities including hill walking, mountain biking, rock climbing and water-sports. There was also a sports competition on the first day. 51 Squadron put in a sterling performance and were rewarded with second place. After a well-needed day off in the Plymouth area where the Squadron explored one of the largest greenhouses in Britain, and some of the more exotic pubs and clubs, it was back to Tregantle to start the gruelling military phase. At this point the Squadron was reinforced with personnel who were to attend Ex Saltire Falcon the following week. The first three days consisted of a number of stands. The survival stand was met with much enthusiasm by all involved. The Honourable Artillery Company agreed to lend the Regiment some very experienced personnel for this phase. Lessons included fire lighting, improvised shelter, medicinal and tasty plants and food prep in a survival situation. The Squadron spent a very comfortable night under the stars and returned none the worse for the ordeal. The final Exercise was lead initially by **2Lt Colin Bruce** and **SSgt Shand** during the recce phase which successfully gathered the information required for the final attack which was lead by **2Lt Chris** 'Who ate all the pies?' **Buckley** assisted by **Maj** 'Rifle Man No. 6' **Shankland** as Platoon Sergeant. 51's phase of the assault on a derelict Fort started well with **LCpl Gray** being vomited on by a battle shock casualty! Due to some members of the Regiment namely HQ Squadron getting slightly lost upon entering the objective 51 Squadron were able to push hard along the left flank and give the enemy a taste of house clearance Highland style!

EXERCISE SALTIRE FALCON

This Exercise proved the value of the wide ranging skills brought into the Corps from civilian life. **Sig Sarah** 'Mini-me' **Johnstone** spent a week in EXCON teaching **SSgt** 'The Great Shandini' **Shand** how to use the range of Microsoft products being tested on the upgraded NCRS+ system, proving you can teach an old dog new tricks. The Det led by **Sgt** 'Bud' **Burnett** operated successfully for the week carrying out a skilled and very rapid move on the Wednesday. At ENDEX on Friday 51 were declared the victors of the tabletop exercise which had been used to trial the new kit.

Sig Wiggin say's – 'Have you got the donuts? I'm hungry!'

2Lt Colin Bruce assumes the yoga position hoping to float away from survival training

52 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Donald Gordon**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Karen Swan**

ANNUAL CAMP FINAL EXERCISE

With the biggest turnout on Camp, yet again, 52 Squadron had the upper hand in the final attack. As the fog cleared in the Fort the troops went in and as usual the fog of war descended. Commanded by **2Lt Ian Davidson** the attack went extremely well. The final attack was supported by music from the Regimental Pipes supplied by 61 Sqn's **Cpl Alex Cook**. All the training and hard work from the August OBUA weekend paid dividends as room by room and tunnel by tunnel the fort was captured and secured. During the entire final attack the Regimental Yeoman, **WO2 (YofS) H.** 'Captain Furious' **Lloyd**, in his capacity as DS could be seen 'cutting around the area' venting his frustration by letting off steam. Not even the last stand by 2IC 51 Sqn, **Capt Davey Crockett**, was enough to stop the East Kilbride Sqn from final victory.

ARE YOU RECEIVING YOUR COPY OF THE WIRE?
IF NOT RING US TO FIND OUT WHY

Yeoman 'H' 'Captain furious' Lloyd let's off some steam

OC 52 Sig Sqn, Maj Donny Cordon, brings up the rear
LCpl Sheradin seems pleased
as the Platoon begin another phase of the attack

61 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Brian Shankland**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Rowena Clarke**

EXERCISE SALTIRE FALCON

With Squadron personnel deployed on a number of Exercises this year, personnel were scattered across the length and breadth of Britain. The main focus (Main Effort for the Doctrinally Pure) for the Sqn was Ex Saltire Falcon. Due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak the Regiment were unable to exercise in Germany with HQ ARRC on Ex Arrcade Falcon as previously planned. The fall back was Ex Saltire Falcon that was based in Scotland and the North of England. The aim of the exercise was to test and prove the NCRS+ system using basic Microsoft E-Mail facilities over long haul HF. The introduction of a Microsoft based system ensured that the Squadron newsletter the 'Chocolate Starfish' could be distributed using the new network. It should be noted that the HQ Sqn personnel deployed as the technical expertise in the form of **Capt Jack** 'Lonely Heart' **Dempsey** and **WO2 (FofS) Bob** 'Head Job' **Pullan** were not exactly stretched. Such was their advanced preparation for the exercise, they had time to debate which TV channel to watch. However, the exercise was a great success, the equipment worked well and the exercise gave the Squadron a chance to work with colleagues from the other Squadrons.

VISIT TO RAF DIGBY

On the last weekend in September, members of the Squadron headed south to Lincolnshire to visit the Aerial Erector School at RAF Digby. The school is responsible for conducting courses in climbing aptitude, scaffolding and climbing and working at height. The school is also the home for the Royal Signals Short Riggers Course which our PSI, **SSgt Bob** '365ft' **Harvey**, attended as a youngster and thought the Squadron would enjoy working at height. After a number of safety lessons and basic climbs on 70 and 100ft towers during the first day the Squadron then awoke on the Sunday morning ready to tackle the 365ft Stenigot tower, which is a Grade 2 listed steel lattice tower and is one of the few remaining original 1930s Chain Home Defence systems. Standing 365ft high and overlooking the Lincolnshire wolds it is possible to see the North Sea, Lincoln Cathedral and the Humber Bridge from the top on a good day. Led by the fearless **Lt Graham** 'Bottled it at 100ft' **Gaw** the climbing began, however, the storm force winds and torrential rain made it difficult and most of the team performed admirably by reaching the 200ft platform. Looking down from the top you could see bomb craters from the war and it this point you started to wish that they had hit the tower. Well done to **LCpl Susan Traynor**. Other members of the Squadron to make it passed the 200ft platform were **LCpl Wes** ' King of the road' **Florence**, **Cpl Ewan** 'Love God' **Leslie**, **Sig Dave** 'Interesting' **Andrew**, **Cpl Dave** 'Older than he looks' **Crampton**, **Cpl Graeme** 'Stunt Driver' **Harvey**, **LCpl Rob** 'High' **Lowe**, **SSgt Bob** 'Where's my rubber wellies?' **Harvey** and **Sgt John** '230ft is enough for me' **Faichney**. Those that were unable to make it that far still surpassed themselves, especially **Cpl Scott** 'This RAF food is fantastic' **Fair**, **Sig Vicky** 'Where's my shirt?' **Cornwall** and **Cpl Alex** 'Born to pipe not climb' **Cook**. Many of the team made major personal achievements over the weekend and surprised themselves with how far they could go. Thanks to **Sgt Clayton** and his team at RAF Digby for a fantastic and challenging weekend.

Safely on the ground
the team admire the lovely colour of the Aerial Erector School

33 (LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col Elton Davis**
RSM **WO1 Shaun Day**

HIGH SHERIFF OF LIVERPOOL'S INVESTITURE 14 JUNE 2001

High Sheriff and Honorary Colonel talk to the Honour Guard

Col P. Toyne DL, Honorary Colonel of 33 Signal Regiment (V) invited the Regiment to provide an Honour Guard for the Investiture of the High Sheriff of Liverpool at the Law Courts in Derby Square Liverpool.

The Honour Guard was provided from all squadrons within the Regiment and the Guard Commander was **SSgt Coburn** of 42 (City of Manchester) Signal Squadron. The High Sheriff spoke to all members during his inspection and thanked the Regiment for its assistance.

42nd (CITY OF MANCHESTER) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd **Maj Mica Cummings**
SSM **WO2 Maurice Aarons**

Summer is over and at the Manchester outpost of 33 Sig Regt (V) the weather has returned to the norm. The infamous Mancunian rain is lashing down as I sit before my blank computer screen hoping for inspiration and in response to the Adjutant's prompting memos. Surely we must have something worth writing about? And then I remembered a VIP visit that had occurred, always worth a few lines, and I do believe we even remembered to take a picture! So here goes.

VISIT OF THE DEPUTY COMMANDER (V)
11 SIGNAL BRIGADE - COLONEL R. DAVENPORT TD

The Squadron was delighted to receive a visit from **Col Davenport** on the 24 July 2001. After one of our famous curry lunches in the Officers Mess, he spent the afternoon meeting the regular and civilian staff. As it was a Tuesday and our drill night, he was also able to meet the Sqn Comd and the rest of the officers that evening as well as talk to most of our TA soldiers while they carried out a number of military and trade activities. The visit was a great success and was rounded off in the usual manner with a few beers in the JRC.

Col Davenport in the JRC flanked by LCpl Georgina Evans and LCpl Sue Heaps, while Maurice Aaron the SSM keeps an eye on proceedings

ARMED FORCES DAY OLDHAM

A series of Armed Forces Days representative of all units in the northwest have been organised by HQ 42(NW) Bde in Preston to keep the services in the public eye. These take place at various large towns in the northwest. The last one was held in Oldham and 42 Sqn, by virtue of its geographical position, was selected to represent the Regiment. Members of the Squadron set up a number of Ptarmigan vehicles and static display stands outside the main shopping centre and did their best to pull the punters in. They had a visit from the Comd 42 (NW) Bde, **Brig Wharmby OBE**, who had his ear bent by **LCpl Christine Jackson**. She must have impressed him, as the Squadron have now been tasked to attend the next Armed Forces Day taking place in Crewe at the end of October. Needless to say, she will not be part of the team this time!

How to get noticed in Oldham!
Sig Alex Thomas, OCdt John Wayne Schofield and
LCpl Christine Jackson

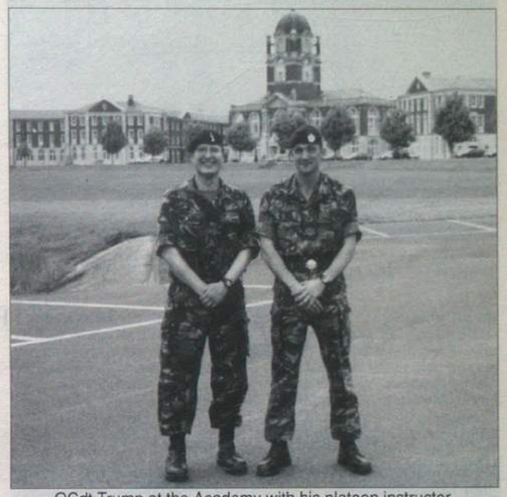
EXERCISE MANCUNIAN PURPLE
(31 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER 2001)

The Squadron deployed on Ex Mancunian Purple in August to practice establishing trunk communications and to shake out after the summer holiday period. Although the attendance was somewhat sparse, enough bodies turned up to make the exercise worthwhile and valuable lessons were learnt by the newer members of the Squadron, while the old hands revised detachment procedures. The exercise remained in the local area with sites at Winter Hill and Billinge Hill being established. This enabled the Squadron to enjoy an end of exercise barbecue in good time back at the TAC, courtesy of the SQMS (V) **SSgt Rooster Coburn**.

Trunk Node Troop raring to go!
Back Row (L-R): Sig Bill Gooderson, Cpl Mark Ruthven,
LCpl Georgina Evans, Sig Craig Atkinson. Sig Andy O'Malley,
Sgt 'Screaming Skull' Duncan Anderson, Sig Alex Thomas
Front Row (L-R): Sig Rob Smith, LCpl Stu Green,
Sgt Kevin Westall, Neal Carey, Sig 'BJ' Smith.

TA PREPARATORY COMMISSIONING COURSE (TAPC)
by OCdt Trump

Described as a ' busy' course, the TA Preparatory Course is a fast paced week long revision of the military knowledge required to pass the two week TA Commissioning Course. The vast majority of students on my course were completing the three weeks in a single block. Skills revised, included first aid, the estimate, orders, drill, fitness tests (BPFA and MST), two and a half days of section and platoon attacks and there was even time for a guided tour of the Academy. The instructors at Sandhurst have already passed an extremely gruelling selection to be there and are absolutely first class; it is not only their knowledge but also the unique way in which it is imparted to the Officer Cadets, which makes the course so enjoyable - except when you screw up! The other Officer Cadets on the course came from all of the TA and University Officer Training Corps and teamwork develops rapidly during the first week, because everyone wants to pass and everyone is competing against a standard, not a quota. The break that I have before the Commissioning Course itself will give me time to practise my orders and improve my fitness. The fitness is most important and, in my case, I have a lot of work to do in this department before tackling the Commissioning Course. However, I have had a taste of life as an officer and am really looking forward to getting back to Sandhurst as soon as possible'



OCdt Trump at the Academy with his platoon instructor,
SSgt Mick Raper

Officer recruiting continues to go well and on the February Sandhurst Commissioning Course **OCdt Mathew Trump** will be joined by **OCdt Charles Vincent** who passed RCB but who has now opted for a career with the TA. This coming weekend **OCdt John Schofield** is at Chilwell on his TA Commissioning Board (TCB) and we wish him luck on that. In the pipeline is **Sig Daniel Valentine** who will be attending his MTPQ 2 course in the near future. The picture below features two of our latest recruits, **Sig Emma Warburton** (left) and **Sig Bethan Sleigh** (right) with **LCpl Georgina Evans**, one of our more senior girls, in centre position. Both Emma and Bethan, aspire to a Regular Commission in the Army if they do well with the TA. Emma is from Timperly in Cheshire and has a BA Honours degree in French and Italian from the University of Kent at Canterbury while **Bethan** is from Wilmslow in Cheshire and is currently studying for a combined honours degree in Business Maths and Business Economics at Manchester Metropolitan University. And to prove that she is not just a pretty face, **Georgina Evans**, a Systems Operator SCRA (CENTRAL) no less, is a Staff Nurse in cardiology and coronary care at Manchester Royal Infirmary and has a Batchelor of Nursing (Hons) degree.

LCpl Georgina Evans with Sig Emma Warburton (L) and
Sig Bethan Sleigh (R)

OFFICERS' MESS NEWS

Just to prove that it is not all work and no fun, even with today's more intense life in the TA, we feature the officers at play during a recent mess function at the RHQ mess in Huyton, Liverpool.

'Little and Large'
The Regiment's tallest officer, Capt Steve Evans (59 Sqn), gets told off for cheating at blow football.

EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH 2001

The Regiment is running this year's Executive Stretch Exercise at Halton Training Camp in Lancaster on 5-7 October 2001(report in next *WIRE* edition). Last weekend (21-23 September 2001) a complete rehearsal was carried out to ensure that there are no hiccups on the day. Stand in executives in the form of UOTC cadets, ACF cadets and Ghurkhas from Bland ford (SNUTS) were put through there paces and had to negotiate a series of stands including such delights as 'basha' building, the assault course, water crossing, night navigation and many others dreamed up by the Regt Trg Maj, **Garry Hailstone**. The highlight of the weekend was the visit by the SOinC (A), **Brig C. J. Burton OBE**. Escorted by the CO and Trg Maj, he visited all the stands including the admin and reception areas, which were the particular responsibility of 42 Sqn. In the evening he was hosted by the Officers and Warrant Officers at a dinner in Lancaster.

The SOinC(A) and the CO talking to Sgt Hazel Trotman and Sig Ann Donnelly outside the 42 Sqn SAS/MC

34 (NORTHERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col I. D. Westerman**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. J. P. Anderson**

EXERCISE TEMPESTUOUS JOURNEY – BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2001

The majority of the Officers and WOs from the Regt have just returned from the Battlefield Tour 2001 that primarily focussed on the Battle of the Somme in Northern France. Ably driven by three of 50 Sqn's finest JNCOs, **LCpls Tony Standing, Ruth** 'Danger' **Grainger** and **Matt** 'Ouch that door hurt' **Graham**, complemented well by HQ Sqn's **LCpl Julie Wilkinson**, a packed tour had been arranged by **Majs Graham Jennings** and 'Taff' **Watts**. We were joined by a gaggle of officers from 2 Sig Regt, led by their Adjt, **Capt Sue Barnard** who proved excellent companions. Travelling overnight from Hull to Zeebrugge, the participants enjoyed an excellent evening meal on the P&O North Sea Ferry, entertainment being provided by **Capt Dave Edwards** on the piano and the free fall gymnastic skills of **Lt Paul** 'Top Bunk' **Denning**.

Arriving on the continent fresh and rejuvenated the next morning, our first stop was to visit the Hermies Cemetery, where the grave of **Brig Gen** 'Boy' **Bradford VC** rests and a wreath was laid on behalf of all the Regiment. There is a very special relationship between 50 Sig Sqn and the Bradfords, a local Darlington family, which led to our TAC being named the 'Bradford Armoury.' We then met up with our tour guide, **Mr Robin Scott** from Midas Tours, at Butte de Warlencourt. Due to the surprisingly good weather our pre-arranged itinerary went out of the window and we made the short journey down to Pozieres to visit the memorials to the Australians and Tank Corps and the site of the famous windmill. Refreshments were taken at 'Tommies Bar' in Pozieres before moving to Gommecourt where we walked the area of the diversionary attack north of the main area of the battle and compared the success and failure of the attacking divisions. We were then taken to Arras and our hotel for the two nights stay, where summary justice was dealt to **Maj** 'Taff' **Watts** for the standard of all the accommodation. A free evening in down town Arras followed where frogs legs and l'escargot washed down with a little vin rouge were the order of the day.

Saturday began with a visit to Serre, the site of the 'Pals Battalions' attack and visit to the Sheffield Memorial Park and its surrounding area. We followed the Redan ridge towards Beaumont-Hamel, taking in the sunken road and Hawthorn Redoubt, stopping only to grab coffee at Auchonvillers. We then visited the Newfoundland Memorial Park, the site of the Newfoundland Regiment heroic but futile assault. Escorted by a Newfoundland exchange student, we found ourselves walking the trenches and crossing No Man's Land to the 'Danger Tree', halfway point between the two front lines. The torrential rain suffered at 'Caribou Memorial' not dampening the spirit or the enthusiasm of the visitors. We then travelled through the valley of Ancre to the site of the Schwaben Redoubt and the Ulster Tower Memorial of 36 Ulster Division, then on to the memorial for the missing at Thiepval. This portion of the visit had significant meaning to **Capt Steve Wayman** and **LCpl Andy Barrett** who both found their great grandfathers names on this memorial. The day concluded with a visit to the South African Memorial at Delville Wood.

La Potiniere was the venue for the Regimental Dinner in Arras on Saturday Night, where a very enjoyable evening was had by all. Sunday dawned and we thankfully booked out of the hotel and drove to Vimy Ridge. Although not part of the Battle of the Somme, this assault carried out by four divisions of the Canadian Corps, which begun in 1917, against the ridge which possessed an almost impregnable reputation, was the site of a heroic and bloody victory, rounding off the Battlefield Tour 2001. The by now fatigued travellers made the journey back to Zeebrugge and onward passage home. Once again the Regimental Battlefield Tour has proved to be an outstanding success. Our personal development has been enhanced by this trip and along the way we have made some new friends with our 2 Sig Regt Colleagues, once more building a closer tie between TA and the Regulars.

49 (WEST RIDING) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Finch**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Holdstock**

As welcomes go, to announce a new Squadron Commander is probably up there on top peg. The Squadron's warmest welcome goes out to **Maj Mark Finch** and his wife **Jo** and it is hoped that they settle in quickly to 49 Sqn 'mentality'. Congratulations go to newly commissioned **2Lt Vic** 'Wedgie' **Wedgewood-Jones** on successful completion of her commissioning course.

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

The Regiment took part in the Nijmegen Marches in July for the third year in a row and it just doesn't get any easier. It is very easy to say '25 miles a day for four days' and yet much more difficult to actually walk it. Any admin problems were compounded by the fact that the team were to leave for Nijmegen two days before annual camp finished. Guess where the annual camp was; yes that's it, Brawdy in west, west, west Wales.
The team arrived at Nijmegen in good spirits on the Saturday and promptly lost four team members who disappeared somewhere in the den that is Amsterdam! The three young TA lads were apparently led astray by our Regular counterpart, a certain **Cpl Law** (more about him later), and did not return to Nijmegen until the briefing on Monday afternoon. The pre-taping began.

Tuesday morning loomed and we were off. Due to FMD restrictions the team had not trained very often and for some members the prospect of singing was a little off putting. Their fears were soon eased when they realised how bade the Team Leader was, nobody could believe that he was in fact Welsh. **SSgt Heather** 'I've got to go!' **Fraser** completed eight toilet breaks. Day Two is probably the worst day as the aches and pains are new and you cannot imagine how you will manage the next 75 miles. The weather was awful. **Capt Jez Bailey** just could not decide if the Union Flag was the correct way up and **Sig** 'Milly 'Oh that's better' **Millington** wrote the first of many thank you letters to the makers of Vaseline – don't even go there. **SSgt Heather** 'I've got to!!' **Fraser** completed ten toilet breaks on this day aiming to improve on a daily basis. Our only drop out, and yes it was our Regular **Cpl** 'ED 'the doctor made me stop' **Law**. Day Three and there was more rain. The rest areas are a mixed blessing, the rest is good, but the starting again is not. In fact they are starting to resemble the retreat from Moscow. **SSgt Heather** 'I've got to go!' **Fraser** completed 11 toilet breaks. The final day of marching and we needed to be at the temporary bridge at Cujih by 1500hrs or else we had to swim the river or march a 5km detour. Thankfully we made it and all that was left was the 10km march to the end. **SSgt Heather** 'I've got to go!' **Fraser** completed 15 toilet breaks.

Nijmegen Marches: Painful, comradeship, arguments, boring, exhilarating, revealing, funny, testing and the list goes on – if you have not done it before it comes highly recommended. After a 0430hrs reveille on the Saturday, oh my head, we were driven to pick up our minibuses. It was then that we discovered we had a flat tire, well actually the Dutch gate guard pointed it out to us. The trip was completed with a visit to the War Cemetery and Airborne Museum at Oosterbeck and the Bridge at Arnhem. The pain of people's feet was forgotten for a while amongst the self reflection at these sights.

Team Leader Lt Keith Williams cannot believe that a member of the AGC actually finished – well done Cpl 'Kitch' Kitching

34 Sig Regt (V) the Nijmegen Marches Team 2001

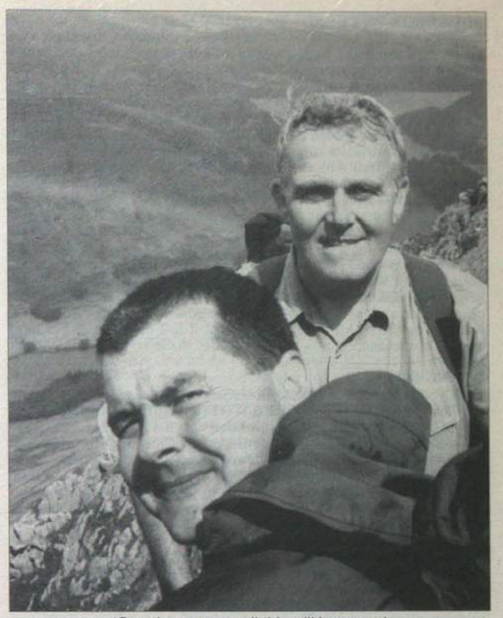
50 (NORTHUMBRIAN) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Graham Jennings**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Middleton**

Two new members of the Squadron to welcome into the asylum, **SSgt Chris Ogg** who joins us from 3 (UK) HQ & Sig Regt and takes over from **SSgt Rob Eden** as SPSI at Debdon Gardens Newcastle. Also hello to **Sgt** 'Delboy' **Trotter** who has arrived from 31 (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), for another bout of fun with the TA – don't know who he has upset!

ADVENTURE TRAINING – KESWICK

Coming straight after camp a large percentage of the Squadron descended on our old stomping ground of Braithwaite, near Keswick for a weekend of walking, climbing and water sports. Having shown that they had no water skills whatsoever during the Squadron's last visit to the Lake District, the officers decided to stick to terra firma and tackle the tricky grade three scramble of Pinnacle Ridge up onto St Sunday's Crag. Led by the dynamic duo of **Lt Paul** 'Punchy' **Denning** and **Capt Dave** 'Chopper' **Edwards**, the intrepid group of Officers braved the elements encountering torrential rain, hail and sunshine, before conquering the peak. **Capt Steve** 'Rock Hugger' **Wayman** deserves a special mention for his impression of a mountain goat and has dined out his exploits ever since. Next stop the Dolomites!



'One day my son, all this will be yours.'
Maj Graham Jennings and his 'young' protege Capt Jez Bailey

RSIT 2001

The last few months saw the Squadron hard at work preparing for the visit of **Maj Gig Plumb** and band of merry men. Ably guided and encouraged by the Squadron Foreman, (he asked me to put this in because it is CR time!), **SSgt (FofS) Colin Raynor**, the Squadron again performed admirably and even surpassed the very high standards set last year. Special mention must go to those Det Comds who were commended by the visiting RSIT Team: from Debdon Gdns the Radio Relay duo of **LCpl Tony** 'I didn't trip, I slipped' **Standing** and **Sig John** 'JQ' **Quinn** and from Darlington **LCpl Jenny Randall** – well done to you all.

Sgt Ross 'I miss my Central' Blair looking for his new wagon, Node Comd – RSIT 2001

SQUADRON WEEKEND – BALDERSDALE

Always on the lookout to support a good cause, the Squadron were approached and asked to help out at a local riding stables, used by the Riding for the Disabled, who's patron is our **Colonel in Chief The Princess Royal**. The task was readily accepted by the Squadron members, who were unaware of what they were letting themselves in for. The jobs explained were to re-build a wall, demolish an old wooden hut and level off some uneven ground ready to hardcore and gravel. The aim of this was to provide a solid base where the disabled riders could safely help the riding staff with the horses, however, on arrival the Sqn Comd showed his SNCOs the real tasks: the wall was a dry stone wall, the old wooden hut was a rather large 'building' and the levelling of ground was to include the movement of approx ten tonnes of old stone walling, followed by ten tonne of coarse and fine road stone for the level surface. Congratulations must go out to all members who attended, especially **Capt Steve Wayman** who offered his hospitality and front lawn to the Squadron for the duration of their stay and special thanks go to his neighbour Frank for the loan of his JCB. The end result far exceeded the original plan and the Riding for the Disabled staff was more than happy with the outcome. All were to agree that it had been a hard but most enjoyable weekend.

DINING OUT

The Squadron held a joint Officers/Sergeants Mess Dinner to honour the dining out of two of our SPSIs, **WO2 (RQMS) Tom Lappin** who is now at 19 Mech Bde and **SSgt Rob Eden** who has moved to 2 Sig Regt. We were also honoured with the attendance of the Hon Col , **Sir Ron Norman OBE** and his wife **Lady Joyce**, who made the first of what is hoped to be many visits to 50 (N) Sig Sqn (V) mess functions. Both SPSIs made a considerable contribution to the Squadron whilst with us and all wish them well for their future careers in the Corps and hope our paths may cross again in the not too distant future.

SQUADRON FOOTBALL

The Squadron have just entertained 95 (SY) Signal Squadron (V), who's OC is a former Sqn Comd here at Darlington, **Maj John Lambton**. Whilst attending their Annual Camp at Wathgill the lads from 35 Sig Regt (V) played the Squadron's geriatric football team and a good, clean, close fought match resulted in a fine win of 5-3 to the Darlington boys. **Sgt Gary Fletcher** scoring a hat trick to rank alongside Michael Owen's against Germany, if you were to believe him and a couple of goals from **Sgt Ross Blair**, including a cheeky little back heel which totally bamboozled the visiting goalkeeper. Après match activities were conducted back at the TA centre, where the teams enjoyed a few scoops and a fine buffet prepared by **SSgt (SQMS) Colin Ridley**.

90 (NORTH RIDING) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Richard Lenton**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ward**

'ALL'S QUIET IN HARTLEPOOL' A DAY IN THE LIFE OF

'Yes, it's all quiet in Harlepool!', I reply to the caller from RHQ, Middlesbrough. 'You can't afford to let 'em know that it gets busy here …. You could lose street cred if it got out.' Telephone Ring. 'Hello, yes I'll ring TAVRA …. Oopps, I mean RFCA right away,' I say as I write on my pad ….. job for later contact RFCA. I enquire whether the post has arrived. The bank promised the Squadron Fund Bank Statement would arrive by today, and I need it urgently so I can close the account for Audit by the end of the month. Must contact the Police, Fire and Ambulance service about the forthcoming Charity event. Hope they will be participating. Brilliant, the Council's approved the Public Entertainment's Licence to allow the band to play during the event. All we need now is the Police and Int Sect to approve the event and venue and it will all come together. Can we fit them in? Who? Two more guests for the Squadron dinner night on the 13th. More to the point have the Civ Contractors arrived yet to discuss whether they can produce the menu at a cost acceptable to all. 'How's the preparation going for the SPS inspection?' I ask Shirley the AO. 'Don't forget to call in all the ID cards – use force with the Officers if need be,' I shout. Good, all preparations completed for the meeting tomorrow morning. 'Yes I will buy the stock for the JRC before the weekend … yes, I know it's an RRTT weekend.' Have you managed to sort out the fault on the UNICOM yet I ask the Chief Clerk?' Ah, first sight has eventually arrived. AARRGGGGHHH! No bank statement but what's this? Oh, good oh, a reminder from the Adjt that *WIRE* Notes are to be on his desk by tomorrow morning. 'All's quiet in Hartlepool!'

35 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

XXXV

CO **Lt Col S. J. Potter, TD**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. T. Cauldwell**

EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH

As the mist began to lift and I surveyed the glorious countryside surrounding the Upper Holme training area near Leek on Saturday 26 September I could not help but reflect on the last time I was here early in the year when the weather was miserable and so was I. Poor weather and photography do not mix well and my fear was that I would experience the miserable conditions that the Executive Stretch contestants suffered the evening before. Fortunately for them and me, although it was windy, the sun began to breakdown the mist and spirits began to lift at the same time. Now I could see clearly what they were doing/suffering and unfortunately for them they could see me and quickly began to realise their worst experiences and embarrassing moments were going to be captured on film.

Emma Pyrah undergoing some map reading training

For those in the dark Executive Stretch is an exercise sponsored by the Reserve Forces Association and the National Employers Liaison Committee. It is designed to offer business leaders, prominent members of the community and other local organisations the opportunity to send key staff (or volunteers) to experience a weekend of challenging events and tasks. Events and tasks that reflect the diversity of skills needed and put into practice by our Reserve Forces – basically, to make them aware of how important the Reserve Forces are to their country and local community. The Regiment was privileged and delighted to be tasked by 143Bde to run this important exercise which was superbly organised by the Trg Maj, **Maj Mick Boxall** and his planning team who run the event with unbridled enthusiasm & energy. Reassuringly eighteen organisations accepted the challenge some of who had some idea of what to expect; after all most had been avid followers of survival! So far so good but would they enjoy some of the indignities heaped upon them such as traversing their way through a complex maze that just happened to be in total darkness to the other extreme tackling a gruelling and exhausting combat trail full of devious obstacles after a few hours of sleep, and would they be able to make head and tail of the contents list of a 24hour rat pack!

More importantly would they understand that the purpose was not to eliminate team members but to work together and finish as a team. However, by contrast they also had to develop an aggressive and competitive spirit to outdo or outsmart all the other teams participating. It was rewarding to observe that most teams quickly understood the need to work and pull together especially those that comprised varying levels of skills, energy and fitness. Understanding and gentle motivation became symptomatic to cope with this problem and this method while not ideal worked well because even weaker members improved dramatically over the weekend. Other tasks and challenges that had to be faced included casualty simulation which gave some of most aspiring drama students in the shapes of **Sig Zoe Trimm** of 58 Sqn and **Cpl Andy Parry** of 95 Sqn to strut their stuff, but the Oscar winning performance must go to **Sig Terry Forbes** of 58 Sqn who made such a convincing casualty even the real medics had to be called in.

The registered Domain Name for the Beverley Boys' Archive - beverleyboysarchive.co.uk

Where's John? Sig Terry Forbes supported by two young executives while Cpl Andy Parry tries to make a quick exit

Heaven only knows though where his lost mate John got to - perhaps he forgot his name was actually Andy! More gentle offerings included the map reading stand where some participants were clearly seen plotting the way home having just trekked an arduous few miles with a loaded rucksack and the camouflage stand where participants were greeted to a humorous display by **LCpl Craig Jones** of 58 Sqn on how not to put your make up\cam cream on. Not so humorous perhaps was the recovery of a casualty from a minefield. Negotiating through the minefield was fine but not for the poor casualty (who shall remain nameless) who they kept tipping out of the stretcher. Retribution was swift though because the next stand involved recovering and replacing a tyre on a Land Rover - except the replacement tyre as most teams discovered after a lot of hard work, was flat! This excellent weekend culminated in raft race after which all teams, even though exhausted and saturated, visibly relaxed knowing all the hard work was over and all they now had to look forward to was the prize giving followed by lunch and the journey home. No doubt to recount on the way fond stories of a glorious weekend with the TA. Notable visitors to the exercise included Comd143 Bde, **Brig Andrew Meek** who also presented awards to the winning team and to the best male and female, the Chairman of the RFCA, **Brig John Patrick** and the SO1 NELC 143 Bde, **Lt Col Harris Andrew Trelawny**. Valuable lessons learnt over the weekend - never express your innermost thoughts until you know who you are talking too and a flag pole as I discovered to my cost is nothing like a VHF antenna especially after you have arrived at what you thought was the Comms Stand and never go trekking over Upper Holme unless you have got tread on your boots. Finally special thanks are extended to all those supporting units which included, RMLY, 225 Plant Sqn RE, West Midland Regiment, and 202 Gen Hospital, without them the exercise would not have been as successful as it was. A special thanks is also reserved for the help given by Birmingham UOTC who provided an Officer Cadet for each team. Without their help, good humour, gentle persuasion and specialist skills some teams may not have made it through to the final event.

BACK TO GOD'S COUNTRY

After a remarkable weekend looking after young and not so young executives just a few days later the Regiment headed towards Wathgill Camp near Catterick for its second phase of annual training on Saturday 30 September. Here the West Midlander's were treated to the outstanding beauty of Gods Country namely the Yorkshire Dales and it was here that an intensive week of Military, Recruit, Trade and Leadership training was programmed to take place. The RSM, **WO1 Yogi Cauldwell**, was also in second heaven as it probably gave him his one and only opportunity of having a Regimental parade every morning. It was a pleasure to observe his unrestrained joy as his Sergeant Majors began to renew their acquaintance with the drill square and complex drill movements like marching in step – but by Friday they had it tuned to a fine art! I was keen to capture the hustle and bustle of the settling in phase on film when it dawned on me that after a pleasant journey of 170 miles on a luxury coach my beloved camera was not in its usual place. Mild panic quickly set in and in my agitated state I realised I had left it on the coach that had returned to Birmingham five minutes earlier. The Race was on, I just could not carry out my Media duties without the camera and I had no wheels to chase the coach. Fortunately the QM, **Maj Jim Coffey,** came to my rescue he threw me the keys to his estate car and I sped towards Catterick Garrison in pursuit of the coach. To my horror on reaching the outskirts of the Garrison I realised that the coach had taken a different route – but which one! I had to make some quick deductions did it take the back route into Catterick village and onto the A1 or was the driver so impressed by the landscape surrounding Gods Country that he decided to take the scenic route through Leyburn and Masham. I opted for the latter and by nothing short of a miracle found the coach and driver parked in a picturesque lay-by on the outskirts of Leyburn. I was right he was enjoying the countryside and I very fortunately recovered my camera and headed for the Fibua at Whinny Hill.

BAND OF BROTHERS & SISTERS

The last time I experienced the Fibua at Whinny Hill was in June 1991 and how things have changed – superb and dramatic sound effects, old armoured vehicles that represent a battle group, tunnels, mazes, devious traps, obstacles, barbed wire, molotov cocktail range – you name it it is there to be practiced. I was convinced that part of Band of Brothers had been filmed here as some of the training carried out reflected some of the more realistic house clearing scenes in the TV series. Under the expert tuition and guidance of **SSgts Barnie Balmforth, Tosh Hodgskins** and 'Geordie' **Ord,** sections composing of eight members spent the week at Whinny Hill and by Friday became extremely proficient at the many skills possessed by our best infanteers. The sheer guts and determination displayed by team members was inspiring as some of the conditions they had to endure can only be described as extremely unpleasant.

Sgt Wendy Geddis in particular overcame her fear of enclosed spaces by taking her Section, which included **Sgt Alan Lunn** and **Sig Katy Mulligan,** through the Fibua sewerage/tunnel system in total darkness and all this having just completed an obstacle course, followed by a systematic clearance of three houses using blank ammo, SBN's and Chorley Grendades. All of this completed in just over 17 minutes of adrenaline pumping physical exertion – their reward a hot cup of tea minus sugar! Earlier they had also engaged in a forceful flat clearance occupied by an SPSI fundamentalist in the shape of **SSgt Andy Lloyd.** He unwisely refused them entry and came to grief when he tumbled down the external stairs of the flat with all eight members of the attacking section on top of him. Some other sections believe they heard the muffled cries of 'Medic' carried on the light wind as **SSgt Lloyd** was seen to hobble off in the distance.

Sgt Wendy Geddis adjusting the kit of Sig Katy Mulligan before the house clearance ex

Meanwhile over at the Molotov Cocktail range riotous behaviour was the order of the day with even the CO **Lt Col Stephen Potter** having a go at striking a derelict tank. After singeing the hairs on his wrist the Molotov he threw appeared to have a life of its own and fortunately for the CO's reputation was almost on target. **Sig Doc Watson** was not so lucky and is now rueing the day that he lobbed a dud – his mates in 48 Sqn will just not let him forget it! The accolade of Best Section was

granted to the Section led by **LCpl Rob Prun** & **Cfn Rob Griffiths** their fine and effective command & control led to a performance by their section that at the end of the week proved unbeatable. Following an unpleasant experience with a Chorley Grendade that exploded between my legs and left me deaf and numb (yes numb) I choose this undignified moment to make a sharp exit and visit the more mundane but essential trade training back at Wathgill.

A Section from 48 Squadron joined by the Honorary Colonel

DEVELOPING SKILLS WITHOUT THE THRILLS

Most of the trade training activities were concentrated at Wathgill Camp with a full range of training for Area Systems Ops, Radio Systems Ops and Electricians as well as essential driver training. The acquisition of skills without the military thrills is a necessity of a Royal Signals TA unit and all trainees fully understood their priority over the week was to gain valuable trade qualifications even though they missed out on some tremendous fun. As **Sigs Zoe Trimm, Patrick Bryant** and **Andrew Ingram** would testify they, as well as many others, at least qualified in their chosen trade and will soon see the benefits in their TA pay. Others saw more immediate benefits especially **LCpl Tim Duff** whose promotion depended on him completing his driver training which as you can gather was completed successfully. This only added to **Tim's** string of good news, as shortly before camp he also became a father – many congratulations **Tim**!

While most of the training was confined to Wathgill the Regimental YofS **WO2 Phil Tonks** assisted by **SSgt Dave Owen** did arrange some useful field training near the airstrip at Marne Barracks formerly RAF Catterick. Here all the classroom skills were put into practice and trade skills confirmed. Here those undergoing C+E training, utilising the full benefits of a large airfield to develop their driving skills, also joined them. By happy coincidence at the time of the training 19 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn were also conducting a field ex in the area with a variety of AFV's. Following a swift liaison visit with some old friends **SSgt Dave Owen** managed to lay on both a familiarisation visit as well as some useful cross training. All trade trainees were then entertained by members of the Squadron and treated to a grand tour of the Brigade complex, as it would be deployed operationally – but unfortunately not treated to a crash out that was firmly but politely refused. They were also given an insight into the day to day problems and difficulties experienced by a regular R Signals unit that proved most enlightening.

A trade trainee attempting to establish contact!

This rewarding visit showed how well the TA and Regular Army could work together by a mutual understanding of each other's needs and problems. Special thanks are extended to both **WO2 (YofS) John Wright** and **Lt Dan Clarke** for allowing the visit and the excellent briefings during the visit. Now it was time to move on and catch up with what the recruits were doing who just happened to be training somewhere in the vicinity!

It should have gone there Sergeant Major – FofS Chris Wilson directing SSM Martin Thacker while SSgt Dave Dewfall looks on mildly amused

I FOUND MY DRILL ON CASTLE HILL

Following the successful TA Foundation Course held at Salisbury Plain during Phase 1 of annual camp it proved to be a formula worth repeating and one that attracted eight recruit trainees to attend the rigours of recruit training in Catterick. The training was evenly split between Wathgill and a useful copse located in the Castle Hills area of Marne Barracks. Here the recruits engaged in the full range of initial skills training in an energetic programme arranged by **WO1 Terry Douglas** and his specialist team of recruit instructors. Five weekends of training were crammed into seven days so skill fade never became a problem and by all accounts this method of training produces a trained recruit that is much better prepared for the subsequent CMS (TA) course at Blandford. **Sig Lyn Hartshorn** and **Sig Ed Flint** in particular could barely contain their excitement during the section attack phase when they ignited their first signal flare while **Sig Carl Jones** was a little bemused at the intricacies of the paralume and was convinced it was a dud!

Hope I'm holding the right end!
Sig Carl Jones about to fire a flare while
Sig Ashley Hinton looks faintly bemused in the background

Fortunately, their drills during the section attacks proved much more effective as was their foot drill. All participants, although they found it both mentally and physically demanding, enjoyed the week and are now eager to attempt Phase 2. This busy, worthwhile and constructive week culminated in the traditional recruit pass off parade on Friday 5 October at Wathgill Camp. Both the Recruits and Recruit Team were proud to receive the Honorary Colonel, **Col Brian Foxon,** as the reviewing officer and following the parade he paid tribute to their hard work, spirit and dedication.

The Honorary Colonel presenting the award of Best Recruit to Sig David Harris

He also presented the award of Best Recruit to **Sig David Harris** of 89 Sqn. **David** is keen to become a potential officer and judging by his overall performance, he is well on his way. Well there is little more to report on camp except a few round up points/pints.

The Course Photo

CAMP ROUND UP

Notable visitors to this phase of annual training included GOC 5 Div, **Maj Gen A. G. Denaro CBE,** Comd 143 Bde **Brig Andrew Meek,** the Honorary Colonel, **Col B. N. T. Foxon OBE, ADC, TD** and the Honorary Colonel REME TA 5 Div, **Col Derek Forrest.**

GOC 5 Div chatting to WO1 Terry Douglas

On the final camp parade on Thursday 4 October the CO spra ng a very special surprise on **Cpl Avril Forsyth**. Because of her outstanding commitment to the Regiment over the past year **Avril,** against some very tough competition, was selected for the award of the Stockdale Trophy – to say she was speechless is perhaps an understatement.

The CO presenting the award of the Stockdale Trophy to Cpl Avril Forysth

Later that day a further surprise was sprung on **WO2 Peter Mouland** when he was called into the Officers Mess and his commissioning to Captain announced – many congratulations **Peter** and once again welcome to the Officers Mess.

Maj John Lambton congratulating Capt Pete Mouland on his commissioning

Camp also had the usual sprinkling of social occasions including an all ranks quiz, disco and smoker and a very lively joint officers and sergeants mess function where the Regimental Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCO's were joined by the Honorary Colonel who kindly picked up the port bill for those who were fined! Following an entertaining and uplifting speech the CO then sprung one or two surprises and promoted **SSgt Andy Wilkins** to WO2, and **Sgts Colin Richards, Bromfield** and **John Scott** to Staff Sergeant, but the biggest surprise was reserved for **Cpl Kay Yeubrey** who was acting as a Mess Steward during the evening, when the CO announced her promotion to Sergeant to tremendous applause from all present – all are to be congratulated on their well deserved promotions. Congratulations are also extended to **SSgt Kevin Bannigan** and **Sgts Tiny Hogan** and **Spot Anslow** of the LAD on their respective promotions, which were promulgated soon after camp. The handover arrangements for Wathgill Camp went extremely well and there seemed to be an urgency and determination to both clean up and pack up and disappear through the camp gates well before lunch. The fact that wide screen TVs in all TA Centre were warming up for the England v Greece game I am assured had nothing to do with it.

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.
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THE FEBRUARY 2002 ISSUE
MUST REACH THIS OFFICE BY
10 DECEMBER 2001

Comd 143 Bde being briefed by Cpl Mark Ward on the FIBUA

CAMBRAI CHALLENGE

While most of the Regiment were looking forward to going home or watching the big match another group of courageous stalwarts were busy making their final preparations for a concerted assault on the Cambrai Challenge Competition held at Altcar over the weekend 6/7 Oct. No home comforts for them to look forward to they had been busy practising, developing and testing their military skills all week. Although on the verge of exhaustion, they were still eager to prove they were the best Other Arms team in 143 Bde. They were also quietly confident that they could also compete on level terms with any of the infantry teams entered in the competition and were clearly mentally as well as physically prepared to do battle and attempt eight difficult military skills stands. After the team leader, **Capt Tom Jeffries,** gave them a final pep talk the intrepid but slightly apprehensive team set off for Altcar Training Area with nervous but confident expectation of making the Regiment proud of them. After a fairly shaky start with the AFV recognition, their endeavours and selfconfidence began to pay dividends as the team began to accumulate valuable points on the NBC & Casualty extraction stands. By the time they reached the dreaded Assault Course the team was running on pure adrenaline and a remarkable 6 minutes and 16 seconds later it was all over beating all other competitors including the best infantry team! By the end of the first day we had the Cambrai Challenge Trophy in the bag and all that was left to do was to snatch some kip, conserve our energy and hopefully continue our winning streak for the March and Shoot competition the following morning. Here after much laboured puffing, blowing, and buckets of sweat (and some exceptional shooting) the Regimental team fell in for the prize giving and discovered we had won both stages of the competition. Tired, weary but exuberant the team loaded the minibus with medals and trophies and started the long haul home with **Cpl Paul Kane** recounting the glories all the way. All team members are now looking forward to next year's competition. This magnificent, impressive and outstanding team composing of **Capt Tom Jeffiries, Cpl Paul Kane, Capt Chris Mosely, SSgt** 'Tosh' **Hodgskins, LCpl Ian Townsend, LCpl Andy Price** and **Sig Tim Wallace** have earned the congratulations and admiration of all members of the Regiment for their fine achievement. Very well done!

36 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col W. D. L. Brown TD**
RSM **WO1** 'Paddy' **Morrow**

A period of quiet consolidation for the Regiment has followed the Royal visit in July, with Squadron Commanders taking the opportunity to prepare their troops for the dual rigours of the Autumnal exercise season and technical inspections. The first Regimental Training Weekend of the cycle was held at West Tofts, and the trade and military training process will continue in earnest throughout the coming months.

WO2 (RQMS(V)) Eddie Kikas presents new dog tags to his (very) distant cousin, the RSM

WO1 (RSM) Dougie Eaglesham took the opportunity to cut and run, on commissioning, to 30 CTT in Wrexham, and was dined out in fine fashion at West Tofts training camp in STANTA – we wish him and his family the best of luck. Both 45 Sqn and the Regiment were sad to see **Sgt** 'Tosh' **Hodgskins** posted to 35 Sig Regt (V) on promotion, and our best wishes go out to him and his young family. We also say goodbye to **Miss Lorraine Mooney**, who has been a stalwart member of the Regimental clerical team for the last 22 years – we wish you good fortune at the ILC in Woolwich. A warm welcome is extended to the new RSM, **WO1** 'Paddy' **Morrow**, who joins us from 3 (UK) Armd Div – enjoy!

WO1 (SVWO) Les Scott gets all choked up after presenting RSM Dougie Eaglesham with a solid silver quaich

The Regiment would like to pay tribute to **Mr Peter Phillips**, Chairman of the East London branch of the RSA, who passed away recently. A popular, larger than life character respected by all those he came into contact with, **Pete** will be sorely missed. Whether on association business, out on the golf course, or with his friends on the nineteenth green, he was always good company and our sincere condolences go out to his family.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON - ILFORD
Sqn Comd **Maj Pete Minshall**
SSM **WO2 Terry Butler**

EXERCISE COCKNEY WALK - *Maj Pete Minshall*

I am not sure why but lately all HQ Sqn's Adventure Training seems to involve water, lots of water. The plan was to use the facilities at 14 (EW) Signal Regiment at Brawdy South Wales; the activities planned were to be Coastal Path Walking, Coastal Steering and White Water Rib Rafting. The Squadron was due to leave Ilford TAC at 1930 by coach, to arrive at Brawdy by midnight, however due to the failure of transport bookings we had to then make arrangements to take our own clapped out mini bus for use in Wales on the Saturday, which meant a slow journey for the two drivers. After a long drive to Wales we eventually arrived at 14 Sig Regt's location at about 1.30am Saturday morning, by the time everyone was briefed and bedded down it was nearer 3.00am.

With a early rise and good breakfast under our belts we arranged to split the Squadron into two sections one for the Coastal Steering and one for the White Water Rib Rafting. First group set of for St David's where the Coastal Steering was to take place, in the mean time the second group set of for another part of St David's where the Rib Rafting was organised. Oh by the way I have not mentioned the weather yet, when we left Ilford by coach it was a glorious evening warm and sunny, we drove all night West into a fabulous setting sun, but when we arrived in Wales it was misty with rain. Now Saturday morning with no sun just low cloud, mist and driving rain, oh well we were going to get wet later anyway. On arrival at the location for the Coastal steering we were fully briefed and then issued wetsuits helmet and buoyancy jackets all provided by the centre plus you need an old pair of your own trainers to protect your feet when on the rocks. After changing into these, which I might add were all soaking wet and freezing cold especially the wetsuits, we then had a small wait and then all piled into our mini bus which took us to the cliffs just South of St David's were we were then to see just what we were in for. Coastal steering is a fairly new sport, the best way to describe it is as someone said, 'We are about to do everything that you tell the kids not to do, that is play on the rocks and cliff faces in the high surf where strong currents abound.' Again we were briefed by one of the two instructors that was going to take us into the water, his instructions were clear on what to do and what he was looking for, as he explained, 'This was team work, confidence building, working in pairs looking out for each other.' He paired us up into a good swimmer with a poor swimmer, this was essential as it was part of the team building training for the morning as not all could swim or there were week swimmers and some who were afraid of heights.

Members of HQ Squadron gathered on the rocks waiting for the High Jump (looks like a load of (SEALS)

To start this all off we had to jump into the water from a high cliff, well about 15 to 20ft with a large swell running. After some hesitation we were all in the water one way or another. We then swam across a small bay with large swell and waves breaking on the rocks and cliff face. During the next two hours, which went too quickly we traversed cliff faces just above the waves, which were always trying to pluck you off, some fell off or were knocked off by the waves but most made it, there was one point where the tide and waves was coming in between two large rocks the gap was called the SLUICE and each time a large wave hit a surge of water came through, again team work came into play. The instructor wanted to see how many of the team we could get stood in the gap before a big wave would knock us all over. We nearly achieved a maximum before we were all knocked over and swept through the gap. As the tide was coming in eventually it became a swell rather than a wave and so some peoples were waiting for the crest of the swell and then body surfing into the bay behind the rocks. **WO2 (SSM) T. Butler** in particular seem to like this bit as shown in the photo.

WO2 (SSM) Terry Butler trying to body surf on the front of a surge through the 'Sluice' as it was called

We also jumped from progressively higher cliffs into ever deeper water. At the end of our two hours everyone was totally tired but very happy, everyone enjoyed it and wanted more. It was good to see that the more older experienced soldiers looked after some of the newer and younger recruits that we had with us that day. A special mention goes to **Sig Sanger** who is not a good swimmer and is wary of heights, we got him in the water and also at the end jumping from the high rocks into the deep water and **Pte Evan's** who we had to coax into the water, but was enjoying herself by the end of the two hours. Well done to them and everyone who helped them. There were a few scrapes and bruises incurred on the rocks and barnacles but nothing serious. I believe that the team spirit was very high by the time we came back onto dry land, I know I was well pleased with what I had seen achieved. Meanwhile the cloud had come down lower and there was a heavy mist with light rain, thus when we finished and went back to the Centre for lunch (usual haverbag), we found that the other half of the Squadron had not been White Water Rib Rafting as they were unable to go out to sea due to the low cloud and heavy mist. The Rib Rafting takes place in the open see in between Ramsey Island and the mainland St David's Head in an area called Ramsey Sound, so **Sgt (PSI) (Taff) Griffiths** took them Coastal Walking instead. After lunch we changed over and the first group went Coastal Path Walking and the second group went Coastal Steering. At the end of the day everyone was thoroughly tired and wet either from the walking or from being in the sea. We all returned to 14 Signal Regt for a hot shower and dry clothes and a well earned dinner, which was laid on in the main dining room by our own **SSGT (Master Chef) Norma Miller-Kight,** who had arrived on the Friday afternoon with the advance party we had sent down to organise everything by taking over the accommodation and preparing for the main party's arrival late Friday night. The evening was spent in the Bowling Alley at 14 Signal Regiment with a competition for the highest team score (never did find who won that). A few beers were also sunk so we were wet again although this time it was inside. Later some of the Squadron decided to go and see the sights in Haverfordwest. Sunday we had a lay in, well 8.00am Breakfast then clear accommodation and wait for the coach to turn up to return to our TAC in Ilford East London. We arrived back in late afternoon without trouble in fact the noise from the rear of the coach was a bit alarming at times as we were not sure if it was the back axle of the snoring. In all a very good weekend adventure training, with some very good team work and bonding especially between the older and newer members of the Squadron. My congratulations for a well organised and enjoyable weekends training goes to our **(SPSI) SSGT Jim Pollitt** and **Sgt (PSI)** 'Taff' **Griffiths,** as well as everyone who took part.

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF
36 (E) SIGNAL REGIMENT LAD REME (V)
by Cpl Izzy (or Eddy to his cross dressing chums) Izzard

The story so far…..

January: New Year, new PSI, the arrival of **SSgt Brett Richardson** was not so much a new broom, more like the arrival of the entire street cleaning department of the local council. Things were about to change in the LAD. A few deals and plenty of generosity in the 36 Club and the new PSI has won the 'hearts and minds' of the LAD.

February: Processes and systems, the Workshop Office disappears, new floor and a lick of a paint and by a miracle its….PP&C! Forms, flow charts, files, lists and more forms. **Cpl Izzard** is PP&C with L plates but he's learning fast. Meanwhile **Cpl Hourihan** and the rest of the crew are on Exercise Sparkling Workshop. There's paint everywhere, some of it where it is supposed to be.

March & April: Servicing is due and the PRE is in sight. The LAD is in production. AQMS Drew Johnston leads the way as spanners fly and the LAD fleet gets its 6 monthly pampering. The black biro is red hot in PP&C as spares demands fly and nothing can be heard but numbers 890s, 8800s, 1045s, 1043s, 1084s, 932s. Is this code?

May: Operation Sparkling Workshop is in overdrive. The workshop floor is now a shiny battleship grey and the welder's bay becomes…well err…a real welder's bay. MT co-habits PP&C, more numbers, more forms. The PRE team descends as does the big boys from 49 Brigade for the Techeval. The LAD is effective…and that's official! But its not all work, the LAD joins its more mature comrades of the local REME Association for a splendid evening at the Tower of London to experience the Ceremony of the Keys. Whose keys? The Queen's keys.

June & July: Annual Camp arrives but the usual two weeks field exercise with the Regiment is a casualty to foot and mouth. The LAD is packed off to learn from the professionals at the PSI's previous posting 16 Regiment RA Workshops at Woolwich. Some quality training is in store for everyone. The AQMS is locked in PP&C, VMs on inspections and all the other TA tradesmen getting some top tips from the extremely helpful team at Workshops. The stay at Woolwich is topped by an invitation, gratefully accepted, to have a guided tour of the RA Woolwich Barracks Officer's Mess. A memorable tour for which the LAD was truly grateful. However, if such an honour was not enough, the next phase of Annual Camp was even more memorable. A Royal Visit by **HRH the Princess Royal**, Colonel in Chief of the Royal Signals at the TA Centre in Ilford, home to 36 Sig Regt, Regimental HQ, Squadron HQ and the LAD. The LAD led by its OC, **Capt Robin Needham**, was greatly honoured to present a stand to **Her Royal Highness** that included a display of the Machinery Trailer and other kit, a BDR demonstration and, the icing on the cake, righting an upturned Land Rover using the Foden Recovery Vehicle. All went very well and **Her Royal Highness** showed a keen interest in the LAD team, its role and equipment.

August: After the arrival of the PSI and the experience with 16 Sig Regt, the LAD was in danger of information overload. Nothing better then, than some Adventure Training with HQ Squadron to take their minds off things. The location was Brawdy in Wales. The main activity was coasteering. It was an experience especially for the courageous Craftsmen Igwe and Boatey who were soon flinging themselves off the rocks into the sea when they can't swim.

September: The LAD teams up with its friends and neighbours, the fitters of 240 Squadron of 151 RLC at Romford for some military skills training. The guys rise to the challenge of sniffing out **Cpl Ford's** cunningly booby-trapped Land Rover and move on to Ex Windmill Walk a night navigation exercise in the wilds of Essex run by **SSgt Mick** 'Spud' **Murphy**. A few blisters and sore ankles but everyone makes the 15km route without getting lost….much!

October: The sights are now on Ex Southern Craftsman. The silverware is there for the taking, but will 36 Sig Regt LAD steal the glory? We'll have to wait and see.

45 (E) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) – COLCHESTER & WARLEY

by Sgt Kev Elliott

Sqn Comd **Maj Mike White TD**
SSM **WO2 Louise Walker**

45TH (ESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS) WO'S & SGT'S MESS SUMMER BALL 15 SEPTEMBER 2001

The peace in ye olde village of Bungay, Norfolk, was broken on the 15th day of the month of September when ye olde people of 45 (Essex) Signal Squadron WO's & Sgt's Mess and their guests turned up for a Medieval Banquet at ye Three Tuns. (All except **Sgt John Pickett** who true to form arrived at Colchester after the transport had left!)

Everyone changed from their modern dress to something more becoming for the evening. Sir **(Sgt Kevin) Elliott**, Sir **(SSgt Gerry) McGachy** and Sir **(Q) Russell** became ye roundheads (Apparently **Ron** didn't have to hire a costume, he still had his old kit issued by the New Model Army). Sir **(Mick) Joiner**, Sir **(SSgt Dacre) Barwick** dressed as ye gay (hey, but that's okay now) cavaliers and **Mr Fryer (Sgt John) Mitchell** and **Mr Fryer (Sgt Andy) Gladman** also joined the fun in costumes befitting their girth. Finally the **SSM (Louise) Walker** and **Sgt Rose Prince** found the most fitting outfits true to their own nature - **JESTERS!**

Goblets of mead accompanied a fine 4-course meal, whilst some people found themselves almost at home by using just their fingers. Musicians thrummed, jugglers juggled and challenges were thrown by all and sundry – just another day within the Squadron really. A modern day disco was held in the cellar afterwards, with Sir **(Ron Q) Russell** showing us how they did it in ye olde days. All in all a great night out for all and many thanks to the SSM on all the hard work organising the function.

EXERCISE SSM'S ENDEAVOUR - 27-29 July 2001

by LCpl Matt Joyce

Ex SSM Endeavour was the SSM's answer to The Mountvoy Trophy weekend. Run with a big emphasis on NBC, the Squadron was split into four groups at the end of first parade and it was all go from there. There were five stands to get around and we were determined to score maximum points. My team started off on the driving, with **LCpl Putnam** turning the wheel and **LCpl Joyce** guiding her whilst reversing with a trailer - things went reasonably smoothly at this stage. However, the tables were turned when it was **LCpl Joyce's** turn to drive, and things started to heat up with **LCpl Putnam** guiding operations. With **Joycie** throwing his teddies all over the cab, and **LCpl Putnam** giving him looks that can kill a man at 100m, it certainly made for an entertaining 20mins. Next up was Leopard Crawling with a weapon strip thrown in for good measure. Glad to report that there were no major problems there. The Leopard Crawl was succeeded by a Trailer Run in which the teams had to push the trailer around the TA centre in Full IPE. What fun - **Sig Crouch** (the ex-infantryman who has seen more action than **Gen Sir Peter De La Billiere**, so I am told anyway) was seen to be examining the contents of his large intestine afterwards. Fifth on the agenda was the Chinese Whispers in which the instructor would give one person a message, and it would then pass down the group until it got to the last man and then it would be voiced back to the instructor and if the two matched you got a point. We had an amazement of final answers! Orienteering was the next stand in which we had to run around looking for little markers with a key on. That went pretty smoothly. Drill followed with the slow march looking more like something you might see on the Starship Enterprise. With the squad desperately trying not to laugh we attempted to do the best we could out of the situation and I believe that we may have come top on that stand.

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Members of the Squadron squeeze through a tight gap during the NBC obstacle course

Knock off, shower and change for a few beers and a Bar-B-Q was just what everyone wanted to hear. Though best not to hit it too hard as the CFT was to follow in the morning. Needless to say one or two of the troopers hung on a major session. CFT, after a hearty breakfast, was just like having a delightful stroll in the country, well for some of us anyway. With that out of the way time to pack up and disappear. Yet another fun but educating weekend put on by the seniors. Although the weather was hot I do not think that anyone minded being in full IPE for the day. With the activities that were set up for us there was not a lot of time to get bored hanging around. So from the guys on the ground, thanks for a blinding weekend.

EXERCISE ACTIVITY TIGER - 18–19 AUGUST 2001

by LCpl Matt Joyce

18 August 2001 saw the Adventure Training kick off for 45 Sig Sqn at Cambridge TA centre. On arrival the troopers were met by the ever cheerful **Sgt Del Parkinson**. Straight after a good old TA breakfast of tea and toast we were split into two groups - one for rock climbing and canoeing, and the other for some mountain biking through STANTA with **Lt Sturt**. Just before we left we were all issued with a happy meal (Supplied by **SSgt McGachy**) that the lads affectionately nicked-named the 'McUnhappy' meal as the Cornish pasties were so tiny. The canoeing contingent headed for Bassingbourne Camp where we met up with **Cpl John King** and **Cpl Paul Miles**. First up we had rock climbing on the indoor wall after being shown the ropes (excuse the pun) we were then let loose. With **Cpl Farrow** in a different league, looking the part with his shiny new 'stickys', he was on top form closely followed by **LCpl Putnam**. The OC Sqn was determined to climb above 1m, though without a great deal of luck. Better luck next time Sir!

Straight after the climbing followed the canoeing. Once the safety brief was out of the way we launched our canoes and had a paddle around the lake with **Sig Stewart** bringing up the rear and **Sig Andrews** steaming off in front, convinced that he was on some kind of special ops with the SBS. We regrouped and the instructors showed us how to steer, stay up right and what to do should we capsize (which was pretty inevitable). After a few games such as running over the canoes when they were pulled together in one big line, and tag with a tennis ball we packed up and headed back to the TA Centre. Once the kit was squared away everyone showered to shouts of 'come on, you're in your own time now' (that old chestnut) we headed to the Mecca of all adventure training weekends - the holy bar.

SSgt (SPSI) Gerry McGachy (back right) prepares to dispatch further search parties in the hope of finding that damned ball Sgt Kev Elliot acts as loose ballast in the centre

The next morning we headed down to the lake for a raft building competition between Warley and Colchester. After being given some barrels, planks of wood and some string we split up and start to build the rafts. Once they were built the Warley Warriors, armed with a sense of humour and paddles, followed the Colchester classics into the lake. The first task was a race around a buoy about 100m out and then back again. With honour at stake, the Warley Warriors retaliated with a stream of invective and things got pretty ugly after. All in all a good time was had by all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PSI's, **Cpl King** and **Cpl Paul Miles** for all the work that they put into to making the Adventure Training weekend such a success.

EXERCISE AUTUMN ENDEAVOUR 28-30 SEPTEMBER 2001

by Lt Andy Sturt (Sqn Ops Offr)

Organising training weekends is like baking a cake, the ingredients are not appetising on their own but put them together in the correct way and a gateau will be the end product. So the challenge was set to combine ranges and RSIT prep into one weekend and come out with a Black Forest. Some might say that this is like making a cake from mud and soil. The weekend started on Friday with a session on the local SAT. After practising on the 'normal' practices the SPSI, **SSgt Gerry McGachy**, mentioned something about a video shoot. Almost instantly, after 15 minutes the computer was working and all involved slipped into banzai mode. This session was greatly appreciated as moving targets are somewhat different to the figure elevens that we have all met before. Saturday started exactly as every range day should; with a dark grey sky that appeared to have a severe leaking problem. Thankfully, once the cattle had been moved off the range, we were able to start firing. **Capt Mike Evans** and **SSgt Stewart** along with the SPSI had spent a lot of time organising everything so that everybody was able to get through the APWT in record time. What was even more incredible was that we achieved an 80% pass rate. Of course no weekend would be complete without its surprises, so that TA CFT was sprung on us. One sweaty hour later it was into the RSIT prep with the exception of **Lt Andy Sturt** who found himself directed towards the kitchen. Thankfully **Cpl Molineaux** had already prepared the food and so it was simply a matter of turning on the cooker, although it must have been difficult as breakfast and lunch had also been cooked by the time the Ops Officer emerged from the kitchen. The RSIT prep went well and an enormous amount of work was completed. A big thank you must be sent out to **Lt Emma Hillyard** and **OCdt Sturt** who took it on themselves to sort out the troop stores. I doubt that they really knew what they had let themselves in for. A very successful weekend was had by all involved, plenty of valuable training was completed and the RSIT prep continued well. When asked what the best thing was about the weekend the consensus seemed to be that another three bounty qualifications were complete and that RSIT would soon be over!

REGIMENTAL GOLF SOCIETY

by SSgt (SQMS) Ron Tex Russell

The inter Squadron golf competition took place on 26 September at Stapleford Abbots Golf Club. After the traditional pre-match coffee and bacon rolls, 16 players were ready and raring to go on the first tee. The weather was good, and rumours were rife across the course that previously unheard of golfers were playing out of their skins. The atmosphere was tense as the 18th hole approached, and it looked as if it was going to be a tight finish. **Steve** 'Motorman' **Kentish** got a hole in one at the 185 par three (although **Steve** is used to dealing with big holes, being ex-Pioneer Corps), and we all enjoyed the free beer afterwards, a big well done to a good guy. **Len Carr** scored 36 points (never heard of before), and **Ray Whall** finished with 39 points that was enough to win him the top individual prize. **Rod Allen** cleaned up with the longest drive of the day, whilst **Ron Russell** couldn't resist scooping the nearest the pin medal. The top prize was lifted by **Sig Dave Bleck** on behalf of 45 Sqn who won by one point from 54 Squadron. One again, this was a superb day out, with some good golfers on display, improving all the time. A final word of caution - remember, they put fertiliser on the greens so don't lick your balls!

PUBLIC APOLOGY

The Corps Press Complaints Committee recently found in favour of **Maj (AKA Captain) Edwards**, and against the editor of 36 Sig Regt *WIRE* notes (now retired). **Maj Edwards** objected to the word 'rotund' being used in a recent edition of *The WIRE* in relation to his body shape and overall condition. The Regiment now accepts that it was wrong to describe one of the up and coming stars of the Royal Corps in this fashion, and recognises (after due medical consultation) that 'portly' would have been a more sympathetic and definitive description. **Maj Edwards**, Adjutant amongst Adjutants, we apologise unreservedly for any offence caused.

37 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

CO **Lt Col P. J. Grogan**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. C. Fisher**

ANNUAL CAMP 2001 - PENHALE TRAINING CAMP NEWQUAY (SEPTEMBER 20– OCTOBER 6)

This year saw 37 Sig Regt travel to Cornwall for its Annual Camp. A two-week training package with one week on the ranges and one week adventure training. The range package included familiarisation with the GPMG, target indication and live-firing section attacks as well as weapon handling and shooting assessments. The Regiment welcomed **GOC Maj Gen A. G. Denaro** to the ranges on Thursday of the first week. The General gave an informative Battlefield Leadership presentation before being the honoured guest at the Officers Mess Dinner that evening. Congratulations to the Adjutant, **Maj Elizabeth** 'Air Guitar' **Dallyn** on her promotion. Also a welcome goes to **Maj Tim Wood** who joins the Regiment as the new Training Major. The Regiment boasts a wide variety of qualified adventure training instructors enabling the soldiers to practice sailing, climbing, canoeing and clay pigeon shooting as well as mountain biking and hill walking. The 'tourist friendly' environment of the region also gave the opportunity to try more specialised activities such as carting, paint balling, pony trekking, quad biking, surfing and even gliding. The sailing was thoroughly enjoyed by all under the guidance of **Cpl Paul White** of 93 Sqn ably assisted by **Cpl Cath** 'Look at me in my PTI Vest!' **Smith** (67 Sqn). All except for maybe **WO2 Lucy Sewell** (SSM 67 Sqn) who was lucky enough to see her breakfast for the second time that day and at one point **Sgt John** 'Please let me down!' **Elsworth** (PSI(T) HQ Sqn) who realised he was more scared of heights than he thought… half way up the mast!

PTI, **Cpl John** 'Twice round my beautiful body… GO!' **McCarthy** and **SSgt Tim Abbott** showed the regiment there was more to canoeing then just paddling down a river taking the group 'Surf Canoeing' on the breaking waves of Newquay beach. The day begun on a calm stretch of river with a capsize test and a few hints 'n' tips on canoe control. The group continued down the river until **SSgt Abbott** suddenly stopped and dragged his canoe to the top of bank at least two metres sheer drop to the water. Quickly understanding what was required, the braver (or more stupid) members of the group followed him. One by one the group was shoved off the bank by **SSgt Abbott** hitting the water nose first, submerging briefly then bobbing back up for the first adrenaline rush of the day. Not to be out done by his students **Cpl McCarthy** decided he was going to complete the same manoeuvre… only backwards! Much to his embarrassment the canoe came to rest with an unnerving thud lodged facing straight upwards in the thick mud at the bottom of the bank! We didn't laugh that much… honestly Mac! **Cpl McCarthy** eventually paddled away with only his pride bruised. The crowd for **Pte** 'Dolph' **Lewis's** later mishap was much larger. Powerfully built **Pte Lewis** was caught off guard by the turbulent water caused by the propellers of a stationary, crowded passenger ferry. In full sight of dozens of concerned spectators **Cpl McCarthy** performed yet another 'lightning quick' rescue as he hauled a capsized, floundering, very relieved **Pte Lewis** to safety.

The difference between you and me?… I make this look good! Cpl John McCarthy shows how it should be done

PLEASE DON'T SEND US DIGITAL PHOTOS

as most of them are only saved at 72dpi, for publication they must be a minimum of 300-400dpi

The sand dunes of Penhale Training Camp were the backdrop for the Section Attacks, the culmination of a week on the ranges. Six sections overcame the rough terrain and hot conditions to defeat the enemy with enthusiasm and aggression. Newly promoted **Sgt** 'Pez' **Thomas** (53 Sqn) drew on his experience with the Welsh Guards to ensure the Signallers infantry skills were up to scratch.

Sgt Thomas (Congratulations on your promotion, Mr Vice!) briefing Section Comd, Cpl Brian 'I am not Scottish!' Mclean who has just been posted into HQ Sqn as a PSI(T) from The Royal School of Signals

LCpl Wayne Reeces of 53 Signal Squadron keeping firm control of his section

Section Six – Motivated for the last section attack of the day
Top Row (L-R): Sig Paul Clayton, LCpl Wil Lins, Cpl Andy Clarke, Cpl Arnie Canning, Sig Mick Swann
Bottom Row (L-R): Sig Haggai Chepkwong, Stuart Swinnerton, Sig Adrian Walden, Sig Ben Summerton

Cpl Andy Clarke (top Centre) is just one of the Regiment present at the Annual Camp deploying to Bosnia in November as Part of The 97 Signal Squadron (V). Others include: **LCpl Reeves** and **LCpl Rignall** from 53 Sqn, **Cpl Smith** and **LCpl Sheard** from 67 Sqn, **WO2 (SSM) Krikorian** from 96 Sqn and **SSgt Alleyne**, **Cpl Steve Walsh** (REME), **Cpl Kevin Hall**, **LCpl Bakewell** and **LCpl Bayer** all with HQ Sqn.

Thanks to the weather (well-done Padre!) and the organisational and refereeing skills of the Regiments PTI's a very competitive, extremely successful inter squadron sports day was held on the middle weekend. Special thanks must go to **LCpl Rignal** and **Capt. Rance** of 53 Signal Squadron for their efforts. Teams from all five squadrons keenly contested basketball, baseball, football, volleyball and tug of war. The basketball tournament under the watchful eye of the QM, **Maj Don Holmes**, went without a hitch. However, convincing some of the squadron members that the game is indeed a *non-contact* sport was at times difficult, as a bruised **Maj Richard Bowden** (OC 96 Sqn) would undoubtedly contest to! The basketball was dominated by HQ Sqn, as were all the events of the day especially the tug of war thanks to a convincing performance by a very aggressive somewhat large team!

The Final event saw Mess pride at stake in The Officers Mess vs. The Sergeants Mess Cricket Match. It was a closely contested game swayed by some notable individual performances. Despite a respectable Captains innings by the boundary-hitting RSM, the Officers were the final victors. **Maj. Tim** 'Sport Billy' **Wood** helped HQ Squadron to victory in several events, his batting prowess in the cricket almost turning the match into The Sergeants Mess vs. The Training Major! He was eventually dismissed by a questionable LBW, leaving the CO to procure the winning runs. The prize of a decanter of port now resides in The Officers Mess, no doubt empty by now!

Finally... The All Conquering HQ Squadron

96 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd **Maj Richard Bowden**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) John Convery**

BRITISH LEGION RUN

Following a presentation by the Royal British Legion where the Squadron was informed of the aims and activities of this organisation, a glut of application forms for the British Legion Run Around the Park. Five members of the Squadron were persuaded to complete the 10km run and another two ran a recruiting stand at the event. Congratulations to **Sig Knight** (46 mins) and **2Lt Longcake** for their times and to **SSgt Tuck, Sgt Hayley** and **Cpl Dunn** for actually completing the event before everyone else went home! It was claimed that the picnic on the way round was just too good to miss – honest! The runners raised £82.00 for the Royal British Legion, while **LCpl Tuck** and **LCpl Mullins** (currently in Kosovo) provided the recruiting stand and tentage for the spectators to keep out of the cold and wet.

COMMANDING OFFICERS CHALLENGE

The objective behind this exercise was to task the PSI, **SSgt** 'Jez' **Bromley**, to organise an activity completely different to the normal activities carried out by the Squadron. As **SSgt Bromley** had previously been involved with the Swanage Steam Railway, Exercise 'Topham Hatt' was his first choice. This was agreed by RHQ, so planning commenced. In the nick of time clearance was obtained, the delay being the Foot and Mouth Crisis. Then we were off down to Swanage by coach. We arrived after midnight to be accommodated in the Railway Workshop, sharing the accommodation with two, part stripped, steam engines. Bright and breezy we all arose to be given a safety brief, as we would be working on a working railway line. The Squadron was given twelve tasks to complete with a bonus if time allowed. These tasks included drainage troughing to be cleared, rake and clear ash paths, removal of a tree, clearance of an area in preparation for a new access ramp, burn debris and paint fences. This was all on a stretch of line that has been adopted by the Royal Corps of Signals. Following a hard days work (and a suntan) we all boarded a coach to DM Kineton for a Regimental smoker, which included skits from each Squadron on what they had done.

EXERCISE TOPHAM HATT

Ex 'Topham Hatt' is an ongoing MACC Exercise with the Swanage Steam Railway. The Swanage Railway has been associated with the Royal Signals since 1984. Following the successful introduction of the Squadron earlier in the month, this full weekend of support had been planned. It is the first of a regular visit to Swanage (we hope, training and commitments permitting) and the start of a fruitful relationship with 96 Sig Sqn (V) and 37 Sig Regt (V). The Swanage Railway is a purely voluntary organisation and therefore any labour that can be offered is very much appreciated. Soldiers provide an organised and thorough source of manpower and a broad spectrum of skills, which are invaluable when available. 96 Sig Sqn deployed to Swanage, where we were accommodated and fed and undertook a variety of tasks which were expected to test individuals both physically and mentally. The main thrust of this exercise was to repair damage done by vandals and prepare an area for storage of spare parts for the Railway. The second group were directed to begin preparations for the organisation of the storage area, about 700m in length. This involved the weeding and cutting back of dense vegetation, a task that was just too much for the soldiers involved. They were occasionally seen with machete in one hand and a chimp in the other! The rest of the group were involved with the clearing away of a mountain of debris. Some was burnt, whilst scrap metal and recyclable waste was transported to the furthest end of the area to be sorted ready for collection. Overall, this was an extremely beneficial weekend for both parties. The Squadron exercised skills in:

Carpentry	Decorating
Teamwork	Manual Handling
Problem Solving	Bonfire Construction
Health and Safety	Public Relations

If anyone is interested in assisting the Swanage Railway, they should contact **WO1 (RSM) Frank Roberts** currently serving with 39 Sig Regt (V) in Bristol.

EXERCISE REYNARDS CHALLENGE

Ex Reynards Challenge was the Regimental annual military skills competition, which was held at Swynnerton Training Area. It involved:

March and Shoot	Patrol Competition
Assault Course	Tug of War

Saturday started with the March and Shoot. What a glorious day for it! We roasted. The OC, **Maj Richard Bowden** made his own mark on the range. With the LSW complete with SUSAT sights he managed to score a magnificent score of two from a possible 400. Needless to say, 96 Sqn allowed someone else the honour of winning this trophy. We did a little better on the Patrol Competition, which consisted of a number of stands designed to test physical and mental ability. These included NBC, First Aid, vehicle repair, and assorted command tasks. The team commander, **2Lt Matthew Longcake**, led us round the course in flying style and knew all of the 'way out' questions on the questionnaire stand. Despite **Sig. Knight** trying to rope the floating bottle in the final command task as if he were trying to decapitate it, we came in first, winning this trophy by a single point from 93 Sqn.

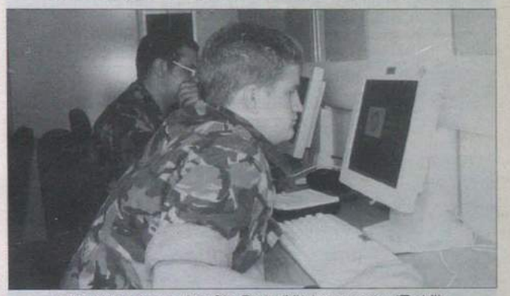
Finally came the Tug of War Competition. Having probably the lightest team, we were at a slight disadvantage. But we went out to win and eventually won one pull. This lack of success was not down to the competitors' efforts that were superhuman – as the bruises showed, but on the skill and strength of the other teams.

Sunday brought with it the excitement of the Assault Course Competition, for which we were all looking forward to, if with a little worry of injury and letting the team down in the background. The worry was for nought as the Squadron team almost flew across the obstacles, including the OC who kept claiming that he was too old for that sort of thing – rubbish! The team worked extremely well together despite all of the plans falling apart by the second obstacle. Well done everybody. Following the Assault Course, the Regimental 2IC, **Maj John Duggan**, who was standing in for the Commanding Officer, presented the prizes. 96 Sig Sqn (V), the youngest Squadron being eight years old, have at last made their impression on the Regiment, winning two of the four events.

97 SIGNAL SQUADRON
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
Sqn Comd **Maj Andrew Smith**
SSM **WO2 Krikorian**

On 8 October 2001 history was made in both the Corps and the Services. For the first time since World War II a composite TA Signal Squadron was formed to deploy to Bosnia in support of Commander BRITFOR. After months of hard work 37 Sig Regt (V), as lead Regiment, can sleep at night whilst the new Squadron Commander **Maj Andrew** 'Normally a barrister' **Smith** takes up the reins. The regular army welcome back **WO2 (SSM) Krikorian**, who after 22 years regular service in the Corps and a new career in the police coupled with the TA, has put his boots back on, and re-joined the Army as a full time occupation for six months. The Squadron consists of four officers, 55 TA soldiers and ten regulars (including RAF) to make up any skill shortages. The occupations of the Squadron prior to being sworn into the regular army ranged from policeman, to pizza maker, to archaeologist. The Squadron, who are at RTMC at the time of writing, have come from various units within 2 (NC) Sig Bde. Following mobilisation training they will complete three weeks Special to Arms training in a number of different locations, before flying to Bosnia on 17 November 2001 for a 6-month tour. Many have already completed Balkan tours as individuals with other Corps units. The formation of the Squadron is very much in line with the TA post SDR, having under taken a commitment normally done by a regular unit. The title of 97 Sig Sqn was purposefully created by HQ SoinC(A) for the task. Over the past nine months the Squadron has undergone a number of training weekends to both develop relevant skills and to 'bond' as a Squadron. Whilst only a brief introduction to 97 Sig Sqn the next input will be from the Squadron itself deployed on operations. For any one interested in following their progress the Squadron also has its own web site which can be found under the Corps web site: www.army.mod.uk/royalsignals/97sigsqn.

Sig Bishop (39 Sig Regt (V)) learns how to tow a landrover



LCpl Worthingon (39 Sig Regt (V)) learns new IT skills

One of the sections learn how to recover a landrover under the watchful eye of Cpl Walsh (37 Sig Regt (V))

SSgt Alleyne (31 Sig Regt (V)) plays casualty after a live firing section attack on 37 Sig Regt (V) Annual Camp at Penhale

38 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

TOP OF THE CLASS

City student, **Scott Bumby**, was in for a shock when he signed up for the Territorial Army (TA). The 22-year-old beat 61 hand-picked hopefuls from around the country to win the 'Top Recruit' award on his basic training course. His success so impressed his superiors, at 87 Signal Squadron, they said he should try for a command of his own. So this week **Scott** starts the toughest three weeks of his life as he battles to become an officer at the world famous Sandhurst military academy. **Officer Cadet Bumby**, from Lenton said, 'I was staggered when I took top honours on my first course. I thought I might get through it okay, but I never expected anything like that. Sandhurst is going to be a much tougher test. But I'm hoping to do well.' **Scott**, who is on a double honours degree course in chemistry and management, tried to get into his university's Officer Training Corps. When he found the membership was full up he went for a place at the TA's Triumph Road-based signals unit. He said his part-time military earnings had been a real boost in staving off student loans. However, he reckoned the real pay-off would come later. He said the management and leadership experience the army would give him would be a valuable addition to his curriculum vitae. As a newly qualified officer he will be expected to take charge of 20 soldiers and millions of pounds worth of the latest high-tech communications equipment. **Captain Ken Scott** said, 'We've any number of openings in our squadron for young men and women like **Scott**. Our aim is to give them skills and experience that will provide a real boost to their civilian and part-time military careers.'

Top of the Class
TA OCdt Scott Brumby from Lenton

GATER'S SNAPPING UP THE CHANCES

Derbyshire communications expert **Kevin Gater** is putting his dual summer celebrations down to leading a double life. The 42-year-old was delighted when his two employers promoted him on the very same day. His full-time bosses at BT put him in charge of a 20-strong planning team based in Nottingham. At the same time his part-time military chiefs gave him command of a 20-strong team of signals specialists at Derby's Kingsway-based 46 Signal Squadron. The telecom company wants him to control service development in an area of England the size of Wales. The Territorial Army wants him to be able to create a radio network the size of Wales, anywhere in the world. **Capt Gater**, from Belper said, 'It's all been a bit spooky. I can tell when I'm due a promotion at work because I always go another rung up the army ladder at the same time.At 17 years old I became an apprentice toolmaker - at the same time I joined the Royal Signals as a linesman. What the TA taught me about communications networks got me into BT. My responsibilities with both employers have grown at exactly the same rate ever since.' But he said he would have achieved nothing without help from BT. He said that his civilian bosses had always supported his TA service. They had benefited in return from the skills the military taught him. The company also had his total commitment. Britain's military are now demanding total commitment from **Capt Gater's** new command. His signal regiment is now the world leader in computer driven battlefield communications. Their work has enabled the military to achieve a ten-fold acceleration in its data transfer systems.

At the helm.
Adventurous outdoor sports is a vital part of 46 Sig Sqn Capt Kevin Gater (42), receives expert instruction from watersports assistant, Miss Louise Shelton (18), from Rotherham

Why not visit the Royal Signals Museum?
For opening hours ring : 01258 482248

39 (SKINNERS) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS (BRISTOL)
CO **Lt Col P. R. Towers MA MSC**
RSM **WOl (RSM) F Roberts**

Greetings to the new Artificer Vehicles, **SSgt Darren Ward** and his wife **Maria** who comes to us from 1 QDG. Other recent additions are the new Regimental FofS, **SSgt (FofS) Rick Dickinson** who has just joined the Regiment from 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt. Welcome to the team! The major activities currently going on the Regiment are the preparations for Annual camp, which started on October 13 this year. This will be a great opportunity to see the TA at its finest, especially for those new members of RHQ and recruits who have yet to be indoctrinated in the ways of the TA by the 'TA Junior Jedi Knight Skills' course. Hopefully, given the packed program for camp, *The WIRE* entry from the Regiment will be significantly larger in the next issue!

5 (QUEEN'S OWN OXFORDSHIRE HUSSARS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (BANBURY & OXFORD)
Sqn Comd **Maj R. H. Belbin**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. E. Phillips**

Having only welcomed **Sgt Drew Hall** as the PSI (Tech) in last months *WIRE* Notes, we bid him farewell and wish him an excellent tour of duty with 97 (BRITFOR) Signal Squadron in Bosnia. Thanks for all you have done and we will see you when you return. August saw the end of an era with the departure of **SSgt** 'Scouse' **Simcock** the outgoing SPSI who has moved on to serve with 14 Sig Regt. We wish him good luck and hope that working in the Quartermasters Department isn't as demanding as looking after the TA - Thanks 'Scouse', hope you will find time to read the history of the Squadron and that you will one day return and see us in Banbury.

Capt Chuck Robertson (Sqn 21C) bidding SSgt Simcock farewell on his final drill night

WO2(SSM) Ray Phillips presents SSgt Simcock with a Yeomanry picture and the book 'The Story of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry' at his farewell function in the Churchill Club

We also bid farewell to the Training Major and Regimental FofS during September. **Maj Butch Maycock** who was visiting the Squadron with his successor **Maj John McKay. LCpl Clair Goodwin** who just happened to drop in during the lunchtime made a special presentation! **SSgt (FofS) Steve Hutchinson** was presented with 'The Story of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry' at the Squadron Karaoke Evening on Saturday 8 September 2001.

LCpl Claire Goodwin making her presentation to Maj 'Butch' Maycock

WO2 (SSM) Ray Phillips presenting the book to Staff Sergeant Hutchinson

Maj 'Rich' **Belbin** has now assumed Command of the Squadron with effect 20 July 2001. We welcome him and trust he will enjoy his time with us - being Ex Royal Artillery he has already received a very warm reception from the Oxfordshire Yeomanry Association Members. Changes so far - Waddington's 6 X has replaced Guinness Draft in the Churchill Club and Officers Physical Training starting at 1800 hours every Tuesday! We welcome **SSgt Mike Bell**, the new SPSI and congratulate him on his promotion on posting to us. We also welcome **Sgt Dave Randall**, the new PSI (Tech) and also congratulate him on his promotion, fresh from his T1 and Corporals courses in Blandford. Both have arrived just in time for their first camp with the TA. Welcome also to your respective families **Jo** and **Amy Bell** and **Lisa Randall**.

VISIT BY REGIMENTAL HONORARY COLONEL MAIOR GENERAL JOHN MOORE BICK CBE FICE

We were pleased to welcome the Regimental Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen Moore-Bick CFE FICE** who had found time in his busy calendar to visit the Squadron. During the visit he had the opportunity to tour the Oxford Detachment accommodation and facilities at Slade Park in Oxford. He also had a guided tour of Banbury by the OC, **Maj Rich Belbin**, and meeting the Regular, NRPS and Civilian Staff. He also had the opportunity to meet **Sgt Drew Hall** and **LCpl Mike Bayer** both of whom are deploying to Bosnia and Kosovo in November 2001.

Regimental Honorary Colonel and LCpl Mike Bayer in the Churchill Club

SQUADRON ON ADVENTURE TRAINING EXERCISE LINX AWAY

The Squadron spent an enjoyable and deserving couple of days in the Derbyshire Peak District over the weekend 17-19 August 2001. **Ex SSM Steve Cocksedge** provided the leadership with the all walkers taking a small select group on an all day walk over the Dark Peaks, Mountain Biking and Caving were carried under the guidance of local experts. The whole group then enjoyed the thrill of abseiling from a local viaduct on the Sunday morning prior to the return to Banbury.

A Group of Smiling Cavers with their admiring Civilian Instructor

LCpl Goodwin Ready to Go!

47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (UXBRIDGE)

Sqn Comd **Maj C. M. Lankester**
SSM **WO2 M. Gilfrin**

As these notes are being written, Annual Camp is fast approaching. Camp is later than normal this year as elements of the Regiment were due to take part in Ex Arrcade Fusion in Germany. Unfortunately, the Foot and Mouth epidemic caused the cancellation of our involvement in the exercise. It has been replaced by a Regimental Comms exercise called Bon Accord and will take elements of the Squadron to the Channel Islands to communicate using NCRS +. This does not alter the fact that the rest of the Squadron will be at Bodney Camp, Thetford, in October! Recruiting continues to thrive and there are currently approximately 18-20 recruits being processed. The Squadron has a group of ten recruits attending the recruit course being run at Camp. This is an excellent achievement and, assuming all pass the course, means a large infusion of new soldiers into the Squadron. Particular thanks must go to **Cpls Loftus** and **Gross** for their efforts as members of the Squadron RTT, in getting this large group of recruits prepared in time for camp.

Members of the Squadron have taken part in an adventurous weekend organised by the PSI Tech, **Sgt Baz Kightley**, as well as some members undergoing a freefall parachute course organised by **Lt Watts**. On the exercise front it has been fairly low key, due in part to FMD restrictions, but several members of the Squadron spent time in Sheffield coming up to speed with the NCRS+ HUB. Many thanks are duly recorded to 38 Signal Regiment for looking after them so well for the weekend. Ex Dummy Run, which took place at Longmoor in September, enabled members of the Squadron involved in Ex Bon Accord, to further hone their skills with NCRS+. Three members of the Squadron are carrying out final preparations prior to being mobilised as members'-: of 97 Squadron in Bosnia for a six months tour starting in November. We wish **Cpl Paula Hunter**, and **Sigs Jimmy Chung** and **Phil Monk** a successful and rewarding tour and hope they can answer the question why the TA have to do a winter tour in the Balkans?

The annual Lafone Day parade takes place on the middle Sunday of camp. This will not allow the Squadron to parade, as a squadron on this very important day as, most will be deployed on Ex Bon Accord. A plan has been hatched that will allow as many squadron members as possible to attend St Paul's Cathedral on this most hallowed day in the Squadron's calendar. One further item of good news is the selection of the PSI, **SSgt Jay Saunders**, for the Army Shooting Team. Sadly, the competition this year is against the Australian armed forces and he unfortunately has to go to Aus for about three weeks. Needless to say the PSI is cut up about the need to travel so far to display his shooting skills but he is gradually coming to terms with it! Sacrifices have to be made!

ADVENTURE TRAINING 28-29 JULY

As the sun began to rise on the morning of 28 July, and the Squadron started to emerge from their accommodation in RAF Uxbridge, there was an air of expectancy of what the weekend held in store. Adventurous Training was about to begin! And it had been planned by a Tech! The Squadron duly set forth on the Saturday morning for the Gladiatorial Arena, a paintball site in Surrey. The plan was to wage war on 150 unsuspecting Christians cunningly disguised as mere members of the British public! As the score-boards were being put up, and the weapons and ammo were distributed, a feeling of dread seemed to grip the civilian teams when they realised that the Lions they had to face were the Army! Cries of, 'We can't possibly win against the professionals,' (I was told to put that word in).

Once on the field of battle however, reality set in and the Squadron duly proceeded to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. These people were good and had clearly been practicing for years to overwhelm and defeat any and all opposition. You get the picture! However, after a few scenarios, the tactics were changed and we started winning. This was mainly due to some excellent covering fire laid down whilst **Sigs Monk** and **Pain** risked life and limb to capture the enemy flag using Kamikaze style tactics. They swear they had learned them at Annual camp last year! Overall a variety of scenarios were thrown at us that the Squadron adapted to, ending up second overall.

The second day saw the Squadron indulge in some driver training at the Go Kart centre in Aldershot. Teams of four were arranged for the endurance races which were every bit as testing and strenuous as a Grand Prix. Schumacher, eat your heart out and make way for professionals! No one was quite prepared for the amount of cheating that was to happen as the event progressed. The amount and scope of the cheating that took place had to be seen to believed as normally mild mannered individuals resorted to the kind of stunts normally seen at stock car races. Scores were fairly evenly matched but eventually the best team (at staging accidents!) won. **Lt Dave** 'Nigel Mansell' **Cornick, Sgt Ben** 'Rocket Science' **Newby, Sgt** 'All claims through me' **Young** and **Sgt Ian** 'I am smiling' **Lane** were all members of the cheating (winning) team. But the entertainment was not yet over. The comedy act had yet to come. Dry Ski Slope. This gave everyone the opportunity to do their Eddie the Eagle impression. This much fun would cost a fortune if it had to be paid for, but everyone managed, somehow, to make a least one downhill run. Overall an excellent weekend was had by all, and a lot of people are now looking at what adventures next year's training is to hold!

EXERCISE DUMMY RUN

This exercise took place at Longmoor Training area in Hampshire and was designed to practice, those members of the Regiment who were taking part in Ex Bon Accord, with the new equipment and antennae that would be used on the exercise. All those Squadron members who were to be part of the Det deploying to the Channel Islands, as well as those manning the Hub Control Station deployed on the Friday night. Saturday morning was spent familiarising everyone with the NCRS+ kit, in particular the new Fan Dipole antennae. Once this had been satisfactorily completed, the kit was fully deployed in order that further practice could be had under more testing conditions. One further benefit of the weekend was that everyone had the chance to meet those from 5 and 57 Squadrons, also deploying on the exercise. This did much to cement a firm relationship amongst those Dets who would be co located once on the exercise. Overall this was a very good teaching exercise, well attended and much enjoyed by those taking part. Thanks must go to **Capt Cullen** and SQMS Oakley of 57 Squadron for their excellent administration whilst at Longmoor.

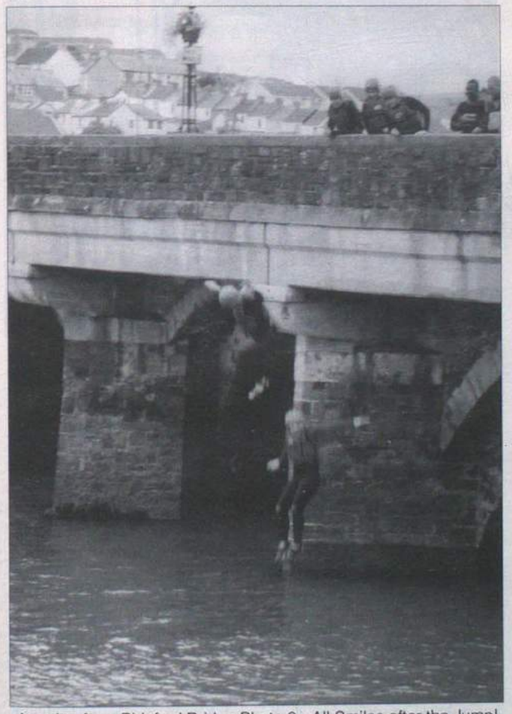
57 (CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

Sqn Comd **Maj W. Ruthven**
SSM **WO2 J. Tuck**

The last few months have been somewhat quiet due to the now infamous F&M, however, there have been some interesting courses attended by members of the squadron. **WO2 (SSM) Jayne Tuck** completed the TA All Arms Drill Course and **SSgt Filamena Zamparelli** attended the Regular All Arms Drill Course at Pirbright, although a bit of a culture shock both returned still smiling with a somewhat gruff voice! **Sig Phil Trewin** attended a Gliding Course with **WO2 (SSM) Phil Smith** of HQ Squadron, both returned with stories, (emphasis on stories) the rumour is that the next course had to be cancelled due to lack of serviceable gliders! The Squadron has a number of its people undergoing medical repairs at present our OC, **Maj Bill Ruthven, Sgt Kerri Hill** and **LCpl Paul Wylde**. We wish them all a speedy recovery and return to the fold.

SQUADRON ADVENTURE TRAINING

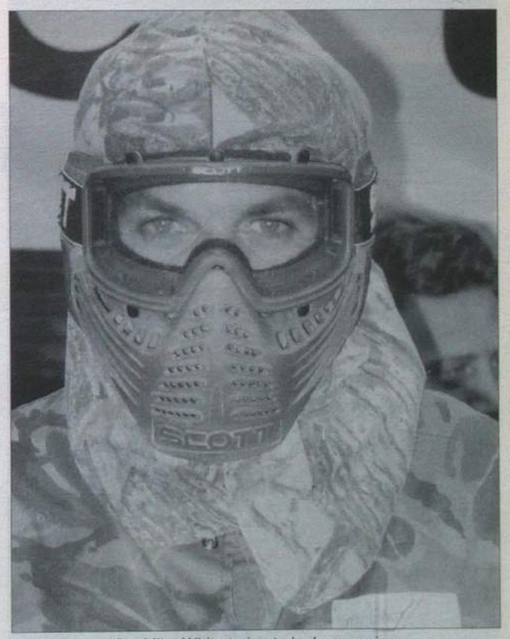
During the weekend 11-12 August the Squadron deployed to Fremington for an Adventure Training Weekend. The weather forecast was terrible, however, thankfully wrong again and it turned out well fox us. The activities consisted of a combination of walking, biking, rafting, bridge jumping, surf skiing and something not many had heard of before Coasteering (more about that later). Those where the Saturday choices, Sunday consisted of the OC's surprise, after handing over the camp everyone deployed to a local Paint Ball Organisation. Their equipment and facilities were excellent and a great time was had by all, certain personalities however didn't stand a chance, as old scores where settled and they were 'Taken Out' from behind as well as the front! According to **Sgt Richard Sharp** the SNCOs won due to superior firepower and of course cheating!



Jumping from Bideford Bridge Photo 9 - All Smiles after the Jump!

A group of eight set off from Skern Lodge for an afternoon of coasteering. (For the uneducated (as I was): coasteering is low level rock climbing and traversing, (surprisingly enough) along the coast). After getting off the bus on the cliff tops a short distance from Appledore we were greeted by the North Devon summer gale force sea breeze. We headed of to climb down the gully to take us on to the beach. On reaching the bottom and after a bit of tuition from the instructor, a few members of the group took it in turns to lead the party. **Sig** 'Let's see if we can walk on water' **Farman** took us quite close to the waters edge, so close in fact we had a group hug on a rock to wait for the tide to go out a bit further. However, the highlight of the afternoon was the rock-pool traverse, one by one we negotiated the rock and avoided the lure of the drink and the mythical conger eel which was in hiding. That's until it came to **Cpl** 'My legs don't spread that far' **Robbins**! After several minutes of cries about here legs not being long enough, asking where to put her hands and other unmentionables she finally lost the will to cling to the rock. To much amusement and with grace she plummeted to the awaiting pool and scored 11 out of 14 for entertainment value. A quick change followed and we headed back to the cliff top for a power nap in prep for the evening activities. All in all a good weekend, enjoyed by everyone except the OC maybe, who had a horrendous game of golf.

Dressed for War



Sgt Mike White trying to look menacing

STUCK FOR GIFT IDEAS THIS CHRISTMAS? CONTACT THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP FOR A COPY OF THE MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

1 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (215)

Sqn Comd **Maj A. J. Botterill**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) A. J. Strudwick**

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 2001 - *by G. P. Wills*

On arrival at 1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215) a year and half ago the 2IC informed me that within hours of my arrival I was go out on exercise for a week. In keeping with this tradition, on arrival at Ohakea air force base in New Zealand I was met by **Lt Kate Benjamin** and informed that I would be taking command of 31 Operator Troop the next day and immediately begin a three week exercise. Ex Rapid Lightening is an NZ Army wide CIS exercise used to assess the current capability of the RNZ Signals. It was to take place in Taranaki, and area on the west of the North Island. All of the field capable signals troops are deployed in support of a mock formation and conduct a series of moves and other tasks. It sounded to me like a good ex for me to stay out of the way while I learned all the different NZ practices. Little did I know that there were only two field deployable Troops and I was to command one of them. Thankfully the exercise went very well, more thanks to **Sgt Leslie Horne,** my Troop Sergeant, than any thing else. By the end of the exercise my troops and I were getting along well and I was looking forward to the rest of my time in NZ with renewed vigour.

On completion of Ex Rapid Lightening 21 Op Tp stayed in the North Island at Linton Camp, their base, as part of 2 Sig Sqn. 31 Op Tp, however, drove south and across the Cook Straight and further south still to Burnham. 3 Sig Sqn of which 31 Op Tp is a part is based there; it is just outside the city of Christchurch, on the east coast of the South Island. I moved into the mess in Burnham and quickly made some new friends, I also discovered that **Lt Jules Wheddon,** with whom I had gone to Sandhurst, was on Ex Long Look there as well. My next major task was to help run a week on the ranges. My input was as a safety supervisor and occasionally as an RCO. It afforded me the opportunity to fire the Steyr, the Kiwi's personal weapon. In addition I fired the C9 light support weapon and the M209 40mm grenade launcher. We concluded the week with a full days pistol shooting using the 9mm Sig Sauer.

After that the Squadron gave me a few weeks to plan my own activities. I wanted to tour as much of the country as possible, but soon realised that there was simply not enough time to do it all, so mostly constrained myself to the south island.

Although having said that, I did manage to spend a few days adventure training around Lake Taupau. It was as part of an existing training package and it included some experience on the high ropes. These were a series of steel wires arranged some 25 feet from the ground designed deliberately to stretch your physical limits. It was an enlightening experience for all concerned, especially **Maj Karen Te Moana,** OC 2 Sig Sqn, whose confidence was built no end. For the remainder of those weeks I toured the South Island and saw some of the most remarkable scenery. Of particular mention is the town of Kikora, which lays at the northern most end of the Canterbury Plain.

From the end of the headland looking back to the town it appears that the mountains rise straight out of the sea and in to some misty nether world above the sky, truly breathtaking. I also managed to find my way to Queenstown, billed as the adventure capital of the world and they're not wrong. You can do anything adventurous there, including an attraction canal the Shotover Jet. Shotover is a river that alternates between wide open and very shallow or narrow closed in by sheer cliffs and running very rapid. The Jet is a boat the runs on this river sometimes at speeds of up to 70kmph'. The whole experience is thrilling and involves running very close to the cliff's and some 360° turns. Also at Queenstown is the Skyline Cafe which is situated on the mountain above the town and affords the opportunity to Bungee Jump if you're feeling suicidal enough, I wasn't. I did try the Luge at the Skyline though, which is exactly that, but on a wheeled cart as opposed to and ice run.

On return from my couple of weeks away I was once again deployed on exercise to an area called the West Coast because it is. The West Coast is one of the areas of New Zealand where there is still that pioneering feel; a large town consists of four houses, a church and a pub. The exercise name was Cross Keys, and it was a main training ex for the fifth battalion deployment to East Timor. I had been asked to help run Excon and Hicon. I had been expecting this to be a large grouping as the whole Battalion was on ex, but this was the second time that the comparatively small nature of the NZ Army hit home. In fact it was only 12 strong (including myself and all the RNZ Signals). The usual signals mission of command support crept somewhat and only just fell short of actual command. The exercise ran smoothly, but unfortunately lasted for one month. During this time each of the companies took part in some live firing practice, in jungle lanes custom constructed for that exercise, and some patrolling practice in close country provided by the New Zealand primary jungle. Finally the companies came together under the Battalion HQ and conducted cordon and search, clearance and blocking operations similar to those in East Timor. All during this time the CSS Coy was out in support of the ex, and much to the annoyance of my friend, **Lt Jules Wheddon**, came under repeated ambush, unsporting not only from the enemy though! Apart from living in a barn, building my bar-b-que and learning a new card game, there were only two other excitements of the exercise. The first came from the discovery that there were not enough vehicles to conduct RRB resup, so this meant that resup had to be conducted by Iroquois (Huey's as used in Vietnam (no really!)) and some one had to go with them. I enjoyed my flights in the Iroquois, it seems to me to be a very versatile helicopter and the pilots were fearless when it came to landing on a sixpence. The other excitement was from one of the Kiwi soldiers shot another one during the live firing. Made all the more exciting because the Land Comd was visiting at the time. It turned out that it was only a superficial wound that was bleeding a lot more than the damage it had done.

During the Last week in country I was asked to prepare some leadership training for the soldiers and NCO's of the Squadron. I was given two days and had planned for a day's classroom activity including some presentations from officers who had served in East Timor and in Bosnia. The second day was due to be a 20km Bergen tab complete with command tasks along the way. Unfortunately the NZ government decided that in the light of recent international events it was more important that my soldiers stag on at the airports; yet another measure that will stretch an already strained defence force.

EXERCISE FIRST TRY

This was the first chance the Squadron had had to show off, since the plain was closed due to foot and mouth. An extra incentive was added, as this was the first time the Brigade staff had seen, let alone worked with the Sig Sqn for 12 months. With the new Brigadier on hand it was a time to shine? Apart from a few cobwebs in the works, which were quickly dealt with, the Exercise went well due to hard work from all.

BRIGADE CAST

The Squadron deployed to Warminster, with a mad rush to find space as Brigade main, Brigade step up and Squadron Ech were all located in the same compound. Brigade step up had a disadvantage due to **LCpl Francis** and **Sig Foster** breaking down on route. The stags on the gate were going great with a hint of profesionalism, until **Cpl Fraser**, was told by an unknown source (**Sig Lindley** and **Sig Lomas**), that the NBC state had risen to 3 romeo. Hence, to say **Cpl Fraser** was the only person in the entire Exercise area to be in full kit. With the England vs Albania game came a brief escape for some, thanks to **Sgt Shawcross** producing the largest telly seen outside of a cinema. With **Lt Clowes** aka the last Boy Scout showing the ropes to **Lt Taylor** aka Skippy (on loan from New Zealand) the Squadron pulled off a good exercise with all looking forward to the weekend and a bit of morale boosting especially **Sig Jack.**

DEGEX

The exercise kicked off with a great start for **LCpl Matthews** and his RRB breaking down and not for the last time! A short time into the exercise the Squadron Ech was reunited with its crew **Sigs Lindley** and **Haddock** after a brief spell in hospital due to food poisoning (the chefs had no comment). **Cpl Smith** and his SAS/MC baggage, who were disgruntled after not getting their daily 12 hours kip (probably next time guys). **Sig Foster** cheered up as his luck was in on the louvers with **Sig MacIfntyre. Sig Brands** was the first casualty of the exercise with his disastrous trick of juggling 321's that failed to impress the lads. **LCpl Mathews** soon joined **Sig Brands** on the sidelines with a sick note from his mother (believed to be in his own handwriting). This paved the way for **Lcpl Giroux** to take over the **RRB (Sig Hockley** then had to put up with the constant winging of how it wasn't as warm as the training wing). **Sig Berry** fled from the scene of a burning 436 without informing her driver **Sig Lomas,** then returning when safety was insured. A BBQ was then laid on for the Sqn at endex with free beer and food. **Sig Lomas'** exercise was topped as he and **Sig Lindley** missed out on this one off occasion due to the fact that their endex wasn't called till Monday morning, unlucky lads!

16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216)

Sqn Comd **Maj Neil Fraser**
RSM **WO1 Chris Drew**

As far back as 17 July members of the Squadron were involved with deployment on Op Essential Harvest, into the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). With the initial recce accompanying the Comd, COS, DCOS, Polad and CO Logs were **Maj Neil Fraser** and **WO2 (YofS) Danny Wilson**. This party flew by Royal Flight HS 125, despite the Yeoman worrying how a 125 would arrive at Skopje Train Station in time, the 3-day recce, which was frenetic, went without a hitch. The following weeks saw other recces take shape, before the Brigade left a small advance team in theatre to help planning, and the Squadron left **SSgt (YofS) Ben Redstone** to do in country liaison to help prepare for our deployment. This team, which rotated operators steadily, enabled a secure link to Colchester to be provided (INMARSAT and STU2). Much was frustrating, with problems of real estate, frequency clearance and access to hilltops a concern. The Squadron carried out much pre-deployment work to re-role vehicles, restructure Troops and design a new HQ, (including a plug up with the Troop from 30 Sig Regt) and also took part in a major multinational conference at AMC South Cerney, with representatives from the 15 nations that would make up the force. The SO2 J6 **Maj Andy Fallows** began a furious bout of staff work to gather together equipment vital to what promised to be a fast and demanding deployment. With the political situation being fluid, the likelihood of deployment to collect weapons from the NLA and help bring peace to the troubled region went up and down. With projections of October and November being made, the Squadron went on a well earned leave. Just as people touched ground in various holiday destinations the political climate again became positive, the two sides saw a chance of agreement and with a limited 'Balkan ceasefire' in place the wheels of PJHQ turned again and Op Bessemer (the UK name for the deployment) was activated.

Having been recalled back from leave on Wednesday 15 August at 1800 we had the whole Squadron ready to deploy in 36 hours – a major feat getting people back from holidays as far afield as Canada and a testament to Squadron ethos. The OC, Yeoman 1 and a four man team flew as part of the first 41 that Friday with **Sig Michael Slater** the darling of the media: 'Michael look this way, smile, pout.....' This team set up a forward HQ in a room of the Shoe Factory (now the home of KFOR (Rear)) and General Langer – the two star lead. This HQ was based on INMARSAT, BRENT and data transfer facility to improve the link to Colchester and also link into the teams despatched to Paris, Sardinia, Athens and the less exotic barracks of 2 Para. These teams provided a framework for the Brigade HQ to begin deployment planning with those nations providing the Infantry Battle-groups. The majority of the Squadron deployed by air that weekend and despite the best efforts of the movers arrived in relatively good order compared to less fortunate units. Initially people and equipment were held in Camp Able Sentry (CAS) courtesy of the US. After a few days of tricky negotiation with interpreters, financiers and the involvement of the Macedonian and Taiwanese Governments (joint owners of the 'Free Trade Centre') we secured agreement to get in to this semi completed factory. After stand off negotiations and many phone calls, the OC left the RSM, **WO1 Drew,** with three guards from the ARM (Macedonian Army) and a platoon from the Czech Defence Company (allocated to the Squadron for security) for the night. Nervously the RSM spent the night waiting for the first packets to arrive! The next day was a blur of activity as the NATO Strategic Comms Tp (providing NATO circuits upwards such as CRONOS), the Troop from 30 Sig Regt, the enlarged MAIN HQ Troop and forward echelon from the Squadron established. After hard work and some delicate engineering the HQ was ready to receive staff. A major failing was the logistic support, all that was promised to be here on arrival was simply not available and the limited support we had wanted to deploy with had not been authorised (including sufficient ammo, food and fuel to survive in the field for a few days). With a few hexamine stoves and some compo the Squadron made do until the increasingly frustrated QM, **Capt John Williams**, could gather together equipments. His team sorted out gas, extra chefs, fresh rations and so on with each day life getting better inside a sweaty hangar with 300 plus people on the floor, sleeping on whatever they had brought with them, and a busy HQ on the other side of a screen of hessian. Perfectly okay for 16 Bde and 216 Sqn but a bit of shock to some of the attached NATO staff and other augmentees whose suitcases seemed out of place with our bergans and webbing! Still, everyone began to muck in and settle into a primitive but workable system.

For the first two weeks we were still the only fully formed British unit

in theatre, with both equipment and manpower, and supported a number of other units on their tasks pending arrival of the sea tail assets. The physical effort of feeding, accommodating and providing power for over 450 people (including the 120 strong Czech Defence Company) from a Squadron's resources, for much of the time without water and electricity was substantial; never mind managing the communications task. The Squadron, making best use of time and resources and using initiative, did much of the development of the site. Engineers were quite a way down the DOAST and arrived without much equipment, electricity took over two weeks to connect with the tented camp that was to become our home, about the same time. The communications task saw operators working right in the middle of it all sometimes at Company level and on occasion at platoon level to provide communications up to the HQ. Within 24 hours of establishing the 4 man rear links at each battle-group location the Brigade was running consecutive weapons collection missions with the Foreign Legion and 2 Para. It was as these started that Sapper Collins was killed, a tragic victim of the stoning that became a regular part of life transiting Skopje. With Tacsat as the main Brigade command means (speed of deployment, terrain, the lack of access to much of the high ground and the concerns over force protection with many high spots mined and in NLA hands prevented the use of RRBs, other than for the concentration area) the guys were quickly deployed. With the French Foreign Legion, **Sig Triss Ancell** was thrown into the back of an armoured vehicle with the British LO and with a fire-fight overhead between ARM and NLA deployed into the inner cordon to allow a secure link to be set up back to Bde. **Cpls Daz Barnes** and 'Scotty' **Finn** went forward with 2 Para's recce platoon and snipers to secure the subsequent weapons collection site.

Lt Dean Atkinson liaising with a soldier from the Czech Def Coy over the defence of TFH Brigade HQ

Other key tasks involved escorting multinational convoys to provide C2, a team at the Task Force 2 star HQ to provide better communications down, Crash Comms Teams with Tacsat to support any QRF or incident response team and a number of spec tasks. This spread the standard communications task of one down considerably and required flexible plans, professional operators and a 'go to it' attitude. Isolated and small teams have been fundamental to the success of the mission, as has the ability to run a much-expanded HQ of Divisional size and with a wider remit. Much of the work has been due to the specialist nature of the communications task and to compensate for the problems of a force from fifteen nations fielding four large battalions, recce forces, a major liaison force and engineers, numbering over 4,500. All this being done by a Squadron and a Squadron Command Team augmented by a NATO Troop and a Troop from 30 Sig Regt, totalling some 170 personnel.

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SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS AND OPERATIONS

The OpsO, **Capt Jim Lambeth** (aka 'Nasty Jim' by the Bde Staff) sits currently at the helm, having planned the outload and set up of the Sqn, but with AJD drawing nearer, he is about to wind down ready for his handover. The Air Adjt, **Capt John Griffiths**, apart from organising the odd heli training is planning the recovery and cutting about as usual trying to avoid being jiffed by the OC to look at future establishments. **WO2 (YofS) Danny Wilson** and **SSgt (YofS) Ben Redstone** (aka 'Raymondo' due to his haircut business) are now into routine dealing with every crisis that units can throw at the Sqn – a few reroles have seen the old grey matter and patience tested a few times as has writing or simply co-ordinating every other unit's comms plans! With 15 nations, many with FH radios this is no easy task. The Brigade Foreman, **W02 Jamie Chambers**, has now settled into his new post and trying to keep track of kit as the Troops throw it about with abandon as well as getting his head round the myriad of systems from UK and NATO. The techs have been pretty busy with **Cpl Lee Ebdon** pulling his hair out with the dodgy Bde LAN and the rest doing some serious bodging to make things work as well as making use of the ERV 'media entertainment suite' since it turned up on the sea tail. **Cpl Stu Park** was grateful to be augmented in the crypto cell by **SSgt** 'Taff' **Davies** and **SSgt Andy Egan** (both 35 Sig Regt), who between them managed a large and complex account and even covered **Cpl Stu Park** so he could go and pass his Yeoman's selection and get a hot shower in Blandford.

The RSM, in the meantime, has been kept busy between organising various works parties, liaising with the Czech Defence Coy, driving the OC about to see deployed 216 personnel and just the annoying routine of running a large site. He is ably assisted by the always enthusiastic **SSgt** 'JJ' **Walker** who also tends to issue the odd stern word to helicopter pilots who insist on ignoring his flight plans and rearranging the tented camp every few days! The 2IC, **Capt Al Fawcett** (frighteningly locked in his boudoir for 14 hours a day) continues co-ordinating the MS effort, PR and admin rear link back to Colchester, where **Capt Mark Rouse**, the MTO, is currently holding fort. With a decent comms plan implemented and with the frenetic first Weapons Collection Ops behind us, life has calmed down. Things tick along with time spent attending briefings or accommodating visitors ranging from Jack Straw, EU ministers, Comd JHC and CinC LAND. Finally, with all systems in place and operating, there is time to do some running, all inside the wire and watched by the Czech security force – a bit like being a prisoner of war. With the papers currently full of speculation on the 'follow on force' (the one we knew would be required at the start), attention is slowly drawn to end of mission date….no doubt this will be met by the Infantry, but we're not holding our breath. Signals are always 'first in and last out'.

MAIN TROOP

Recalled from leave, the majority of Main troop led by **Lt Dean Atkinson** barely had time to grab their kit before we were forming up in our packet ready for deployment. The long drive through the night to AMC South Cerney was un-eventful, bar **Sgt Frank Greenwood's** driving that seemed to suggest he was getting more sleep than his co-driver. Upon arrival we were met by movement staff who proceeded to test our patience with their demands, that was until **Cpl Mick Fernie** calmly explained that without generators the Comd would be using carrier pigeons. The early morning start swiftly became midday, as the vehicles were air manifested and then re-air manifested before we were finally allowed on our way. After a short drive, with **Sig Lee Fletcher** emulating earlier driving escapades, we finally arrived at Brize Norton and loaded onto the gleaming C17 that lay waiting its first operational flight. Whilst the remainder of the packet caught up on some sleep, **Capt Al Fawcett** accommodated the media storm by giving as many interviews as humanly possible. After a few late changes in the passenger manifest, which resulted in 216 operators being dumped for an RAF news crew, we finally departed for Macedonia.

Our stay at Butlins, sorry CAS was short lived; before we knew it we found ourselves formed up in the dead of night awaiting to deploy to our recently cleared site. With tight deadlines set, everyone mucked in to ensure the HQ was up, running and fit to receive the Staff on time. The pace of life upon initial deployment was frenetic to say the least, deftly balancing running an enhanced HQ and preparing a site, the Squadron had to rely on all personnel to work above and beyond the norm. However, after almost 4 weeks completed of a supposed 30 day mission …….we are slowly finding ourselves in the typical Balkans debacle. Apart from weapon collection surges, time is spent rotating through the 12 on 12 off shift routine or the occasional heli-handling requirement (where the 'morris dance like' hooking up technique of **Sigs Dave Benson** and **Paul Shaw** never fails to amuse). The food is now a lot better, plenty of fresh food, vegetables and fruit (hence the increase of 'hangers on'), and we are now blessed with wooden tables and benches to sit at. Showers, now installed, work occasionally and vary from lukewarm to cold on the average two hours a day they are working. With six between 300 of us the old strip wash over the bowl is still the norm. Nights are getting a bit chilly, but apart from the odd rainstorm the weather is glorious. We have now put 'pallets' in the tents so when they flood personal kit is at least off the floor, slowly life is becoming more hospitable. Unfortunately the 'Atkinson WW2 Hole' project has had to be abandoned having sought professional engineer advice… a sad day in Main Troop.

SPECIAL TASK TROOP

The Spec Tasks Troop, commanded by **2Lt John Higginson**, was also formed for Op Bessemer. Incorporating the Radio Rebroadcast Stations, Battle Group Rear Link Teams, Emergency Crash Comms Teams, and a pool of manpower on standby, the following weeks promised to test our skills to the full. Upon initial deployment tasks came thick and fast. Personnel were bouncing from operating TacSat down to Coy level at Weapon Collection sites, to providing escort comms as the weapons were moved to the Greek Battle Group for destruction, each day proceeded to herald different demands. The Troop also said farewell to **Lt Jim Hawkins** off to ATR Bassingbourn in time to train the next batch of recruits.

RRB 022A

On 26 August, the first RRB deployed after a lot of negotiation from the Govt to the bloke on the ARM checkpoint. Commanded by **LCpl Bellamy** and crewed by **Sigs John Smith** and **Paul Etchell**, we set off for the VODNO, a 3753ft peak with an outstanding view overlooking Skopje. Life would have been a lot less complex had we been the only occupants of the VODNO, but the presence of over 200 Macedonian soldiers was enough to make us a little nervous. This situation soon eased after common ground was found….namely women and football. Morale is always high with re-supply from **Sgt Pete Dimmack**, who does an outstanding job providing much needed newspapers and fresh rations. Now, as winter starts to come, our days are spent filling sandbags to keep the tents pinned down in high winds and wishing for the return of the long hot summer days we were greeted with three weeks ago when the Task Force arrived. Last minute excitement was **Sig Etchell** deciding to burn his hand in order to get down for a warm shower – the quitter!

RRB 022B

After a short stint down at Main, RRB 022B deployed up to the German National Support Element (NSE) overlooking Tetovo. Initially only **Sig Bart Dunsieth** and myself, **LCpl Kirt Muller,** deployed, but this didn't stop us swiftly getting into routine once we'd engineered our links in. At night we would sit back and watch the fireworks of shells and small arms landing in the nearby villages. We were soon joined by **LCpl Andy Joynson**, who stumbled into our tent in the middle of the night after tabbing up the hill from the helipad with his 150lb bergan. He stayed for a couple of nights but couldn't handle all the hard work so he was re-tasked, being replaced by **Sig John Cascarina**, who has quickly settled into life. The weather has now changed, with snow starting to cap the surrounding mountains, the time has come to rip out the softie jackets.

Camp en route to the mountains beyond Kumanovo for the first WCS, with **Sig Ancell** in tow providing a TacSat link. The Engineers checked and logged the weapons, which included an assortment of Assault Rifles, RPG's, light and heavy machine guns, pistols, grenades and a few mines. With media attention high throughout, the weapons were soon collated and packed into ISO containers for the road move, with **LCpl Crutchly** providing the comms link and a platoon's worth of WMIK's from 2 PARA providing protection, they were soon on their way.

ITALIAN BG – REAR LINK TEAM

The Italian Battle Group was pretty heavy in nature, lots of APC and some suspicious tank like looking things. **Cpl Paul Clancy** and **LCpl Dunc Excell** deployed to Sardinia to meet up with the British LO, where many a pizza was consumed before flying out to Skopje and moving into the camp at Petrovac airfield joining **Cpl Stephen Knibbs** and **Sig Michael Slater**. Life has settled quickly into a routine of radio stags, press-ups, radio stags, pasta, radio stags and alcohol free red wine! The night shift unfortunately miss out on showers during the day, as the hour long grooming session each morning by the Italians leaves the whole camp deprived of water. Although the LO has coped admirably bridging the language gap, an interpreter is still required to translate **Sig Slater's** Scottish VP!

Comds Operator - Cpl Kelly Rutherford

Weapons collected from Weapons Collection Site BARLEY

FRENCH BG – REAR LINK TEAM

After being recalled the detachment was split into 2 teams. **LCpl Steve Crutchley** and **Sig Dave Watts** jetted off to France and set up an initial link with the French Foreign Legion, **Cpl Al Mousley** flew into theatre with the Brigade advance party, leaving **Sig Triss Ancell** to fly in later bringing the FFR. The Foreign Legion soon found itself departing Piper

GREEK BG – REAR LINK TEAM

LCpl Richard Hodgetts stepped off the civilian plane at Thessalonnika airport, having just enjoyed a first class flight that included a nice continental breakfast with champagne, smoked salmon and a movie. Upon arrival he was taken to a small villa type hotel with en suite bathroom, air conditioning and Sky TV, this was Polycastra and was

to be home for the first week of the op tour... nice one!! However time here was short lived and he soon found himself at Krivolak (South East of Skopje) tasked to provide a rear link for the Greek Battle Group and comms for the LO. The camp was just a single small building and a bit of waste ground, but was soon rectified by the Greek engineers who provided tented accommodation, shower blocks, a cookhouse tent with Sky TV, a gym and a beer tent, which only the Greeks use as it's a dry camp for us Brits! A bit of gravel and some razor wire around the perimeter finished the job off. During this period of activity **Cpl Eddie Stojanovic**, **LCpl Chris Watts** and **Sig Luke Cassidy** arrived onto the Det and have consequently been kept busy ensuring the numerous weapons convoys are provided with comms, usually in the form of TacSat. So far we have been well looked after by the Greeks, with the food being okay, but different.....

UK BG – REAR LINK TEAM

After a number of reshuffles, the team at 2 Para now consists of **Cpl Noel Hughes, LCpls Lee Bourne**, **Harrison** and **Sig Ian Sherrington**. Since most of the Det have worked with the Battalions in the past (in Ireland and Belize as well as many exercises), we have settled in quickly and have been made to feel very welcome. We are currently providing various comms links for the BG including, HF, VHF(Z), Brent/INMARSAT, TacSat and Wotan, both back to Brigade and forward to TAC during the weapon collection ops. Due to the requirements for us to provide comms at every level, all members of the Det have managed to get out on the ground at some point, either on one of the Weapon Collection Ops or recces. Although hard work, this has provided the opportunity to take a few 'ally' snaps and give us a chance to get out of the HQ....the European Satellite TV is an added bonus, especially at night!

UK NSE – REAR LINK TEAM

Manned by **Cpl Mathew Wilson** and **Sigs Martin Corbet**, **Brendon Duff** and 'Hank' **Oakes**, we deployed just outside Petrovac Airfield to meet up with 13 Air Assault Regt RLC to whom we were to provide comms links. We rapidly found out the level of media interest in this Op when 13 Regt CO whisked us away the next morning to be interviewed live for the BBC. The interview ran smoothly until **Sig Duff's** struggle to answer the 'range of 346' question, to which he simply kept replying 15km.....that's your Class 1 on hold then! Deeply disappointed to be left on shift with this occurring, **Sig Oakes** seized the limelight later when he was seen 'loitering' around the antenna field; the resulting picture included the compelling caption, 'a man setting up INMARSAT'. With all the excitement of setting up and being 'celebrities' swiftly over, it was back down to Earth with a bump as we settled into routine broken only by our jollies on patrols round Skopje in WMIKS.

PFPL REAR LINK TEAM

Manned by **LCpl Chris Cant**, **LCpl Tony Teese** and **Sig Paul Hackford** life has been busy but interesting since our arrival in theatre. Upon initial arrival things were hectic, however now firmly settled, time is spent anchoring the comms for various patrols, or taking part in the odd trip with the mixed bag of recce and liaison teams.

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT DETACHMENT

A full report will be in 30 Regt notes but with the handover from **Capt Al Crapper**, to **Lt Lucy Pimm** complete (having managed to get back from China eventually), 30 have settled into rear link routine...just another op for this troop! Occasional trips out to the RRBs and RLTs with 216 and the use of the 'overnight RnR facility' for a hot shower and a beer in KFOR Rear are a break from stagging on and sunbathing (almost as much as the EOD teams and the HCR 'cell' but not quite!).

NATO DET

The NATO det met us on arrival after a protracted road trip from Maastricht, and proved incredibly efficient moving some pretty large trucks around in the middle of the night amongst posts and holes to quickly get NATO circuits in. A mixture of Belgians, Americans and Brits they have proved flexible in providing extra CRONOS terminals as the Staff begin to use it more, laying a myriad of phone lines and providing some internet capabilities. Comms, no cam and serious comfort they have their priorities just right for this!

ECHELON

We deplaned from the huge C17 into a warm, humid night before starting two days of stencilling the Task Force Harvest markings onto vehicles in 40+ degrees, made only slightly easier by the free soft drinks at CAS. The MT/LAD and QM's task was to ensure the Brigade Staff were fed, watered and to generally ensure they were in the right place at the right time. This task was made somewhat easier thanks to **Sig Tony Cheers** and **Cpl Chris Eckett**, whose comical wearing of the tropical soft headdress, or jungle 'HAT', provided much needed humour. Moving into a location without any infrastructure set the ED's the ominous task of providing power and light for the HQ and all its 'cling ons'. This was made no easier with the assistance of the 30 Sig Regt ED, **LCpl** 'Knuckles' **Whitworth's** attempts to create every generator fault known to man! **SSgt Jase Goldsworthy** has been busy running his taxi service of green fleet and hire vehicles while personnel from the QM's have been rushed off their feet since arrival, with tasks ranging from setting up a tented camp, to feeding the five thousand to creating a laundry service. **SSgt** 'Pauline Fowler' **Rayson's** team have had little time for respite and have done a sterling job as usual. However with all systems slowly falling into place we are finally finding time to catch our breath.....that is before re-deployment rears its ugly head!

RECOVERY

Although a few Squadron members left theatre early, the main recovery started on 28 September, led, literally, by the Ops Offr **Capt Jim Lambeth**. Many found this amusing, as he was also the last to deploy! Once the follow on force, German led, had been agreed and ACTORD had been signed for their deployment, the green light was given to start the recovery of the Squadron assets from theatre in earnest. Over a period of two weeks the Squadron recovered back to Colchester with the majority of vehicles returning by sea, less the Bde TAC HQ, which was flown, with the troops returning by both 'civvy charter' and C-130. The bulk of the Squadron returned in three phases, with each party processed through the Rear Party reception system before departing on two weeks well earned leave. The Squadron can be proud of its efforts in contributing to the success of Op Bessemer as part of Task Force Harvest. NATO launched an ambitious undertaking, only a month ago, with the aim to collect 3300 weapons from ethnic Albanian armed insurgents in order to lay the foundation for the peace process to follow. There was some scepticism, a lot of criticism, a lot of doubt, but in thirty days TFH has proved to be a success. The Squadron has directly contributed to the disarmament of the National Liberation Army, and in doing so has helped establish the conditions for the peaceful resolution to this crisis, which could have easily engulfed Macedonia in a bloody civil war. It would be wrong not to mention **Sapper Ian Collins** of 9 PARA Sqn Royal Engineers, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of peace. He did not die in vain. During the thirty days TFH operated in Macedonia 3381 weapons of war were collected and put beyond use and 16500(+) displaced persons returned to their former homes and communities.

Sig Fowler and Tacsat, the dog, working out which way is home

WHAT NEXT?

The priority on return from the post tour leave will be centred on reconstituting the Squadron back into the air assault role and ORBAT. Much of the work was started whilst still in theatre and as such Troops will carry on from where they had left off. The end state will see the Squadron in a fit state ready to deploy, should it be required, by early October.

AIRBORNE SIGNALS OFFICERS DINNER - *by Capt Mark Rouse*

On 27 July almost sixty serving and retired officers gathered at the Squadron's historical home, Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire. This year marked the 60th anniversary of airborne signals and as such it seemed fitting to hold the event at the Court. With events unfolding in Macedonia looming ever closer to seeing the Squadron deploy it was fortunate that all the Squadron officers managed to attend an event that had been organised by the Unit. **Maj Neil Fraser** just managed to attend having returned back from another FYROM recce only hours before. Others also travelled from afar, including officers returning from Cyprus and Germany amongst other places. The event was a great success and enjoyed by all those that attended. Thanks go to **Maj Steve Clarke**, now at the fighting 2 Sig Regt in York, for starting the ball rolling in organising the event. We look forward to next year's event, which will be held for the first time in Colchester during Oct.

Capt Mark Rouse (OC Rear Party) with the Old Comrades prior to the March Past

OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION
CAYTHORPE REUNION WEEKEND (1–2 SEPTEMBER)

With the majority of the Squadron deployed on Op Bessemer the task of hosting the OCA at Caythorpe fell to the responsibility of the Rear Party. This annual and greatly supported pilgrimage is an extremely important event in the Squadron calendar and despite the Unit being deployed on operations it still managed to host the event. Caythorpe and the surrounding villages were used by the 1st Airborne Division in 1944 to concentrate the force prior to mounting on Op Market Garden. For many years since the Squadron, supported by former members, has hosted the event. The weekend allows the OCA to catch up on old times but more importantly is a time for all to remember those that failed to return from the operation. We look forward to hosting the event next year (6-8 September).

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON
(ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE MOBILE FORCE (LAND))

Sqn Comd **Maj Alan Hill**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Shean Dewar**

After a wild and eventful summer leave had by all, the Squadron returned to work with vengeance. We had a mad few days to prepare for a deployment over to Thetford in support of 1 KOSB pre-NI training. Shortly following that we began the beat up prep for our forthcoming summer AMF(L) deployment to sunny Turkey. A new leader is in our midst, arriving from a 'Black Bag desk bound job' in Upavon, **Maj Hill** has entered the Squadron with heaps of enthusiasm and looking forward to playing with his new train set. Promotions in the new ISIS Troop - **LCpl Pope** - our very important Crypto accountant got selected - well deserved.

OSCAR TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Mike Fayers**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Tony MacBean**

The past month has been rather busy for Oscar Tp with guys off in Canada, Canary Islands, Norway, Swanage, Turkey and the USA (hello, please phone). A few hellos and good byes are in order. Hello to **Sigs** 'Harry' **Potter,** 'Absentminded' **Spendlove,** 'Steve' **Morgan** and to **LCpls Hewitt** and **Drabwell**. Farewell to **Cpl Wilcockson** who is off to 16 Sig Regt and on promotion **Sgt Walsh** off to 20 Armd Bde and **SSgt McBean** off to 30 Sig Regt. Further congratulations on their promotion go to **Sgt Robinson** and **Sgt** 'Kev' **Meek** who has also passed the YofS board. The recent Lance Corporal to Corporal Board has seen **LCpls Dudley** and **Welburn** promoted, well done!

PAPA TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt David Stoter**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Den Yates**

I can think of better places to write *WIRE* notes than under a cam net in Turkey on yet another multinational attempt at an exercise but at least the locals think we're here to do something more interesting. The Troop continues its exodus of experience: congratulations and farewell to **Sgt** 'Si' **Kenny**, who moves to 3 RHA as Rear Link Sergeant. Goodbye also to **Sgt** 'Michael' **Jackson** who returns to the strange world of CTCRM: your new RSM may not be as forgiving if you set fire to his bar. Congratulations also to those who recently came off the Corporal Board: **LCpls** 'Gaz' **Lawson, Sustins** and **Fielding**. A big welcome to the big top to **Cpl Stewart, LCpl Clarke, Sig Perkins, Sig Swainson** and **Sig Bryan**. Finally, hello to **2Lt Trevor** 'Toni and Guy' **Cadywould**, my successor, who should provide a welcome boost for Salisbury's beauty product industry. The Squadron has continued to develop its theme of cramming as many commitments into as short a space as possible. Hot on the heels of summer block leave came Troop exercises, 2nd line inspections, battle camp, CIVPOP for NITAT and now the Squadron's summer deployment to Turkey. It must be about time for **SSgt Yates** to take some more REN leave... The usual detachments have continued: **Cpl** 'Titch' **Meakin** is back from Sierra Leone with 2 LI, **Sigs Gould, Samson, De Gernier** and **Thompson** are back from being beasted to within an inch of their lives by 12 (Mech) Bde in BATTUS. What? No volunteers for a Brigade Signal Squadron?

SUPPORT TO 1 KOSB AS CIV POP -THETFORD AUGUST 2001
by Lt Mike Fayers

Arriving bushy tailed and with a spring in its step, 75 members of the Squadron deployed to Thetford to provide civilian population for 1 KOSB pre-NI training. After a few minor teething problems, that is to say the NITAT training team were still on leave, the Squadron personnel were deployed into their luxurious accommodation (in comparison to Bulford). It wasn't long before the Squadron were getting to know their new neighbours, with VCPs, house searches and low flying helicopters. One of the first to experience the wrath of the Security Forces was **SSM** 'honestly gov' **Dewar**. On a routine stop check of his lovely family saloon he was asked if he wouldn't mind stepping out of his car. Full of confidence that he was an honourable member of society he accepted, only to be most surprised when a 'Jock' removed a 5.56 cartridge from his car. Luckily the expression of shock, horror and surprise was convincing enough for the SF. Most of the evenings were passed away throwing abuse at the local security bases, then once the novelty value was lost there was just time for a BBQ and a few light refreshments. The near constant low flying helicopters did warrant the odd phone call of complaint and on one such occasion **Sgt** 'Nev' **Donohue** did get a tad carried away. Not reading the phone directory particularly well, he confused the Squadron operation cell with the Battalion's. **Cpl** 'Taff' **Ansell** eventually calmed him down and pointed him in the right direction of another poor unsuspecting soul. We said our farewell to the 1 KOSB in usual fashion and then made a rather slow redeployment back to Bulford, for which much thanks must go to Colchester TSU. Overall, the week was a success, thank you **SSgt** 'Den' **Yates, SSgt** 'Mac' **McBean** and **Sgt** 'Robo' **Robinson** for all your support during the week.

Why not visit the Royal Signals Museum?
For opening hours ring : 01258 482248

259 SIGNAL SQUADRON

DHEKELIA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Colin** 'Chicken George' **Alexander**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Sean** 'Tom Jones Wannabe' **Bryant**

A fond farewell goes to **Sig Kye** 'Loverboy' **Topping**, on his posting to 3 Inf Bde (NI). Good luck on your forthcoming wedding to **Kat**, hope you have a happy future together. Also an early farewell goes to **LCpl Colin** 'Jimmy Somerville' **Simpson**, who will be shortly moving to 2 Sig Regt in York. Also soon to leave, not just the unit but the army, is **Cpl Brent** 'Would you like fries with that?' **Readhead** and **LCpl Martin** 'Simmo's brother in law' **Bagshaw**. Both moving on to civvy street and new lives. Good luck in the future. Leaving shortly on promotion to Sergeant is **Cpl David** 'Scarface' **McCallum**. Going to the Cadet Training Team Colchester. I thought it was supposed to be us Mechs that got all the cushy postings. A 'Have a nice tour' goes to **LCpl Dave** 'Swamp Monster' **King** who has flown down to the Falklands for a four-month tour. Hope you have a good one and see you next year. Welcome back to **Cpl Jim** 'La Mamounia' **Stocks** from the sunny Falklands after his eight months down there. Apparently he did a lot of training down there, doesn't show fat boy. The Troop would also like to pre welcome **LCpls Wilson** and **Vinter** who will be arriving shortly. Welcome back to **Sig Gareth** 'Shotgun' **Davis** who returned safe and well from his recent visit to Moldova to meet the new in-laws. We've had several weddings recently in the Troop. Firstly was **LCpl** (TA rank) **Graham Macdougall** to **Marie Rose** then **Sig Chris Hodgson** to **Diana** followed by **Capt George Alexander** to **Alison**. Good luck in the future. Well done to **Cpl Kurt Molden** on scraping a pass on his Corporal's course. Better get yourself ready for the Squadron battle camp, section commander. Welcome back to **LCpl Tom Cockerill**, after spending the last six weeks back in the UK on various courses. **Sig Andy Pyle** and his missus **Vicky** have missed you loads and are glad you are returning. Cheers to **LCpl Piers** 'Eric the eel' **Daw** on his organising of the Summer Ball, we all had a good night .

AIRFIELD TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Sherry**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Cain**

Congratulations to Airfield Tp for doing well in the past couple of events in the Hodgson Shield Competition. We are finally coming back from behind, now we have a full collection of wooden spoons for **Sig** 'Decibels' **Jordan** to use on the BBQ we can start winning some events to collect trophies. However, had we left it to **FofS** 'Vorderman' **Leyland** we would have come first in everything. We would like to wish **Sig** 'Two Hoops' **McGurk** all the best for his forthcoming operation. New members welcomed into the Mighty Fighting Airfield this month are **Sig** 'Wally' **Caisley** with wife **Paula** and **LCpl** 'Lurch' **Sherrat**. Also we have a new natural born leader **Lt** 'Devo' **Sherry**. Goodbye goes to **Sig** 'Cartman' **Holley** and **Mr N. Griffiths**. Good luck to **Cpl** 'Rock and Roll' **Creeley** on his Det Commanders course.

EPISKOPI TROOP - *by LCpl 'Street Hawk' Fox*

History is full of great and unforgettable sporting triumphs. Everybody has their own favourite. Those that were alive in 1966 will be able to tell you exactly where they were when England won the World Cup. However, in years to come another great sporting victory will be the topic of conversation in bars and pubs around the world – Episkopi Troop took the 2001 Hodgson Shield from under the noses of Dhekelia Troop.

On a sunny day, (What else!), at Akrotiri the final four events of this year's Shield were fought out between all the four Troops. Tennis, Squash, Football and Tug-O-war all provided a good day's competition. Episkopi's Footballers came home in second place and the squash players managed third. **Sgt** 'Anything-for-a-pound' **Rogers** and **Sgt** 'Sampras' **Quilter** gave us much needed points with first place in the Tennis. The event saw the day's most convincing victory when **Sig** 'Where's the Beach?' **Forman** ensured his Tug-o-war team pulled the other three teams right out of the ground. There was so much adrenaline produced that is was bottled and sold to the other teams as souvenirs. The excitement for the day continued into the awards ceremony when Dhekalia were momentarily awarded the Shield due to a 'counting problem' – **(FofS Leyland)**, however, the shield is now back home.

The very same night was the Episkopi Troop summer function/Shield celebration party. The Elias Beach Hotel in Limossol ensured that we were all happy with our massive dinner and free drinks. The prize draw saw many happy faces but questions were asked when organiser **LCpl** 'Landing Pad' **O'Connell** took the DVD player. This was the second function in a fortnight. The previous Friday saw the leaving do for **LCpl Reade**. It was an eventful night with the Troop Greek dancing. Those of you who read *The WIRE* to hear about **LCpl Reade's** escapades can continue doing so on the 11 Sig Regt's page. However, they won't tell you that he has finally passed his bike test – on his third attempt, (unheard of in Cyprus). Congratulations go, firstly to **SSgt** 'What Rehearsal?' **Mathieson**, on his marriage to **Joanne**. It is unusual to have the reception ten days before the ceremony, but hey, this is Cyprus. Also, well done to **Sig Forman**, **Sig** 'Baps' **Marsh**, **Sig** 'More Baps' **Harris** and **Sig Huber** for passing their Class 2 exams. This month's Troop Car Crashing competition was a close call between **Sig** 'Watch that Lamppost!' **Hogg** and **LCpl** 'Watch that car!' **Deacon**. Application forms are now available for next month's round. Well done also to the Troop football team. The boys sobered up and went to Dhekelia for the BFBS Wireless for the Blind 5-a-side tournament. As Thunder rolled above, the team fought hard to finish third in their group but didn't make it to the next round. We are a well travelled Troop this month. **LCpl** 'Thumb Print' **Cooper** and **Cpl** 'Just like Newquay' **Stewart** found themselves in Australia, **Lindsay** now has a new digereedoo to play with. Also, **2Lt** 'Shut-up Megan' **Milner** passed her NBC course and went to Thailand. No questions asked Ma'am. **Sig** 'Baps' **Marsh** also travelled to a strange land when she worked on the Satisfied Soldier scheme at a place called South Shields. (Sorry to mention Shields again Dhekalia!) Welcome to Cyprus **LCpl Carr** and **Sig** 'watch this space for nickname' **Keen**.

THE PLATE FINAL PLAYED AT HAPPY VALLEY

After a long hard struggle to get to the final we had finally made it, we were there ready for anything. The game was slow to start but then the 259 Sig Sqn Team got going and soon raised the pace and standard of the game.

It didn't go to well for 259 Sqn to start with as they went 1-0 down against the attacking Episkopi Garrison Team. Then 259 Sqn pulled it back to 1-1. Then they went down 2-1 and still managed against all efforts of the Garrison Team to pull it back yet again. 259 Sqn were then all hyped up and ready for anything, which proved a bit too much for Epi Garrison, with them now conceding another to the mighty 259 Sqn. 2-3 was to be the score that 259 Sqn were looking for and they protected there lead well which led to them winning the final and becoming the Plate Winners for 2001.

259 SIGNAL SQUADRON CHALLENGES THE KIDS

259 Signal Squadron has laid on a day of challenges for some of the Western Sovereign Base Area children in the cool shade of Happy Valley's Carob trees. On Wednesday 25 July 2001, as part of the annual summer holiday activities programme, boys and girls of the Signal Squadron organised and ran a variety of fun activities to keep the youngsters occupied for the morning. Although the day was designed for the kids to enjoy, there were some challenging activities thrown in to keep them thinking. 259 Sig Sqn organised a similar activity last year, which was a big success and were happy to help out again. **Cpl Purdie** of Episkopi Troop was the chief coordinator; he says the kids are great but managing soldiers is definitely easier. At the end, everyone was happy and went away with something.

A natural, lovely action as Shannon Lewer launches the frisbie

Even with an instruction sheet, some teams found it difficult to get their heads around Rusty's quiz!

259 SIGNALLER FINDS UNEXPECTED BENEFACTOR

Sig Pete Goddard (19) a Royal Signals Telecommunications Mechanic based with 259 Sig Sqn in Episkopi has found himself earning some unexpected extra cash, from a 'Satisfied Soldier' attachment, £500.00 to be precise.

In mid May this year, **Pete** was on duty at his local recruiting office in South Shields. He was there taking part in the 'Satisfied Soldier' scheme. 'Satisfied Soldier' is an Army initiative that offers young soldiers the opportunity for volunteering to return to the recruiting office where they joined the Army to provide potential recruits advice about life in the field Army, overseas postings, etc. and answer any questions they may have about Army life in general. Prior to the attachment, a newspaper article describing the soldier's job and interests is prepared and then published in the soldier's local paper during the attachment. It was after reading **Pete's** article in her copy of the South Shields Gazette that **Mrs Ellen Hastings** (74) of Jarrow contacted her local SSAFA office and requested a visit. **Mrs Hastings** explained that the article describing **Pete's** work in Cyprus brought back memories of her own son, **Kevin Chavner** who died in a tent fire whilst posted to the island with the Royal Signals in 1947. During the SSAFA visit, **Mrs Hastings** handed over £500.00 cash to be used by **Sig Goddard** and his friends to enjoy themselves. The cash was banked by SSAFA and a cheque despatched by post to **Pete's** unit here in Cyprus. Since receiving the cheque, **Pete** has written to **Mrs Hastings** and Thursday 2 August he visited her at home to say thank you in person. The story has attracted plenty of interest from **Pete's** local media and he has become quite a celebrity over night. He should make the best of it as when he returns from leave it will be back to business as usual with 259 Sig Sqn, installing and maintaining the fixed telecommunications infrastructure across the island. Enjoy your leave **Pete**.

280(UNITED KINGDOM) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Jim Harris**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Craig Kearney**

EXERCISE COBALT FLASH 4 - *by Sgt S. Templeman*

This exercise was the final opportunity for the members of the Squadron to train for the impending exercise in Poland at the end of the month. Cobalt Flash Exercises, which run throughout the year, are generically non-tactical communications exercises; designed to prepare the units of the Northern Regional Signal Group (providing C3IS to AFNORTH) for the culminating exercise, Ex Allied Effort. This year Ex Allied Effort will take place in the Wroclaw Military Academy, Poland and involve, amongst other things, the build and operation of large LAN/WAN's for the Ex Staff. However, on Ex Cobalt Flash 4 the troops had to deal with a rather more sedate pace of labour and at times were forced to adopt the working practices of our European colleagues. Once again the usual suspects were present and shining in their own fields, worth mentioning are **Cpl Greenlee** and his continued love of all things American, **Cpl Wright** and his imminent transfer to the Diplomatic Corps and **LCpl Price** with stirring rendition of Sleeping Beauty.

So What Does Happen If I Pull Out These Cables...

JULIET TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Jim Barber**

Juliet Tp would like to welcome the recent new comers **LCpl Trev Carter** from 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Louise Halsworth** from 11 Sig Regt, **Cpl Paul** 'Shakey' **Wilson** from 1 Div, and **Sig Vicky Seymour** from 21 Sig Regt. Now that we've welcomed people we have to say 'Goodbye' to the hardest working Troop Staff, who Juliet Troop will miss so dearly, **SSgt Kev** 'Water sports' **Roberts**. He is leaving us to go and practice brew making at RHQ AFNORTH, Brunssum. A lot of achievements to mention, for a lot of different people. First of all starting with promotion from Lance Corporal to Corporal, going to **Cpl Gordon Kirkwood**, **Cpl Sally Hubble**, **Cpl** 'Old Sweat' **Donaldson** and **Cpl Marcus** 'Les' **Leslie**. Next up is our big water skiing team consisting of **Cpl Richie** 'Silver Fox' **Brown**, who managed to gain the title of Novice Ski Jump Champion and doing well in the slalom, and **Cpl Steve Gore** who also competed. Hopefully next year by the looks of things there might be a few more names to mention. Everyone would like to say well done to **Cpl Steve Gore** for becoming the self appointed master driver for the Sqn. Hardest worker of the year so far has to go to **Cpl** 'Shakey' **Wilson**, playing 'Mrs. Gogging Working' 120hrs in one week (that's three weeks work in civvy street) while the rest of the Squadron went on leave. Good man. To finish off with another welcome, to those who have returned from Bosnia, **Cpl** 'Gordy' **Kirkwood**, **Cpl Dave Rycroft**, **LCpl Ian Wallace**, **Sig Nicholas** 'Russ' **Abbott**, and **Sig Gaz Watson**. Also **LCpl** 'Mac' **McAlpine** returns to us from Kosovo.

KILO TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Sarah Covey-Crump**

September saw Kilo Troop enter a very busy period in the shape of preparations for Ex Allied Effort (3 months in sunny Poland). In addition to deploying to Poland on exercise we have personnel preparing to deploy to Turkey with 249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn on Ex Adventure Exchange. A welcome break from exercise preparation and commitments was a visit from HQ SHAPE UKNMR(A) **Col Jim Blake** (late R SIGNALS), for a demonstration of the Squadron's new CGS5 communications installation and the Marconi line of sight radio relay equipment.

A big hello goes out to **Sgt Neil Walsh**, **Cpl Craig Harrison**, **LCpl Jim Booth** and **Sigs Scott Pollock** and **Colin Rolf** all currently enjoying the delights of Banja Luka. Welcome to **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Wilson**, **Cpl Ryan Evans** and **LCpl Andy Harvey** and their families who have just joined us. We also bid farewell to **Cpl Jimmy** 'Card-shark' **Cunningham** and family who have departed for 2 Sig Regt and farewell to **Cpl Simon Cook** and **Cpl Matt Baber** both departing for Civvy Street.

CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE MAASTRICHT

On Friday 14 September, 23 members of the Squadron formed part of a NATO parade for the change of command of the Deployable Communications Module Battalion Commander. The outgoing Commander **Lt Col Antonio** (Dutch Army) handed over to **Lt Col Ten Berge** (Also Dutch). Drill proved to be interesting as each nation doggedly stuck to their own style. **Sgt Butterfield** represented the Squadron, as one of the flag party and the overall coordinator was **Maj Bob Parkinson R SIGNALS** currently serving with HQ DCM.

NATO Drill in Action - Which Foot is 'Halt' Given On Again?

BREWS UP FOR SSAFA

The last SSAFA 'Big Brew Up' to be held in Francisca Barracks went down a storm as all Squadron members, their wives and the civilian staff enjoyed tea and cakes in the 280 Club. Interest in this year's event was heightened by Warner's Movie World donating tickets to be won. To keep the theme of tea running a large jar was filled with lose tealeaves and as members of the squadron where getting served, they where asked to work out how many single teabags could be made from the contents of the jar. Congratulations to **Diane Osborne**, **Annette Taylor** (No Fix Honest!), **Cpl Tomlinson**, **Cpl Head and LCpl Seymour** for guessing closest that 1229 cups of tea could be made! The Catering Department gave their total support to this event, producing a 1-meter diameter teacup out of roll mats and a variety of cakes and biscuits to go along with the cups of tea. Many thanks to the UCM, **SSgt Dougie Henry** and his team. The event was a great success with DM322.52 being raised for SSAFA and a lot of work being generated for the tailoress!

1 (ROYAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS)

Sqn Comd **Maj S. Gregory**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. Scott**

OVERVIEW OF EVENTS FROM AUGUST TO THE PRESENT DAY - *by Sig Taylor*

It's been a busy time within the squadron over the last couple of months. Most regular members of the squadron are currently busy out on detachment, leaving a handful of people left in sunny Bletchley to hold the fort and carry on with the regular 'jobs' which seem to fly our way. We have now contributed to 97 (SFOR (Sig Sqn with the following TA members **Cpl Sam MacGillivary**, **Sig Yates**, **Sig** 'Project' **Lock** and **Sig Miller** who have volunteered for a 6 month tour of duty in Bosnia from 8 October. We would like to wish them good luck and hope that they enjoy their time out of the country. We also hope that the regular army is not too much of a shock to the system! As reinforcements are always welcome we must give a big welcome to the following members to the Squadron. **Sgt** 'Taff' **Wainwright** and **LCpl** 'Dan' **Perdue** both previously from 14 Sig Regt. Also **LCpl** 'Jay' **Dine** fresh from the last assessment course from 238 Sig Sqn. Farewell to **SSgt** 'Lou' **Morton AGC**, the MT feel lost now they haven't got anyone to annoy.

SQUADRON BARBEQUE

25 August saw the annual Squadron barbecue take place. The weather was kind and allowed us to enjoy the whole day in the blistering sunshine. The day kick-started as usual in the bar with all members of the Squadron, Regular and the TA, socialising and catching up with each other over a cool beer. Then came the main activities of the day which comprised Sumo wrestling (some members of the Squadron looking better wearing them – shock!), water balloon volley ball, bungee racing game and the grand finale fun assault course all of which did not qualify for ITDs or Bounty for the TA contrary to popular belief! The day proved to be a success, great food, and great laughs especially at **Cpl Nick Hill** in a sumo suit – some people just look good in these things!!

SC ASSESSMENT COURSE

17 September was the start of the second assessment course for this year. **Cpl Gaz Woolley** and **Cpl Jay Fawcett**, syndicate commanders co-ordinated the smooth running of the two weeks. The students underwent a number of tasks during the course and where put through their paces. Just some of the tasks the students underwent were, trade exam both practical and written, discussion groups, command tasks and presentations. The two weeks proved to be a success with several people being asked to come back for the November SC course.

MAINTENANCE WEEKEND

In preparation for the long awaited Lock communication system, there was a maintenance weekend on 22 September. All members of the Squadron carried out maintenance on all vehicles (painted them all green). These vehicles are now ready to be backloaded and we wait for arrival of the new fleet. It was good to see that all members of the squadron got stuck into the workload even though the only pictures taken were of SNCOs and Warrant Officers (was this because this was a notable occasion maybe??)

EXERCISE MOUNTAIN LYNX

As previously reported for October the exercise was a huge success with a good turnout from all. The weekend was both physically demanding on the body and the pocket as usual and all concerned were so impressed they will be coming back for more in the New Year!

1 Signal Sqn (SC) (V) Wire posing competition!

JOINT SERVICES SUPPORT UNIT DIGBY RAF DIGBY

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE AND TOWER CLIMB

The regular monthly RAF Digby Station meetings have a habit of being held in odd places. For the meeting on Thursday 2 August, the outgoing OC of the Ariel Erectors School, **Flt Lt Ian Cowie** had organsied the meeting to be held part way up the 100mtr tower at Senigot. Taking the chance to combine this with some charity work, **Cpl Griffiths** arranged a sponsored cycle ride from Digby to Senegott, all 28 miles of it. Some people, such as **Maj** 'Monty' **Mountford** and **Sqn Ldr Andy Myers-Hemmingway** were keen enough to attempt this feat on mountain bikes, a somewhat slower approach than the racing snakes at the front on their road bikes. After a tired arrival, there was the chance of a quick cup of tea, before the legs were again stirred in a different direction. For those with enough of a head for heights, there was the chance to stand right on the small platform at the top of the tower, with only a flagpole to grab hold of. With his usual entrepreneurial flair, RQMS **WO2 John Smith** was busy trying to take arial photos of his house nearby, presumably before trying to sell them to the current tenants. Having descended slightly, the Station meeting was held from the slightly less stratospheric 30mtr platform.

(L-R): Capt Spiers, Maj 'Monty' Mountford and Lt Col Sharman
may be smiling now,
but the TV antenna should be pointing in the other direction

Two cadets get a PTC405 telephone connected up to the system

MERSEYSIDE ARMY CADET FORCE - *by Maj R. W. Bevan MBE*

Some cadets watch as County Signals Officer, Maj Mike Vokes, shows them the ancient art of joining DIO by using a reef knot

Cdt Sgt David Richmond (17) attending his fourth Annual Camp with Merseyside ACF on his Signals Cadre at Cultybraggan

Three of the Merseyside ACF Signals badged cadets on their Signals cadre at Cultybraggan
(L-R): Sgts Stephen Feeney and Joanne Gouldbourne and Cpl Chris Cussackall successfully passed

During his visit to Merseyside ACF Annual Camp in Scotland VIP Deputy Brigade Commander, Col John Thomson, met as many cadets as possible including Cdt Daniel Boon (14)

IF YOU'VE LOST CONTACT WITH AN OLD FRIEND,
WHY NOT SEND AN ENQUIRY TO
THE WIRE
YOU NEVER KNOW ONE OF OUR READERS MAY BE
ABLE TO HELP PUT YOU IN CONTACT AGAIN

The Signals Cadre, at the Merseyside ACF Annual Camp in Scotland, proved so popular that their was a maximum intake
This was one of their few breaks, as it was a vef y intensive programme

SPORT

GOLF

BLANDFORD GARRISON GOLFING SOCIETY
SUMMER MEETING - SPONSORED BY NEXTRA

The BGGS Summer meeting was held at the Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club on 26 July 2001. (Once again) we were very generously sponsored by NEXTRA (who have had a name change since last year from NORSK DATA). NEXTRA provide us with hardware support on camp. Despite take-overs and amalgamations we were pleased to see our sponsors represented on the course by **Hazel Crispen, Trevor Jones, Capt (Retd) Peter Johnson** and **Tony O'Connell**.

Alan Browne leads Andy Armitage and Terry O'Connell to refreshments at the half-way house

It was one of the hottest days of the year as 27 golfers set about a long and difficult course that was in excellent condition. The morning round was a Stableford competition in three divisions. Thankfully, there was a much needed drinks station at the ninth that our sponsors provided. The afternoon round was a **WO1 Keith Fisher** 'Monte Carlo special' in which we were sent out in teams of three and the score at each hole was calculated by multiplying the best two stableford scores (using fl handicap). Most teams found the scoring more difficult than the golf. We were grateful to **John Parker** for making the effort to come from Newbury to present the prizes.

On this occasion we also said farewell to two stalwarts of BGGS, firstly, **Lt Col Alain Malnuit** the French Liaison Officer who turned in a prize-winning performance on this occasion. Secondly to **WO1 Keith Fisher** who has worked (and played) tirelessly for BGGS and CAGE during his time here, he has certainly brought a new meaning to, 'I go to College every Monday!' If anyone knows of an 18-hole college, please let us know. Good luck in Civ-Div. We are most grateful to **Hazel** who also ran a prize-draw to round off an excellent day. The day was so successful that NEXTRA have taken up the challenge of a match at Blandford.

Major prize winners were:

Gaz Wilson Chalice:	**Lt Col David Palmer** (42 points!)
Runner-up	**WO2 Duckworth** (40 points)
Division 3 Winner	**Lt Col Alain Malnuit (FR)** (37 points)
Monte Carlo Winners	**Col Bill Kennedy, Andy Armitage and Hazel Crispen**
Nearest the pin	**Cpl John Speherd**
Pros Approach And Best Guest	**Terry Jones**

CORPS GOLF (GERMANY)

The British Army (Germany) Inter-Corps golf league culminated in the top four teams competing in a Knock-Out competition to determine the best Corps team of 2001. The event was held on 20-21 September 2001 at the RAFG Bruggen Golf Course, which was in excellent condition. The Corps team was drawn against the RLC in the semi-final and there was an air of confidence as we had beaten them in the league some months previously. After the four-balls we had a healthy lead of 3-1, thanks to excellent performances by **LCpls Nige Brennan** and **Kerry Greenham, SSgt Dave Maw** and **Sgt Mark Nowosielski,** and **Maj Tim Prince** and **Cpl Paul Barran.** The singles matches produced five winners in **SSgt Andy Saunders, Sgt Paul Taylor, LCpl Kerry Greenham, Mr Terry Marsh** and **LCpl Nige Brennan.** The final was played against the REME who narrowly defeated the AGC in a tense play-off. Like us, the REME team was also under-strength due to commitments to Exercise Saif Sareea and following the excellent performance of the previous day, we were confident of victory. The four-balls gave us a one point lead after good wins by **SSgt Maw** and **Sgt Mark Nowosielski** and **SSgt Andy Saunders** and **Mr Terry Marsh.** However, things didn't go to plan and after the first nine holes of each match, a play-off looked like a good prospect. Determination and experience saved the day as **Sgt Mark Nowosielski** fought back from four down to halve his match. **Maj Tim Prince** came back from two down to half his match on the 18th hole and wins from **LCpl Kerry Greenham, LCpl Nige Brennan, Terry Marsh** and **SSgt Andy**

Saunders, gave us a comfortable victory by four points. The victory was ample consolation from losing in last year's final and the current squad of 20 players has the potential to become a major force in Corps golf within Germany. It was unfortunate that regular first team players such as **LCpl Graham Rennie, SSgt (FofS) Bob Pace** and **WO1 (YofS) Neil Ferris** were unavailable for the final but their contribution throughout the league season is worthy of mention.

SWIMMING

EUROPEAN MASTERS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS - PALMA -2001

The Masters swimming circuit is open for all those swimmers that are deemed 'out of it' which in swimming terms is classed at anyone who is over 25 years old up to the age of 90 years old (plus). The events are run in five year age groups. This year with the turn of my 26th birthday I found myself in this category and was asked by the Army Swimming Union if I would like to apply to compete in the European Championships. As always, a couple of negative points soon came to my attention. The first one being I would have to go to Palma for the event and the second I would have to compete in the 5km Open Water Sea Swim on the final day. After much deliberation I applied to be selected. A few weeks later I was informed that I had been selected to represent the British Armed Forces and Great Britain in the event.

The swimming team consisted of a total of 12 people, three from the RAF, six from the Navy and three from the Army (I was the only representative from the R. Signals). We all met up at Stanstead Airport at 1300hrs only to be delayed due to the coach driver's strike, which meant that we finally arrived at our hotel around 0630hrs the next day. After a short rest we then proceeded to the pool to collect our competitor passes and to verify our events. The RM Captain that was in our team suggested a short 'YOMP' to the pool that for some reason, we agreed to. After a couple of hours and some bad map reading we finally found a swimming pool, unfortunately the wrong one. A quick decision was made and we caught a taxi to the correct pool. As soon as we arrived it was clear that we were all about to take part in a major event, flags fluttering in the wind from every nation you can think of. The pools themselves were Olympic pools, the out door for competitive and the indoor for training and warm ups.

I had registered for the 100m freestyle the 50m freestyle and the 5km open water sea swim as well as taking part in various relay events. Having submitted my times I found that I was always in the last heat with the fast boys (in the fastest age group). On the morning of my first event the 100m freestyle I was amazed to see heat I for the 90 plus age group where three male frail frames struggled to climb up onto the starting blocks and yet, who completed the race in a very respectable time. I competed in all my selected events and came 49th out of 278 in the 100m, 40th out of 327 in the 50m and 25th in my age group out 408 swimmers in the open water swim, as well as raising £200 approx for the RBL. By the end of the competition the swimming team left with one gold medal two silvers and two bronze. I am now looking forward to competing at the world Masters championships in New Zealand early next year, the Europeans in the South of France 2003 and then the World championships in 2004 in Sidney Australia. I would just like to thank my new unit 7 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn for letting me deploy to Kosovo late, my previous unit: 21 Signal Regiment (AS), the Army Sports Board, the BAF, and the AStJ for who helped fund me for this event without who's support I could not have taken part in such a major competition.

Cpl 'Ollie' Oliver in Palma

KAYAKING

INTER-SERVICES KAYAK SPRINT & MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS - *by Sig Stoddart*

It's been three years since I did any Kayaking. I previously represented the Junior Development Squad and represented Great Britain in several regattas, nationally and internationally. My Troop OC, **WO1 Coffin** asked me if I wanted to go along and compete at the Inter-Services Kayaking Sprint and Marathon Championships, so I decided to go along and give it a go. The event took place in Nottingham at Holme Pierpoint, National Watersports Centre the marathon race was 8 miles and the sprints were from 200 meters to 1000 meters. I joined the team on Wednesday evening (5 August) and was told what was going to be happening over the next few days, such as who I was kayaking with and what races I'd been entered for. On the following day the team and I kayaked the route of the 8-mile race that we were to do the following day. On Friday the racers started in earnest and I completed the race achieving Third place. The Army team won the Marathon overall, and now it was just the sprints to go! On Saturday I competed in three races and achieved Third place in K1 (one man boat) over 500 meters, First place in K2 (two man boat) over 200 meters and First place in K2 again over 500 meters. There were still another three races were left to go on the Sunday. These were the K4 (four man boat) 500 meters and 1000 meters, in which we achieved First place for both races, and finally K1 (one man boat) 200 meters, unfortunately I missed Third place by 0.45 of a second. I'm now focusing on training for next years championships and hoping to do just as well if not better!

CORPS CAROL SERVICE

NEW DATE

MONDAY
17TH DECEMBER
2001

ST. STEPHEN WITH ST. JOHN
ROCHESTER ROW
WESTMINSTER

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman: Major General A. H. Boyle CB

Vice Chairman: Brig N. F. Wood Area1; Brig W. H. Backhouse Area 2; Brig S. G. M. Gordon Area 3; Big K. H. Olds Area 4; Brig P. J. Evans CBE Area 5; Lt Col J. G. Billingham Wales; Maj R. Sampson CBE Scotland; Lt Col C. N. Lightfoot N Ireland

General Secretary and Treasurer: Col A. R. Carter MBE — **Assistant General Secretary: Lt Col I. J. Hamilton**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs J. Cornick — **Administrative Officer: Mr P. J. Cuckow (Membership & Records)**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. Telephone: Military System (9) 4371 2090 or 01258 48 2090. Welfare Secretary Telephone: Military System (9) 4371 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. Internet: www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/museum/rsa.htm

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 to 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.*

NOTES FROM THE AO'S DESK

Maj Gen Tony Boyle, Chairman of the Association and all the staff of Association Headquarters wish all members of the Royal Signals Association a Happy Christmas and a safe, healthy New Year. Thank you to all members who have supported their local branch during the year. A special thank you from myself goes to all members who have given their time to serve on Branch committees. Without their valuable contribution the Association could not continue.

Branch news: Peter Dooley, Hon Secretary of the Southport Branch, has a new address; 62 Lynton Rd, Southport, Merseyside PR8 3AP. Tel: 01704-553983. **Vee Moore** is the new Secretary of the South Staffs Branch. **Vee's** contact is; 29 Newstead, The Alders, Tamworth, Staffs B79 7UU. Tel: 01827-69827.

Apologies: Apologies are offered by *The WIRE* Office to the Indians Signals Association, for failing to mention their generous donation of £160.00, which they made to the Benevolent Fund in October 2000.

AGM: To clarify any confusion, the date for the next AGM is Saturday 6 April 2002, starting at 1030 hours in Chelsea Barracks, London. All Life Members are eligible and welcome to attend.

Golden Jubilee Medal: The year 2002 is the Queen's golden jubilee year. Her Majesty is commemorating this with a medal, which will be given to all service personnel who have served for five years or more. There is no official award being made to those who do not fit into this category. As a result, the Bigbury Mint has produced a medal, which is available to all service personnel, who served during Her Majesty's reign. The medal is made from gold plated bronze and is 36mm in diameter. The design has been approved by Buckingham Palace. A donation from each medal sold will go to SSAFA Forces Help. The cost is £30.00 (inc spare ribbon), plus £8.00 for engraving details around the rim. £2.00 should be added for p & p. Full details and order forms can be obtained from The Bigmint, River Park, Ermington Mill, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 9NT. Tel: 01548-830717. Email: View the medal at

New Life Members: The following new Life Members have been enrolled since the last issue of *The WIRE*:

Rank and Name	*Branch*	*Service*
Cpl Barry Gibson		1985-01
Cpl Chris Williams		1969-92
LCpl Darren Farrell		1987-94
WO2 Nigel Whittingham		1969-94
Cpl Roger Southwick		1980-01
SSgt James Crabb		1977-01
Cpl Chris Tearle		1981-94
Cpl James Rice		1979-92
LCpl Paul Luckhurst		1981-94
Sgt Duncan Feakes		1982-94
Cpl Albert Elford		1950-55
Cpl Rob Pitt		1984-01
Cpl Dean Henderson		1985-94
Sig Ian Wightman	Berwick	1945-48
Sgt Andy Suttie		1978-91
Cpl John Barnes		1950-56
Lt Col Richard Davis		1977-01
Lt Col Hugh Goodman		1967-01
SSgt Jason Harvey		1988-01
SSgt Tony Williams		1972-94
Sgt Phil Sherman	Reading	1946-57
Sig Derek Green	Reading	1957-58
Cpl Damon White		1987-01
Sig Bernie Kelly	Bedford	1952-53
Cpl Neil Akkulugadu		1992-01
SSgt Dek Painter		1978-01
Cpl Lawson Short		1972-94
LCpl Richard Littler		1995-01
WO1 Michael Howells		1970-94
Cpl Mark Brown		1983-01
WO1 Paul Skeith		1977-01
WO1 Ian Rowe		1977-01
Sgt Paul Deaville		1979-01
Cpl Ted Devereux	Berwick	1964-72
Sig Bill Gillison		1964-71
Sig Sammy Christie	Brighton	1953-56
Cpl Michael Stewart		1991-01
Cpl Barri Davies		1990-01
Sig Lee Hough		1989-94
Cpl John Harley	12/15/18 AFSR Assn	1956-58
Sig Elaine Gerry		1989-94
Pte Netta Curd	Australia	1942-45
Cpl Arthur Hollingsworth	Beverley Ex-Boys Assn	1954-60
Sig Len Morland		1965-75
WO1 Tony Redman		1978-01
Sgt Trevor McSween		1985-01
Sig Doug Grimshaw	Lincoln	1945-48
Cpl Bernard Hinman		1951-53
Cpl Phil Hennessy		1984-96
Cpl Bill Lovett	Catterick	1947-49
Sig TA Withers	East Kent	1954-56
Sig Julian Wright		1989-94
Sgt Nigel Wardell		1983-94
Sgt Stephen Tait		1983-94
WO1 Alex Kennedy		1972-94
Sig Nick Potter		1989-94
Sgt Robert Goode		1969-94
Sig John Elliott		1972-94
Sgt Angie Sparling		1983-00
Cpl Gareth Watkins		1988-01
Cpl Michael Irwin		1990-01
SSgt Andy Elliott		1979-01
SSgt Kevin Curlett		1979-01
Sgt Alan Costello		1984-01
Sgt Catherine Clark		1989-01
Sgt Steve Lyne		1986-01
LCpl Stephen Spencer		1954-56
Dvr Douglas Robinson		1944-47
Cpl Ewan Whitmey		1992-01
Cpl John Watkins	Swindon	1959-68
Sig Allan Buckley		1971-75
SSgt Eddy Braid	Glasgow	1951-86
Capt Andy McArthur	Glasgow	1972-74
Sgt Clive Smith		1979-94
Cpl Simon Riley		1981-94
Sig Stefan Ford		1990-94

Cpl Peter Hopkins	Beverley Ex-Boys Assn	1955-64
LCpl Arthur Liddell	Sheffield	1947-49
Sgt Bill Skevington	Sheffield	1955-85
Sig Ronald Campbell	Poole	1947-49
Sig Ossie Elliott	Torbay	1949-51
Sig Tim Hill	N Ireland	1980-89
Sgt Michael Langley		1966-94
Sig Terry Carter		1947-49
Sgt Colin Cottle	12/15/18 AFSR Assn	1948-51
Cpl Roy Ward		1983-94
Cpl Brian Young		1984-94
WO1Dave Ruddock		1977-01
SSgt Shane Wright		1978-01
Sig Sean Filer	Harrogate	1985-94
Sgt Roy Everest		1982-97
Lt Col Christopher Richards		1981-01
Capt David Farrimond		1993-01
Capt Davis Jackson		1994-01
Capt Tania Noakes		1998-01
Maj Alasdair Rodgers		1985-01
Lt Col Richard Sparshatt		1980-01
Capt Fiona Priestnall		1995-01
Sig Bill Long		1950-53
Sgt Glenn Maycock		1977-94
Cpl Robert McCormick		1978-94
Sgt Den Morris		1976-94
Sgt Steve Munday		1983-94
Cpl David Nadin		1974-94
SSgt Dave Norman		1972-94
Cpl Paul Oliver		1980-94
Cpl John Owen		1981-94
SSgt Roy Partington		1971-94

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

Our Autumn Lunch at the Army Golf Club was a very congenial affair. As it was held at the end of September the attendance was slightly lower than last year. This normally is a late October event but our social gatherings were thrown out of their usual pattern due to our mammoth achievement of two events on one day in August. One would have hoped that being held a month earlier would have brought favorable weather but this was not conducive to drinks on the terrace that so often we have enjoyed in the autumn. The company of Members and their guests more than made up for the absence of sunshine and as usual the Club staff did us proud with their oriental dishes and friendly service.

BATH &DISTRICT BRANCH

The Bath and District Branch have now had their two summer events. Thirty-seven members and guests enjoyed a Curry Lunch at Pockeridge House, Corsham (2 Sig Bde) in May; at which our new Chairman of the Association, **Maj Gen Boyle** and his wife were our honoured guests. It was, we felt, particularly agreeable to meet the new Chairman in such relaxed and informal circumstances. Then we had our annual Barbecue for over forty members and guests at the same venue in August. Because of the inclement weather we had to have the Barbecue in the Dining room of the Officers' Mess at Pockeridge House instead of in the lovely grounds as in previous years but it was, nevertheless, a very jolly occasion with good food and scrumptious puddings. Our next meeting will be the Annual Luncheon in October at the WOs' & Sgts' Mess, 21 Sig Regt, Azimghur Barracks, Colerne. We are hoping to have as our guests **Brig H. Ham** (PCSA Corsham), **Lt Col H. Hooper** (CO 21 Sig Regt) and **WO1 (RSM) D. Rook** (21 Sig Regt) as it is his Mess we are delighted to be able to use. The Bath Branch is particularly fortunate in having Signals formations so near, at Colerne and Corsham (Wilts), especially as they are happy to welcome us into their midst. We are again having trouble finding a Standard Bearer as the TA Corporal who paraded our Standard at the Remembrance Day services has now left the TA. Our Committee Member, **Roy Platten**, will parade the Standard at our Annual Luncheon but he is not now able to parade through Bath. Like most Branches we have difficulty in acquiring younger, more robust members.

EAST KENT BRANCH

The sparrows in Canterbury were awakened early on 9 September to the sound of 39 members and their guests boarding a charabanc for the first leg of their sortee to Bruges. The weather seemed to be set fair and indeed the Channel was as smooth as the proverbial mill-pond. As we crossed the Channel the trippers indulged in breakfast or drooled away their time in the Duty Free Shop. Calais welcomed us with sunshine and the party continued through France to Belgium and finally eased its way into the carpark in Bruges - just as the rain started! However, dodging between raindrops the intrepid sightseers made their soggy way into the town centre to sample and/or buy either Belgian chocolates, Belgian lace or some other mementoes. Some, including **Mike Barrett**, took to the waterway and took a boat-trip but all of these activities were accompanied by rain in varying quantities ranging from the gentle to the torrential, which prompted many of the party to 'lunch' in one of the delightful cafes or restaurants. Alas the time came to depart and this seemed to coincide with the townspeople leaving work and going home. This, together with a dramatic thunderstorm as a finale to the day's rain, delayed our departure somewhat but eventually the storm chased us out of Belgium and on towards Calais. Conditions during our return crossing of the Channel were not of the mill-pond variety and this writer spent the time indulging in short conversations and swift visits to the 'heads' - I am not a good sailor.

Customs and Excise welcomed us home with open arms and insisted that we all alight from the coach and walk our way through their Inquisition Chamber together with all our purchases and sundries. This really thrilled us all, coming as it did at the end of a very tiring day, especially **Sheila** and **David Geary** who had been presented with a case of wine by the Committee, thanking them for their directorship and filming of the magnificent epic 'Defence of the Realm' sketch (reported in the last issue. We all struggled through doing our best to ignore the looks of complete indifference by the Customs staff who were, perhaps, looking for even more sinister persons than ourselves. Back on the road again we find that **Roy Andrews** had won the £25 M&S voucher in the raffle organised by , guess who? **Vincent** and **Marion de Rose**. Late home but another enjoyable day spent in good company.

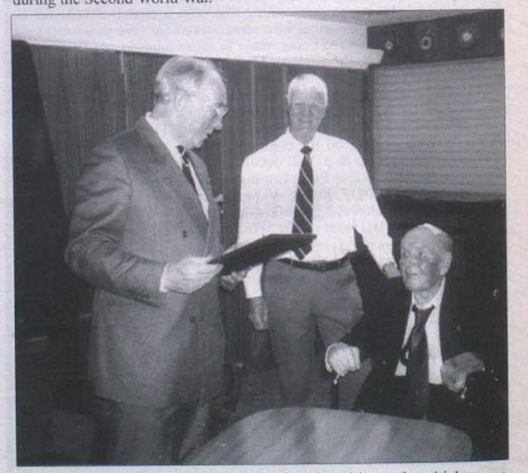
News of Members - Keith and **Valerie Loney** are particularly busy since he was made Mayor of Sevenoaks in May. **Keith** served in 2 Wireless Regiment in Famagusta and HQ MELF Cyprus from 1954-56. We wish him and **Valerie** a most successful year. **Peter Haskins**, who was reported on in the last issue for flashing his new Police Sergeant's stripes at the Branch BBQ, has proved himself to be a first-class Clay Pigeon shot and is a member of the Kent Police Team. **Marie Crisp** is recovering nicely from major heart surgery and is now healthier than she has been for years and is looking forward to resuming her attendance at forthcoming functions.

Vale: sadly we must report three of our members have passed away since our last notes. **Reginald** 'Robin' **Hood, John Raymond** and **Lt Col (Retd) Basil Elliott** will be sadly missed by all their friends and we pass on our condolences to their loved ones.

STOP PRESS!! - for those with the facility and the inclination you might like to look at www.eastkentbranchsignal.org.uk (Note it is signal and NOT signals) for further information on the Branch and it's members.

EXMOUTH BRANCH

The group was honoured with a visit from the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling** on the occasion of our oldest members birthday. **Mr Reg Randall** celebrated his 102nd birthday and was presented by the Master of Signals with a signed Fax/Certificate to say that he is the oldest ex-member of the Corps. The photo shows the Master presenting **Reg** with his certificate, whilst Branch Members stood to attention. **Reg**, who is a resident of Miramar Rest Home in Exmouth, was an infantryman in the Gallipoli campaign of the First World War, and served at home bases during the Second World War.



The group also held their summer function this week, which was a 'Jazz' on the Exe, a 3 hour hour cruise up the River Exe accompanied by a fine Jazz band, great food and great company. The group is busy preparing for the Christmas function to be held in the banqueting suite in Exmouth on 30 November. Tickets can be purchased and more info about the RSEG from our website at www.rsigsexmouthgroup.supanet.com or info by email: rsigsexmouthgroup@supanet.com

GLASGOW BRANCH

What a glorious weekend! The members left the inclement weather in Scotland and arrived in blazing sunshine in Dorset. The drill and marching display, by the latest recruits in Blandford, on the Princess Royal Day Parade, was in keeping with the very high standard set by their predecessors. Followed by an afternoon of great entertainment. Our Branch Standard Bearer, **Bill McNamara**, was again in the final six of the Standard Bearers' contest, a very commendable effort **Bill**. There was a delay of over two hours on our return journey by train, and we were back to clouds and rain. The branch members met **Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling** and **Maj Gen Tony Boyle**, informally for a chat in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess. The members do appreciate that the 'Top Brass' takes time to make these visits. Many thanks go to the regiment and **Peter Cuckow** for making our visit such a pleasurable memory. Someone must have read my report of a previous Blandford visit, because the museum did have Christmas cards with the 'Jimmy' and Corps colours this year. This enabled me to buy them in time for sending out, this year the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Glasgow Branch. I also managed to obtain copies of The Shutter Telegraph from under the stairs at the museum. I found these very interesting and made copies to be passed among the Branch Members. I wonder why an up to date copy could not be sent to the Branches who request them? The Branches could then have them copied for their members. Members of this Branch would appreciate it, if it were possible to arrange this.

Thirty-six members, family and friends were on the coach outing to Aberdeen on 7 July. Stopping at Forfar for morning coffee, with about five hours in Aberdeen, then on to the Royal Hotel Stonehaven, for high tea. A very good choice of menu helped to stave off the hunger pangs. The weather was overcast but remained dry and warm throughout the visit. The ladies had a great time window-shopping, (if only the lottery would make their dreams come true) in the jewellery shops. It was only on our return to Glasgow, that we discovered that Glasgow and its environs had been deluged with rain all day long. Our friends and neighbours said later that they had pitied us on our journey north, thinking it would be in the rain, whereas we were having a great time and staying dry. The sales were on so all were looking for bargains. There was a lot to admire in architecture in the Granite City it was so clean an environment in the streets, with manual and mechanical sweepers working on a Saturday.

On Saturday 25 August 36 members and friends made a coach trip to Edinburgh Castle to see the tattoo, with a prior stop for high tea at an hotel, where we were joined by the Branch President, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB** and his wife **Mrs Margaret Anderson**, who we trust will soon be fully recovered, after her long illness. The police blocked off the roads leading to the castle and the coaches had to drop their passengers about a mile away. This made a difficult uphill walk for us 'old un's' and those in wheel chairs. It was an excellent show and the party thoroughly enjoyed the acts, the music of the different bands pipes and drums and finally a great fireworks display. The best was the weather, it had been raining whilst we had our meal, but was dry for the walk to and from the castle and throughout the performance.

At the meeting in September the Branch Chairman, **Joe Keegan**, asked the members to stand and observe a minute silent prayer, for those who lost their lives in America by terrorist action. Editions of two local papers the Kirkintilloch Herald, published a photograph of a soldier in Royal Signals uniform named **Bryan McArthur**, attaining the Best Endeavour Award in a class of 39 in basic training, and in the Cumbernauld News, was the photograph of another Royal Signals soldier **John Charles Connor. John** came top of his class of 100 recruits. Both are now at Blandford to undergo their technical training.

On behalf of the Chairman and members of Glasgow Branch, a letter was sent to both papers to be published, congratulating both lads on their achievements, with best wishes for their future in the Corps. A letter was received from **Bryan McArthur's** mother appreciating the Glasgow Branch's published letter, which was read out by the Chairman at the September Branch meeting. The Branch secretary received two letters announcing the death of two ex members of the Corps. One from **Mr Stewart Roy** informing the Branch that his father **James Bridges Soutar Roy** died peacefully on 21 August 2001. The other letter was from **Col R L Steele TD JP DL** of Erskine Hospital, informing the branch of the death of **Mrs Margaret G. Belford**, who died in the Erskine Mains Home on the 31 August 2001. A note has been sent to RHQ with this information for publication in *The WIRE* Last Post column, and acknowledgement letters to **Mr Roy** and **Lt Col R L Steele**. The only information in the hospital records for **Mrs Belford** was that she served in the Royal Signals in the Isle of Man and Keddleston Hall from 1943 to 194- with regret there is no further information on the deceased. The Glasgow Branch Chairman and members offer their sincere condolences to both families.

MIDDLESBROUGH BRANCH

This year has seen some changes in the appointment of Branch Officials. **Colin Dadson**, our Chairman for some 13 years found that his commitments would prevent him from devoting the necessary time and opportunities to carry out his duties as Chairman and he has therefore stood down. **Colin** will continue to assist, when necessary and the Branch records its thanks for the able and capable way in which **Colin** bas served us and seen the Branch expand and establish a firm identity. **Margaret**, the other member of the husband and wife team, continues as Secretary and exercises her usual control of the finances. **Audrey Grainger**, formerly the Assistant Secretary was elected Chairperson and husband **Dick** continues as vice-Chairman.

Our Annual Dinner this year was held at the Merton Country Club in April and attended by 47 members and friends. We have also had trips to Botany Bay (not the Botany Bay) and to the Dales, and we intend a trip to 'Bygones' in early November. The Christmas Raffle will be held on 30 November and a buffet supper will as usual, be provided by the Lady Members. **Bruce Bassett** will we hope look after the Bar for us as usual. **Bruce** has willingly and unstintingly given his time to look after our liquid requirements over the years and the Branch expressed their gratitude by presenting him with a figurine of a Signalman in action at our AGM.

As usual this year we attended the service of thanksgiving and. Remembrance at Eden Camp, Malton. On this occasion 106 standards from Royal British Legion Branches were paraded including our standard paraded by our 'Mick Little' (his first time, giving **John Grange** a well earned rest). The Normandy Band of the King's Division led them. More than 1000 ex-services personnel of all three services and former members of the Land Army, also this year there was a contingent of ex-Bevin Boys. Some 120 Army Cadets brought up the rear and their Officers and Instructors marshalled the parade.

NORFOLK BRANCH

Due to summer holidays etc the Branch does not hold a meeting in August, the September meeting was well attended. **Maj** (Retd) **Mike Sexton** presided and due to Secretary, **Steve Nobbs,** being absent assistant Secretary, **Brian Gibbs**, stood in. Our President, **Donald Ellingworth**, has been ill for some time but has been regularly visited by Service Officer, **Reg Hannant**, who has been reporting back to the Branch. We were all happy to be informed that **Don** is now on the road to recovery and will be at the next meeting. The Branch was honoured by the 36 Signal Regiment by inviting our Chairman, **Mike Sexton**, also Secretary, **Steve Nobbs**, and Standard Bearer, **Barry Robinson**, to be presented to **HRH The Princess Royal** on 27 June during her visit to Ilford. The Chairman reported back to the Branch that it had been a splendid day and they were all very proud. At the conclusion to the last meeting instead of a speaker the Chairman introduced a quiz with prizes for the winners. This went down very well and proved to be very popular, we will certainly have them on a regular basis and it would be a good idea if we had inter-Branch competitions a idea for the future? Past Chairman, **Frank Mortlock**, told the Branch of how on seeing a photo in a Army magazine he came to be re-united with a couple of army pals after 54 years, it was a joyous occasion.

(L-R): Ted Grimshaw, Frank Mortlock, Ted Durose

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

The summer period was very quiet with very little of interest happening, however, the Branch Committee met recently to plan for some months ahead for either talks or social evenings on certain Branch meeting evenings. A number of useful suggestions were forthcoming for Hon Sec, **Ian Wolfe**, to follow up and which hopefully will help to maintain the interest of Members. We were saddened to learn of the passing of the mother of our Branch Chairman, **John Brown**. The officers and Members extend their deepest sympathy to **John**. The Branch was represented at the funeral. Once again if you are reading *The WIRE* and are in Northern Ireland then if you are not already a Branch Member or indeed are still serving, you are welcome to join us any third Wednesday of the month in Clonaver TAVR Centre, Belfast.

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

The Association chalks up 25 Years in Peterborough. It was on 5 August 1976 when a group of us met in the Wirrina Sport and Recreation Centre in Peterborough to find out if there was sufficient support for the formation of a Branch of the Royal Signals Association to be based in the city. This resulted in approval from Association Headquarters to form what was originally called the Peterborough and District Branch and subsequently led to our first Annual General Meeting attended by sixteen members. Twenty-five years later on the evening of 27 July 2001, eighty people sat down to a four course dinner provided by the Woodlands Sports and Social Club (Pearl Insurance Group), in Castor just west of Peterborough. Music during the meal and later for dancing was provided by the Len and Betty Briers Disco.

Coming off the dance floor is Len Voller with Margaret Smith (the Branch President's wife), who visit us regularly from their home in Stafford

Present at our 25th Anniversary celebrations were four of the original members from August 1976
(L-R): Len Voller, Bon Rowland, Gilbert Davey and Harry Lee

Peter Cuckow the Association's Administrative Officer with his wife **Sheila** was the Branch's principal guest for this special occasion. During the evening a raffle of ten quality prizes was organised by the Committee; two of which were won by **Peter** and **Sheila** who kindly returned the final prize - a coach trip to London with two tickets to see 'My Fair Lady' and a Dutch Auction was organised which raised a total of £54.00. This was won by **Silas** and **Diane Nowell**, two of our newer members, and the Branch made a donation of this amount to the Corps Benevolent Fund shortly afterwards. The Peterborough Branch presently has a membership of more than fifty Life and Associate members many of whom enjoyed a truly excellent evening to mark our twenty-fifth anniversary.

Our Chairman, **Bob Rowland**, was honoured by the Central Committee earlier in the year with the award of Honour Membership of the Association following many years of dedicated service to the Corps and the Association; a truly honoured and very proud recipient who heads an active and very much involved branch of the Association. We recently received a grant from the National Lottery Charities Board following a lot of work by our Secretary, **Brian Overland**, in putting together the application. The grant will assist us with meeting room costs and will enable us to help members with the expense of travelling long distances to attend meetings over the next three years. A Branch Web Site has recently been set up by **Bob Rogers,** a member who is a leading amateur radio enthusiast (ex-SOE).
The Web Site is http://bobl9190.tripod.oom/homepage (See us there).

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT BRANCH

With regret we have to report the death of another of our members. **Ralph Burrows**, who passed away on 3 September, 2001, at the age of 86. **Ralph** joins his wife **Dorothy** and leaves behind his daughter **Teresa**, son in law **Rodney** and grandsons **Simon** and **Matthew**. The funeral service was held at the Porchester Crematorium on Monday 17 September with a congregation of family, friends and old comrades who had gathered to say farewell.

Members of the Branch formed a Guard of Honour with the Branch Standard being carried by our Standard Bearer, **Bryan Littlecott**. **Ralph** was a lifelong supporter of Southampton Football Club and was a keen Speedway and Ice Hockey fan. In keeping with his dry sense of humour, his choice of music started the service with Louis Armstrong singing 'When the Saints go marching in' and finished with Glenn Miller's 'String of Pearls'. His wartime comrades paid **Ralph** a final compliment in portraying him as a man who was trustworthy, dependable and who would do anything for anyone. His family, all his old comrades and friends will sorely miss him.

Congratulations and best wishes from all Branch Members are extended to **Maj (Retd) John Daw BEM** and his wife **Margaret** on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on 21 September 2001. We wish them many more to come.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Early in September we held our Branch Church Parade with the In Pensioners for morning service at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. This was initiated in the late eighties by Cliff Wood and since that time has been an annual event at which Harry Ruff has paraded our Standard and we have been joined by neighbouring branches of the Association. The Sheffield Branch are not our neighbours in the geographic sense but we think we can claim them in the biblical context as this year was their third attendance at our service. We express to the Royal Hospital our appreciation of the dedication of this morning service to our Branch and to the Royal Corps. Not a little is contributed to the occasion by the hospitality of the In Pensioners' Club and the excellent curry lunch they arrange for us following our devotions.

MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY OFFICERS' DINING CLUB

The club has not had a dinner for several years. We now have an invitation to dine again by joining Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Officers' Dining Club, who already dine with the AER Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club.

I am prepared to act as Secretary/Treasurer for the Middlesex Yeomanry Officers' Dining Club. Would Officers who have served in either the Regiment or Squadron and would like to be included on the mailing list please write or telephone me. I only require rank name and telephone number.

The 2002 dinner date will be Friday, 22 February 2002, at Inn of Court and City Yeomanry, Lincoln's Inn, London.

Maj (Retd) Chris Reynolds-Jones TD
The Barretts
Finchingfield
Essex CM7 4PH
Tel: 01371 810260

19th SIGNAL REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

For 28 years 19th Air Formation Signals served the Royal Air Force in the Far East and on 27 September members, who had served during the war years in Burma, met with those who had served in later years, including some who had the very sad task of disbanding the unit in November 1971. They descended on Stoke-on-Trent from Fifeshire, Cornwall, Kent and points closer. **Barry Vargas** arrived, on leave from New Delhi and **Stan Kendrick,** resplendent in his scarlet uniform and gleaming medals, was among the first to arrive the day before from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

In-Pensioner Stan Kendrick and the framed print 'Beaufighter Action over the River Chindwin, Burma 1945'

Before lunch we remembered **Col John Stuart-Usher,** who commanded the unit in Burma in 1944/45, **Maj Gerry Cox** who commanded 1 Squadron in 1968-70, **Gordon McNulty, Les Finch** and **Ed Nichol** who died tragically in his home following a fall. Whilst Chairman, **George Brew,** looked on in his inimitable avuncular manner, the Association President, **Col Colin Gilbert,** presented a framed print of 'Beaufighter Action over the River Chindwin, Burma 1945' to **Lt Col Pat Soward** with the request that he accept it on behalf of the Corps Museum. **George Brew** then produced two more copies of the print, presenting them to **Pat Soward** and **Dennis Isaacs** with his thanks for their efforts as Publicity Officer and Membership Secretary respectively.

Lt Col (Retd) Pat Soward presents the print to Col (Retd) Cliff Walters, who accepts it on behalf of the museum

The original oil painting, by **Mark Bromley**, depicts two Beaufighters accompanied by P47 Thunderbolts attacking enemy ground positions along the banks of the Chindwin river. It was commissioned by British Aerospace as a fund raising venture for the Burma Star Association and was sold at auction at the Burma Star Association's Midsummer Carnival in June 2001. In addition, a limited number of 99 prints were made and signed by the artist. The painting was thought doubly symbolic to the 19th Signal Regiment Association as so many members had served in Burma and as the Beaufighter featured on the arm badges worn by members of the regiment throughout their time in the Far East.

After lunch, mellowed by good food and wine, members gravitated to the bar where photographs were produced and studied with rapt attention and stories retold. Gently they drifted away from the relaxed atmosphere as the times of trains and coaches made their demands but a 'bakers dozen' - including four wives, stayed on overnight. All look forward to next year's luncheon at the Household Cavalry Sergeants' Mess at Knightsbridge. Those known to have served in the regiment will be able to read about the arrangements in the next edition of 'The Bulletin'; any who are not on our mailing list and would like details can make contact through **Peter Cuckow** at RHQ.

Postscript: The framed print would not fit into the boot of the MGF so **John Horne** kindly offered to take it home with him to Redditch and, the following day, drove down to Blandford with it. Many thanks **John**. Later in the week **Pat Soward** handed it over to **Col Cliff Walters** in the museum where it will find a home within the Air Formation Signals display area.

REUNIONS

BEVERLEY EX-BOYS ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, 22 July, a barbecue for BEBA members was held in the garden of **Beryl** and **Tony Hull** in Bournemouth and 23 people attended. The guests came from as far afield as Stockbridge, Basingstoke, Waterlooville and Blandford. The day started with rain showers and the tables and chairs could not be set up until the guests were almost due. There was then a mad panic to get everything ready and the barbecue lit. However, the sun came out, the wine flowed and **Tony** excelled himself at the barbecue. All had a great time and some old friendships were rekindled. It was with deep regret that we learned of the deaths of **Norman Collier** in July and **John Shipp** in August. Our sincere condolences go to their wives and families.

3rd ANNUAL WEEKEND REUNION *-Report by Jim Mellett*

The third annual reunion took place on 6-7 October at the Lensbury Club, Teddington Lock, Middlesex. The Club is set in beautiful grounds and gardens on the banks of the River Thames. The pity was that the weather was very poor so it was difficult to really appreciate the surroundings. Some of the members had booked in on the Friday and met old friends and made new ones in the bars of the Club with some making an excursion down the road to the Anglers pub. On Saturday the rest of the members attending arrived at the Club where they were able to take advantage of the facilities offered, these included a swimming pool with sauna and steam rooms. 3 o'clock found a large crowd in the television bar where they suffered highs and lows of emotions as they watched England stutter and stammer in their match against Greece. Fortunately, **David Beckham**, who now seems to have achieved God like status came to the rescue and England qualified.

In the evening, after gathering in the reception room we were called in to the dining room by our very own Toastmaster, **Wally Cutler**. The meal was excellent and a grateful vote of thanks must go to the staff of the Club. The Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen was proposed by the Toastmaster, he then introduced **Lt Col (Retd) Ken French**, who was standing in for our President, **Lt Col (Retd) John Beasley**, who was unable to attend. In his speech he made mention that an accommodation block at Blandford had now been named the Beverley Block, and in particular he thanked **Alan Davies** for his efforts, **Alan** had recently retired after 28 years' service at Blandford and he had made good use of his contacts in his role of co-ordinator in making sure the naming was successful. **Ken** welcomed all the members who had attended and praised those who had traveled long distances.

Tony Hull, Mrs Ann Boyle, Maj Gen A. H. Boyle CB and Lt Col (Retd) Ken French

Ken then introduced our Guest of Honour, the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle CB**, who in his speech thanked the Beverley Ex-Boys Association for the invitation and mentioned that most of the assembled members would have received the King's shilling whereas he had received the Queens shilling. He then spoke about the Royals Signals Association stressing the benevolence aspect of the Association. At the end of the dinner the members retired to the bar, which did a thriving trade and a successful raffle was held, which made £242.00 for the funds and many thanks are due to all those who donated.

Bernie Gilbert, Judy Quigg, Brenda Coatsworth, Jim Batt, Jack Quigg, Geoff Coatsworth after the Reunion Dinner for the Beverley Ex-Boys Association

It was an extremely successful and enjoyable weekend, 56 members were present along with 39 wives, partners or guests and in that number were the following new members: **Mick Snowling, Maurice King RAEC, Pat Browne RAEC, Peter Cross, Tony Hemstock, Ronald Coaker** and **Caie Wesley Graham**. We must thank the Committee and in particular **Beryl** and **Tony Hall** for organising such a great weekend. **Beryl** and **Tony** must also be thanked for their efforts in the naming of the Beverley Block at Blandford.

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT SOUTH ATLANTIC

15 June 2002 Blandford Camp, 20th Anniversary gathering open to those serving in 30 Signal Regiment in 1982. Venue tbn. Contact **Alf Thomas** or **Mick Nevill** c/o RAO, 11 Sig Regt, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH Tel: 01258 482202 or 485651 (mil 94371) E-mail: nipper@mnevill.freeserve.co.uk or IA5@dei.mod.uk

MALTA/LIBYA COMMAND

Having just recently held our annual reunion, we thought that we would like to have it recorded in *The WIRE*. Malta/Libya Command Signal Squadron Association has members who have served in the following areas. Malta, Tripoli Sigs, 219 Sigs, Benghazi, Benini, (25 Armd Div) 1 Division and El-Adem, if you served post war in any of these areas and would like to join us next September please get in touch with the Secretary at the address below. At this year's Reunion, as well as the boat trip, we had a top class entertainer **Jill Danials** singing nostalgic songs, some of the ladies were in tears. Every picture tells a story so the following are a brief record of the event.

Roy Andrews Jill Danials and Patricia Andrews

Bill Daglish Eric Pratt, Barry Vargas (who came all the way from Delhi) and John Hamilton stood up and sang in full voice their rendition of Land of Hope and Glory accompanied by Jill Danials, almost as good as Last Night at the Proms

Group Photo

260 SIGNAL SQUADRON (SAM) ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

SEEKS THE HELP OF MEMBERS OF THE CORPS PAST AND PRESENT

260 Signal Squadron (SAM) Royal Signals Association are trying to trace over two hundred ex-soldiers who served with 260 Signal Squadron (SAM), 654 Signal Troop (SAM) and 655 Signal Troop (SAM) in the period 1965 - 1977. We were formed in June 1998 and currently have a membership of about sixty members. Our objective is to trace a further two hundred in time for our reunion in April. It is our belief that all former members of the Squadron save for a few will have completed their service with the colours but it is felt that the sons and daughters of these servicemen may now be serving in the Corps.

It is also believed that some former members of the Squadron and Signal Troops may be members of the Royal Signals Association but are not aware of the existence of our Association which is why we are asking All Branch Secretary's if they would be kind enough to send out details of our Association to all their members. Since April of this year our Association has been hard at work promoting our activities on the internet and we have gained the support of SOLDIER magazine as well as many local newspapers across the country but we feel that the best support for our project lies at the heart of our extended family 'The Royal Corps of Signals'.

Our Anniversary Reunion will be held on the weekend of 12-14 April 2002 at the Jarvis Hotel, Loughbourgh, Leicestershire. Partners are most welcome. For further details contact: **Roy Andrews,** 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3HJ, Tel. 01227 264551 or E-mail: roypat.Andrews@ic24.net Or visit our NEW website at http://www.260sigsqnsam.abeigratis.co.uk

ARE YOU READY TO COME BACK AND JOIN US?

LOST COMMS

Michael Jones is keen to trace **Dennis Foster** who was from the Rotherham area in the 1950s. They served together in Hilden, Germany 1951 to 1953. **Mr Jones** is visiting the UK next year from New Zealand. Anyone with any information on **Mr Foster** is asked to contact the Rotherham Advertiser on 515300.

Ken Moore is researching his National Service time (1954-56) and would like to hear from anyone with information on the fate of the following places or people; Richmond Block, Vimy Lines 1954 - **Sgt Gough, Cpl Jones, LCpl Tiltman**. 5 TR, Harper Barracks, Ripon, 1954 - **Sgt Moran**. Connaught Barracks Woolwich Arsenal Oct 1954, where **Ken** was a DR at the War Office - **Sgt** 'Tug' **Wilson, Cpl Pizey, Cpl** 'Mac' **Wheatley, LCpl** 'Jock' **Leiper**. Telephone **Ken** on 0121 453 3396.

From: **W. G. Saffin**
28 Bedford Road,
WESTON SUPER MARE,
Somerset,
BS23 4EJ

Dear Sir,

Through the columns of *The WIRE* may I appeal to any readers who may have served with or knew **22031264 Sig R. Marks** who died in the Berlin Airlift and is buried near Hamburg with an RAF crew. Here the mystery begins, his name is recorded on the American Memorial in Berlin but not on any English one, not even the latest at the National Arboretum. Was he flying as part of an aircrew? Was he hitchiking? He is buried in a German churchyard but the German authorities deny all knowledge of him although local people maintain the grave. Somebody somewhere must know all about this poor soldier lying in a foreign field, we hear so much about the Great Royals Signal Family on RSA Day perhaps it about time someone dug out his records and submitted his name to be added to the National Arboretum. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely.....

The photo shows a man who was always known to **Steven Parsons** as **Great Uncle John Green**. He was my late father's uncle and was killed in Italy during the last war. **Green** was my great-grandparents name but **John** was adopted and he may have been in the army under his original name, which is unknown to me. So far all searches of army and war grave records has been unsuccessful and we have been unable to trace anyone of this name or discription who died in Italy. As there are no other relatives, on my father's side, alive, I have only the scant information on the back of the photo and what I was told by my father to go by. The story I was told was of an unusual and tragic death, but apparently he was wounded and in a tented field hospital which was straffed by an enemy plane, and he was killed in his bed. The date printed on the back of the photo is 1943 which would seem to confirm his death in the Italian campaign.

What I was hoping was that some of the readers of *The WIRE* might recall him and know the name that he used or might remember the incident with the hospital, which would help me trace where he might be buried. I was always told that he was in the Signals. I hope that this may stir somebody's memories and I look forward to any future correspondence. At the time he would have been living in Redhill in Surrey. Please contacr **Steven Parsons** at 39-40 Barkis Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR30 3ED or Tel: 01493 856772

Junior Leaders Regiment
Royal Signals
Recruit Troop April/May 195 9.

All Members became White Spear Troop 1959 - 1961

'WHERE ARE YOU NOW?'

Back Row (L-R): A. Hollawell, W. Hindmarch, W. Hill, (?), J. Watkins, (?),
Second Row (L–R): R. McKay, J. Lycett, A. Crowther, S. Howell, P. Crane, A. Crowden, (?), C. Jerram, (?)
Third Row (L–R): S. Gill, J. Sullivan, Taff ?, T. Baker, (?), (?), (?), F. Songhurst, J. Rodgers
Front Row (L–R): J. Smart, J. Robertson, P. Booker, B. Bougoisse, A. Scaife, R. Etherton, (?), (?)

If any person reading this article knows of the whereabouts of any of the above then please get in touch with the Hon Sec Swindon & District Branch of the RSA, **John Smart,** 52 Malvern Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 1AT. Note: **W** 'Bill' **Hill** is in Canada, **John Smart** and **John Watkins** are both in Swindon, Wiltshire. If any person of the above has any photographs of that era, a copy of any to the above address would be very much appreciated as I would like to get a photographic record put together and who knows perhaps a reunion may be able to take place at sometime.

CORRESPONDENCE

From: **Mr H. Orton**
43 Greno View Road
Highgreen
SHEFFIELD
S35 4GX
Tel: 0114 2847598

Dear Editor,

I enclose a picture showing **Sgt Harry Orton** and **Cpl George Eynon** - ex 28 Comm Inf Bde & Sig Tp, Korea 1951-1952.

'Waterholes' - fifty years on

Come on you comrades of old, we are trying to get together members of the old Troop for a 'Reunion' and trust that you will help swell our ranks. We know of at least twenty of the Troop that are still alive and kicking today (this includes five of the officers we served under - who don't seem to know that we exist?!). Let's shame them and let them know that 'old comrades' are old comrades, irrespective of rank.

Please ring any one of the following three telephone numbers: 0114 2847598 (**Harry Orton**), 01293 513473 (**Pat Lohan**), ore 01208 75019 (**George Eynon**). Any of these will be more than glad to hear from you.

Yours Sincerely .....

From: **G. W. Garratt**
42 Pendle Way
SHREWSBURY
SY3 9QS

Dear Sir,

The Phonetic Alphabet

During my National Service with the Royal Navy between 1947 and 1949, I became familiar with the Phonetic Alphabet that was in use in the Armed Forces at that time. Then it was in the sequence of 'Able', 'Baker', 'Charlie', 'Dog', 'Easy', 'Fox' etc...

I realise that the alphabet in that form was superceded some years ago. When was that? I seem to remember that the present system 'appeared' in the mid-1950s. Why did it change? Was it, perhaps, something to do with NATO? Or was it changed as international airlines 'adopted' English as their working language? Was this the result of some international treaty? Is the phonetic alphabet, in its present form , in use world-wide?

I would be pleased if you could give me any information on this subject. Perhaps this letter will awake memories of former members of Corps. I look forward, with interest, to any replies.

Yours faithfully.....

From: **Rev John L. McKellar**
Corrie
Clay Street
CROCKERTON
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 8AG

Dear Editor,

On a recent visit to Normandy my wife and I visited the Military Cemetery at Ryes and took the enclosed pictures. I was particularly moved by the nine graves of young men of the Royal Signals. All killed on the same day possibly at a single site. I am sure that everyone is aware of how well these places of rest are kept and as you can see, from the photos, Ryes is no exception.

Yours Sincerely.....

The British Military Cemetery - Ryes, Normandy
Nine Royal Signals Graves - June 1944

LCpl P. J. Horton MM - Killed 6 June 1944

Signalman G. A. Churchouse - aged 24 years

DONATIONS

Certo Cito Lodge	£	20.00
Mr L. Haig	£	25.00
Indian Signals Association of Great Britain	£	200.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£	10.00
RSA Glasgow	£	250.00
Maj (Retd) R. H. Blizard	£	265.00
Mr J. Cumming	£	20.00
Mr L. Haig	£	25.00
Maj (Retd) C. A. Anderson	£	122.61
Maj (Retd) H. D. V. Chappell	£	50.00
3 Div Sigs Reunion Club in memory of Stan O'Dell	£	10.00
RSA Bournemouth in memory of Sgt J. H. Raymond	£	5.00
Friends in memory of WO1 R. J. B. Hood	£	120.00
Mr R. W. Bilby in memory of WO2 P. I. Phillips	£	20.00
Christopher Seston in memory of WO2 P. I. Phillips	£	20.00
K. J. A. & E. F. Hunt in memory of WO2 P. I. Phillips	£	20.00
Mr K. A. Lawrence in memory of WO2 P. I. Phillips	£	20.00
Mrs A. G. Keen in memory of WO2 P. I. Phillips	£	10.00
P. A. & I. M. Burton in memory of WO2 P. I. Phillips	£	25.00
F. C. & B. L. Corr in memory of WO2 P. I. Phillips	£	5.00
RSA East London in memory of WO2 P. I. Phillips	£	50.00
Friends in memory of WO2 P. I. Phillips	£	92.00
RSA Bournemouth in memory of Mr H. Laidlaw BEM	£	5.00
Beverley Ex-Boys Association in memory of WO1N. Collier	£	25.00
Beverley Ex-Boys Association in memory of Sgt J. F. Shipp	£	25.00

LAST POST

Aitken - Mr J. Aitken	Served 1942/47	Died 03/10/01
Belford - Mrs M. G. Belford	Served 1943/4?	Died 31/08/01
Bennallack-Hart - N. J. Bennallack-Hart	Served	Died Aug '01
Brown - Sig M. S. Brown	Served 1956/59	Died
Burrows - Cpl E. R. Burrows	Served 1939/45	Died 02/09/01
Carter - Sig N. Carter	Served 1950/55	Died 02/10/01
Crane - Maj M. Crane	Served 1958/84	Died 29/07/01
Dale - Cpl T. Dale	Served 1976/85	Died 2001
Dodds - Capt T. C. Dodds	Served WW2	Died 17/09/01
Elliott - Lt Col E. B. Elliott	Served	Died 26/08/01
Elliott - Maj G. F. G. Elliott	Served 1966/76	Died 22/07/01
Feber - Maj H. Feber	Served	Died 15/09/01
Finch - L. Finch	Served	Died 19/08/01
Hopkinson - Sig G. E. Hopkinson	Served 1942/47	Died 09/10/01
Ireland - Capt (Revd) J. C. Ireland	Served 1944/70	Died Sept '01
Jephcote - Sig T. S. Jephcote	Served 1953/??	Died 2001
Johnson - Cpl L. Johnson	Served 1940/45	Died 01/09/01
Jones - WO1 (RSM) D. Jones	Served 1948/73	Died 29/09/01
Laidlaw - WO1 H. Laidlaw BEM	Served 1934/59	Died 26/09/01
Lorriman - Capt A. E. Lorriman	Served 1939/47	Died 29/06/01
Mann - SSgt L. W. Mann	Served 1944/59	Died 16/07/01
McKail - Maj D. J. D. McKail	Served	Died 31/08/01
O'Dell - Cpl S. G. H. O'Dell	Served 1939/43	Died Oct '01
Patient - Capt G. R. Patient	Served 1933/48	Died 01/09/01
Riley - Sig J. Riley	Served 1959/61	Died 16/05/01
Rose - Mr W. Rose	Served WW2	Died 16/09/01
Ross - Sig A. Ross	Served 1961/66	Died 11/02/01
Roy - Dvr J. B. S. Roy	Served 1939/45	Died 21/08/01
Simms-Reeve - Maj M. W. Simms-Reeve	Served	Died 29/08/01
Speight - Capt G. C. Speight	Served 1948/73	Died 08/09/01
Weaver - Cpl J. T. Weaver	Served 1955/67	Died 15/08/01
Wickersham - Sig D. J. Wickersham	Served 1952/55	Died 19/09/01

Leonard - Lt Col Peter Leonard, who has died aged 68, served with Royal Signals from 1955 to 1984. He retired early from the Army but continued his involvement with Royal Signals as a Retired Officer Grade 2 at Bulford from 1984 to 1998. A wiry, fit man with enormous energy and a delicious sense of humour, he was immensely well liked and respected within the Corps for his leadership qualities, compassion and interest in people, as much for his lack of airs.

Peter Byrne Leonard was born at Kenton in Middlesex on 20 April 1933. He was educated at Sutton Valence near Maidstone, Kent, where in his last year he was awarded an English Speaking Union Scholarship to go to Choate School in Connecticut, USA. He shared that school, although not at exactly the same time, with JFK. He was known as 'Boots' **Leonard** because of an absurd pair of cowboy boots bought in the Arizona Desert which he insisted on wearing and was voted, as the 1952 year book records, Campus Character.

Peter originally wanted to be a vet but his National Service, deferred by a year by the American adventure, started his military life. Commissioned into the Royal Artillery it was, while serving in Egypt with 71 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment in 1953-54, that he was appointed Regimental Signals Officer. He found the specialisation so much to his liking, coupled with his love of sport, rugby in particular, that he decided to make it his career and transferred into the Royal Corps of Signals. He joined 40 Royal Signals 'Qualifying' course at Catterick in August 1956. He proved to be a very lively and popular member of the course. At the start of a mid course leave a fellow course officer lent **Peter** his pre-war Jaguar (named Jezebel) with the proviso that he drove her back to Catterick. Subsequently the owner cleaned out the back of Jezebel finding several lipsticks and odd earrings, for which **Peter** disclaimed all responsibility! **Peter,** at the beginning of 1958 went on a White Shod Course in Norway where his natural ability on skis rapidly became apparent. As a Troop Commander, at Bunde, Germany, he was invited to train and ski for the Army in the Cross Country (Langlauf) discipline. After a spell in Aden, where he was a member of the Black Sheep Club, he returned to be a Troop Officer in 216 Sig Sqn, Farnborough, in support of the Parachute Brigade. His Commander remembers him chiefly because of his slight build and lightness and that, when the rest of the unit was ready to move off after a parachute drop, **Peter** always seemed to be still floating down on the end of his parachute!

He met **Penny** early in 1963 and, recognising a good thing when he saw one, married her on 27 July 1963. In December 1963 the Parachute Brigade was sent to Cyprus because of the situation there caused by Archbishop Makarios. **Penny,** expecting their first child, wisely left Church Crookham and went to her parents in Bexhill-on-Sea, where in due course **Simon** was born. There followed a tour with 44 Parachute Brigade at the Duke of York's Headquarters and the arrival of their second son, **James**. He returned to Bunde once more as a Squadron Second-in-Command in 2 Div Sig Regt with a nice quarter in Bad Oyenhausen. Very soon he was promoted to take Command of Headquarters Squadron in Lubbecke. His next major challenge was independent command as OC 233 Sig Sqn, Northern Ireland, in Lisburn from 1969-72. This was a very happy posting, if most demanding, coinciding with 'Internment' in the Province. There was a rapid expansion of the Squadron to over four hundred personnel, possibly the largest Royal Signals Squadron ever assembled. **Peter** had an amazing ability to make things work, such as the Mount Divis rebroadcast station and specialist listening posts along the border.

Peter was Mentioned-in-Despatches for his hard work, great professionalism, extremely capable and calm handling of the additional responsibility. He is remembered too for his perennial good humour and a particularly old pair of heavy leather football boots he always wore for the weekly game. During this hectic time **Simon** and **James** started Prep School. Ireland was followed by a staff job with 11 Sig Bde (TA) in Liverpool. He was then asked to take Command of the Sultan of Oman's Signal Regiment. This was real and challenging soldiering and very much to **Peter's** taste. He picked up an exotic medal or two and subsequently was involved with the setting up of a Special Forces Unit for the Sultan. He remarked, only in passing, that most of the soldiers involved came from Rhodesia and were called, collectively, **Mr Smith.**

Penny could not accompany him due to a lack of quarters, so she retired to a small house they had bought in Bexhill-on-Sea, visiting **Peter** with the boys for holidays. Thereafter he served in various posts including NATO at Headquarters AFCENT near Aachen, Holland, The Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, a Joint Service job and finally at Tidworth. It is at this time they bought their delightful cottage in Upton Lovell. **Peter** decided to retire early, at 51, to take up the RO2 post in Signals Branch of HQ SW District, becoming in turn HQ Bulford Area and latterly HQ 3 (UK) Div from which he finally retired on 30 December 1998. Suffice to say he was held in as great affection and professional regard there as he had been elsewhere.

Maj Gen Ian Sprackling, in his letter to the family after he died, summed up **Peter's** career in the Army thus - 'I have known **Peter** for almost as long as my 45 years association with the Corps and to me he represented the absolute best of the breed of officers with whom I had the privilege to spend my life... Totally honourable, committed to his family, calling and friends, self effacing almost to a fault and loved and respected by all who knew him.' He never took the word 'retirement' seriously and life after the Army was full to the brim. **Peter** of course from the outset, with his customary energy, threw himself into the life of Upton Lovell. These are a few vignettes of **Peter** outside the Army:

His first love was his tiny local Church of Saint Augustine. It is questionable as to whether he was physically capable of saying 'no' to anyone. Had the Parish Church Council asked him to move the church six inches to the left, he would almost certainly have picked up his tool bag and wordlessly got on with it. He acted as general DIY handyman for the church. Indeed on the day of his funeral it was noticed that a light bulb had failed, the sort of task he was always resolving unobtrusively. He served as Church Warden for four years and latterly as Lay Vice Chairman of the PCC and Deanery Synod representative. He sang, with huge enjoyment, in the choir. He was a strident, talented and enthusiastic tenor/baritone/what do you want me to sing sort of performer. He had no difficulty in giving a congregation or audience a lead where necessary. A few years before, in a church at a NATO base in Holland, he effortlessly moved from verse 1 of a hymn to verse 3 taking the whole congregation with him to the annoyance of the organist and the bemusement of the vicar who was, or so he believed, in charge.

Simon and **James** often wondered if there was anybody on the planet less capable of lighting a barbecue - long and many were the lunches spent poreing over coals barely emitting any sort of heat. His dedication to two twigs and a single Swan Vesta was frustrating in the extreme.

His second love was the Wool Store Theatre at Codford Saint Peter. Once, going to a show there, **Peter** was met running across the road saying, 'I am late, I am late, I got dressed and then realised I had not put on my bra and had to get undressed and start all over again!' He made a wondrous Ugly Sister resplendent in a bright green dress, make-up inches thick, he bounded on to the stage, with an equally hideous twin sister, and they camped around the stage with unashamed joy. The laughter around was unconfined, but the performance was beyond belief to a self-conscious teenager son, slowly sinking into his seat, who was still fitting him into the role of retired officer. It always seemed a day or two before the make-up came off altogether. Many and various were the roles he performed but his rendition of 'Good-bye Dolly Grey' will be long remembered.

He was organiser of, and participant in, local cycle rides in aid of the Historic Churches Trust for Wiltshire for which he was a trustee. He took a great interest in Codford Saint Peter Church of England Primary School, much enjoying listening to the Reception class reading.

He loved sailing his small catamaran when time allowed, but would have really liked to sail more in bigger boats.

He loved family life and children. He had a brother **John** who died when he, **John**, was 11. His sister **Christine** and he were very close. He was a devoted father and grandfather and family will not easily forget him sitting in a wicker basket being pelted, amid shouts of great joy, with Pooh, Tigger and a variety of other soft toys.

By the time he died he was paraplegic - one cannot help but feel the disabled community has been robbed of a strong ambassador on their behalf. To his family and no doubt his many friends, frustration, dismay and sometimes anger at his circumstances have lain barely concealed beneath the surface. These emotions were strangers to him. His strength, courage, selflessness, unceasing sense of humour and ultimately his faith were examples to us all. His choice of 'When the Saints

go marching in' to be sung at his funeral service, must have been with a certain twinkle in the eye and a slightly mischievous grin. But the more official words (not used at the home games of Southampton Football Club) are the strongest evocation of what **Peter** expected in the after life. It was sung with gusto! **Peter** and **Penny** were devoted to each other; they meant the vows they took nearly 40 years ago and mean them to this day. His constant refrain over the year or so that has passed has been of her great courage and devotion. During this time she missed only four days being at his bedside. He would not have been able to cope with this last year with such tenacity and hope without her. In his book no one could have done more nor been a more constant companion for him in his time of need.
Ian Duff, the Rector, in his sermon said, 'I have never seen so many people at a funeral other than that of a public figure.' This is a measure of the support **Penny** and the family have received from the village and beyond both before and since his death and of how many wished to celebrate his life.

Riley -Sig John Riley It is with great regret that the members of the Sale Branch of the Royal Signals Association report the sudden passing away of their Chairman in hospital on 16 May 2001 aged 63. **John** was born in Bowden Vale near Altringham, Cheshire, in 1938 and lived in the area all his life. His early years were taken up with soccer and he was recognised as on of the best amateur players of his day, in the area, and he carried on his love of sport into his National Service where he served with the Signal Squadron at RAF Wildenrath in Germany from 1959-61. On leaving the services **John** went into engineering working for many years at the Daily Express at Linotype and Ingersoll Rand. **John** served the Branch for many years, the last two years as Chairman. His help for the less fortunate, his wit, his always smiling face, his hand in his pocket and his love of life were an inspiration to whoever he met and the branch have lost a very, very nice man. **John's** funeral at Durham Lawn Crematorium near his home town was led into the chapel by the standard of the Sale Branch and the service was conducted by the Branch Padre the **Rev Ray Rossiter** many of his footballing friends, Branch members and family attended. Our deepest sympathy to his lovely wife **Angie**, sons **Kritian** and **Johnathan** and grandchildren **Zak, Joshua** and **Heidi**.

Phillips - WO2 (SSM) Peter Ivan Phillips, the suddeness of **Peter's** death has left many of us in a state of shock. On the Sunday before he died, he was with some of his friends at a Luncheon Party. At the age of 18, he joined 22 Troop Royal Signals, for his National Service at Catterick Camp on 4 December, 1952. He was discharged after two years and then did further service before being discharged, this time from No.1 War Office Signal Regiment TA in 1958. He then joined 45th Signal Regiment TA which became 45 Squadron of the newly formed 36 (E) Signal Regiment (V). It was during this period that **Peter** met and married **Margaret** who had joined the Regiment as a Private. They got married on 18 May 1974. **Peter** retired from the regiment as the WO2 (SSM) of HQ Squadron, having served for 33 years National Service and TA in the Royal Signals. He joined the East London Branch of the Royal Signals Association in 1977, becoming their Chairman in 1995.
Our **Peter** was a keen golfer at Stapleford Abbots Golf Club, where he he became a Life Member in 1995, and then Vice-Chair and Chair of the Senior Society there. One of the highlights of **Peter's** golfing career was, with the aid of three colleagues, the winning of the 36 Signal Regiment (V) Inter Squadron Cup for which the East London Branch of the RSA are invited to enter a team.
The funeral service was conducted at Basildon Crematorium on 30 August, by our own Branch Padre, the **Revd David Eaton** who joined us only a few months ago and is also the Regimental Padre of 36 (E) Signal Regiment (V). **Peter** will be sadly missed not only by **Margaret**, his wife, but also by his friends from the East London Branch of the RSA, and members of 36 (E) Signal Regiment (V)

Aitken – Mr John Aitken, who was a respected and well known Dundee businessman has died at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, aged 77. He was the third generation of his family to run the grocers and wine merchants, Jas Aitken & Son, established by his grandfather in Dundee in 1874. **John** was educated at Dundee High School and Strathallan before joining the family business in 1941. Called up the following year, he served with the Royal Corps of Signals as part of the 14th Army in India and Burma until the end of the Second World War and continued to serve with the Corps in Europe until returning to the family business in 1947. He was elected President of the Scottish Grocers' Federation in 1968 and later had an honorary membership conferred on him in recognition of his services to the industry. He retired in 1989 but continued to take an active interest in the business, the Royal Signals Association and his golf. **John** was a gregarious man with a fine sense of humour and a staunch supporter of the Tayside and Fife branch of the Royal Signals Association. He was fun to be with and will be sadly missed. **John** is survived by his wife **Margaret**, sons **Bryan** and **Jamie**, daughter **Joan** and five grandchildren.

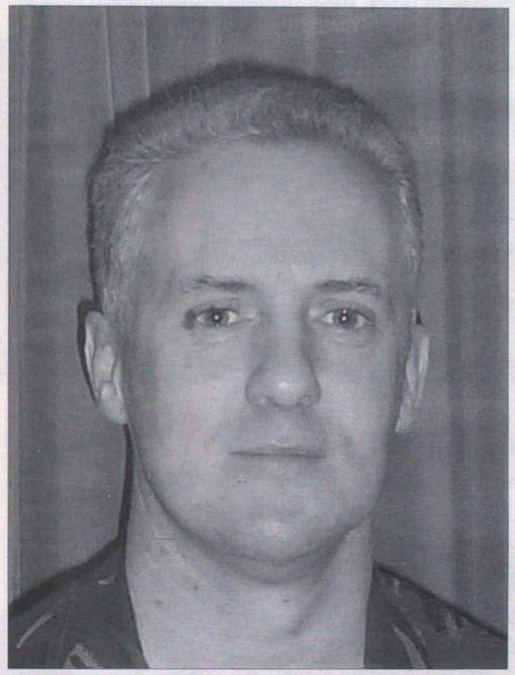
Speight – Capt George Cartford Speight, who died on 8 September, was one of the RAEC Warrant Officers selected for Teacher Training and commissioning when the Corps was 'officerised', beginning in 1959. The second Christian name (rarely disclosed) was the name of a toll-bridge in Lancashire purchased by his parents just before his birth, and still in the family.
He joined the Army in 1948, quickly transferred to the RAEC, and was posted to Malaya as a 'Schoolie', then came home to Harrogate for his first attachment to the Royal Signals at the Apprentice School as a Staff Sergeant IC Sciences. A tour in Korea followed, then he went back to Malaya for two years, and home to Junior Leaders RA at Hereford and Nuneaton before his year at college, commissioning in 1961 and once again to AAS Harrogate IC Science Department under **Col Gordon White**. I first met **George** there, where he was a very popular and hard-working colleague. He took on the brass band as his 'hobby' and his drive and enthusiasm swiftly resulted in excellent performances, highly acclaimed in the district. He managed to persuade the Band President to purchase a glockenspiel that **George**, head and shoulders above the remainder, played with evident delight. In 1967 he was posted to 8 Training Regiment Royal Signals at Catterick where he remained for six years.
When he knew of his terminal illness I asked him for some details of his service life so that I could write this, and he produced a copy of an article written about him in '*The WIRE*', the Royal Signals magazine, which was most complimentary, suggesting that **George** was considered a part of that Corps and acknowledging the debt owed to him for the work he did for so many years in helping Signals personnel.
In 1973, having obtained a BA degree, he retired and was appointed Lecturer and later Principal Lecturer at St Annes's College and Blackpool & Fylde College. He retired in 1990 and on the death of his wife, **June** in the same year, he moved to the Bristol area where his brother and family lived and until his death he became a full time uncle, taxi driver and general help, which he very much enjoyed and which was greatly appreciated. **George** was a good friend, always ready to assist in any way and was held in high regard by all who knew him. At the end he was quite calm, and would have appreciated the brass band music at his funeral.

Burrows – Cpl Ralph Burrows was born in 1915. **Ralph** enlisted in the Territorial Army on 26 April 1939. He transferred to the Regular Army, Royal Signals at the outbreak of war. On 15 December 1942 he was promoted to Corporal. As a Corporal Operator Wireless and Line (OWL) he then served throughout the war in 'K' Section, 129 Brigade and 4rd Wessex Division. He landed in Normandy on D-Day plus 13 and fought through France and Germany. He was 'demobbed' after hostilities in December 1945. **Ralph** was a long serving member of the RSA Southampton & District Branch, a Royal Signals Association Life Member and a Member of the 43rd Wessex Division Association. In Civilian life **Ralph** followed his career in the ironmongery business until his retirement.

Roy - Driver Mechanic James R. S. Roy passed away peacefully in the early hours of 21 August 2001 aged 87. He joined the Royal Signals TA at Jardine Street Glasgow and served from 27 June1934 to 6 November 1945. **Mr Roy's** wartime service included spells in France, Germany, Holland and Belgium. His decorations included the 1939/45 Star, the France & Germany Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939/45 and the Territorial Efficiency medal. During his service **Mr Roy** was the Big Drummer in the Royal Signals TA Band and the Glasgow Tramways Band. As a cabinet-maker to trade, **Mr Roy** was employed making bed-settees and chairs, an occupation he returned to after his discharge from war service in 1945. The Chairman and Members of Glasgow Branch convey their sincere condolences to the family.

Ross - Sig Alan Ross joined the Royal Signals in July 1960 and after training as a Dispatch Rider was posted to Singapore. He traveled on the troop ship SS *Nevassa*. During his time with 1 Sqn 18th Sig Regt as a DR he worked at GHQ TANGLIN. He also became the driver for the CDSO, **Lt Col Scott,** and did a stint in Brunei during the troubles of 1962/3. He met and married his wife **Anna** whilst in Singapore. Sadly she died three years ago. In 1963 he was posted to 4 Div Sig Regt Herford before returning to the UK for discharge in 1966.
Alan was a very trustworthy man and baby sat for my children in Singapore before he got married and kept in touch for years. We lost touch and after 30 years got back in touch through the Sunday Post Snippets and although it was only for a few years I am glad that I was able to meet up again and say farewell to a nice man. He will be missed by his daughter, son and grandchildren.

Whyman – Maj George James Whyman. It is with sadness that we report the death of a fine and well respected Royal Corps of Signals Officer after a cycling accident in Middlesbrough. **Maj George Whyman** passed away on Tuesday 5 June 2001. **George** was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals on 8 April 1977. He served as a young officer with the Royal Signals Junior Leaders Regiment in Ouston, Newcastle and gained operational experience with 39 Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron receiving the General Service Medal 1962 Clasp Northern Ireland. From 1986 to 1990 he held various Staff Officer appointments including service with Headquarters 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines and Headquarters Southern District. He held Squadron Command at 2 Signal Regiment in York and 16 Signal Regiment in Rheindahlen, Germany. **George** was also employed for over four years as the Army Careers Advisor for Schools in South Yorkshire until 9 August 1999. His last appointment was as Training Major 34 (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) based in Middlesbrough.
George was married to **Linda** and was the father of eight children – **Catherine** (24), **Mhairi** (22), **Morag** (21), **Andrew** (19) currently serving with 2 Signal Regiment in the Adjutant Generals Corps, **James** (16), **Hannah** (13), **David** (12) and **Elizabeth** (10). With all the family having a strong Christian faith, his interests included music and played for the enjoyment of all, particularly in church. The majority of his spare time was dedicated to his love of cycling. He was a member of the Army Cycling Union, classed as a veteran in regular competitions and was also a member of the Knaresborough Cycling Club, York.
The funeral service took place at Acomb Baptist Church on Thursday 14 June 2001 and was followed by a cremation at Bishopthorpe Crematorium, York. The service was attended by family, close friends and many serving and retired officers who had enjoyed **George's** exuberant, enthusiastic and sometimes determined character. His daughter **Catherine** in fond memory of an excellent father said some kind and poignant words and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Ian Westerman** Royal Signals, gave a stirring account of **George** 'The Officer'. **George** had dedicated over 24 years to the Corps and he will be sorely missed by who got to know him throughout his service.



Spooner – Lt Col P. Spooner with the death of **Phil Spooner** on 12 July 2001 the Corps has lost one of its most colourful officers. He was a man of tremendous energy for everything he tackled and imbued with an infectious enthusiasm, which radiated through his fun loving personality. **Phil** was born in London on 3 October 1932. He was educated at the Belle Vue Grammar School in Bradford. After school he intended to go to Cranwell but instead entered Sandhurst after completing basic training with the Royal Engineers. He was commissioned into the Corps in February 1953. After his Young Officers Course he was sent to Singapore and thence to Hong Kong where was attached to 32 Medium Regiment Royal Artillery. On returning to England he attempted to join the newly formed Army Air Corps but instructors told him that 'as a pilot he would make a first rate parachutist'. He took their advice and qualified for his parachute wings. He then started the first of his four tours with the RAF by joining 220 Signal Squadron at RAF Sundern in Germany. This proved to be a memorable tour because not only did he become the first army officer to fly through the sound barrier in a two-seater Hunter but he met and married **Sue** who was serving on the station as a Pilot Officer. He moved back to London to become Adjutant of a TA Regiment. During this time he played football for the Corinthian Casuals and continued his promising tennis career. He then returned to the RAF in Aden as a Ground Liaison Officer briefing and debriefing pilots on their attacks during the Radfan campaign and training many locals as Forward Air Controllers. There then followed a very happy tour at the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate. It was here that his rare quality of care for those he commanded came into full play. He demonstrated his ability to inspire the young apprentices to do things they never thought they could and to give them the self-belief and confidence to do well. In 1969 he returned to the RAF in Bahrein again controlling aircraft before becoming the Signal Squadron Commander at RAF Benson. He was keen to have a very fit squadron and to prove the point entered them for the Cyprus walkabout. He then became the Sultan of Brunei's advisor on air communications and tasking. During this time he wrote and produced a film on Loan Service. At the end of his tour the Sultan gave him the Seri Lila Jasa medal, an award given to very few. In his spare time he completed the SAS Free Fall Parachute Course and at last gained his private pilot's licence. On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1977 he became Deputy Commander of a major communication project in Saudi Arabia. It was at this time he took up hashing. At the end of his five-year tour he drove back to the UK overland. His last overseas tour was with AFCENT in Holland. Here he and **Sue** immersed themselves in the activities of both the international headquarters and the local community. His vibrant energy saw him involved in hashing, sailing, sail boarding, tennis, Nijmegan Marches, marathon running and amateur dramatics to mention but a few!
In 1987 **Phil** reached his 55th birthday but instead of retiring **Phil** was asked to stay on to run the White Helmets and the Blue Helmets. He seized the chance with both hands. Not only did be take part in 'the action' – top of the pyramid, through the flaming circle, jumping cars, but brought his boundless energy into gaining sponsorship and securing contracts. None could have made a greater impact on the teams. When **Phil** finally retired from service life he threw himself into the community life in Chichester. He had founded the Chichester Hash House Harriers on his return from Saudi Arabia in 1982 and it flourishes to this day. He was Chairman of the Chichester Society and was very proud of being involved in saving the façade of the old Dolphin and Anchor Inn. He gave up the Society to concentrate on local politics and only narrowly failed to gain a seat on the City Council. He drove ambulances for the disabled, he was an Age Concern Befriender and he did Meals on Wheels for the WRVS and was an active member of the Army Benevolent Fund Committee. He became a member of the Rotary Club late in life but completed his year as President a week before he died. In recognition of his work within the various communities around the world over so many years, **Phil** was given earlier this year the Rotary Paul Harris Award for service to one's fellow men. **Phil Spooner** was an officer who truly cared for his men and they knew it, he was always proud of their achievements; he was a man who lived life to the full and his infectious enthusiasm encouraged others to do likewise. As a citizen he was a contributor and committed himself totally to every community in which he lived. Most of all as a family man he set the highest standards as a much loved husband and the finest of fathers.

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

251 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Wally Drain**
SSM **WO2 Gary Smith**

EXERCISE FIGHTING BRUNO 2001
23 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER

This year's ACISG battlecamp took place at the OBUA training village, Eastmere. The exercise was split into two one-week segments with the Squadron sending soldiers to each of the weeks. Attending were, **Cpl Russ Craig** and **LCpl Steve Davies** – Week 1, **LCpl Mark Igo** – Week 2.The main themes of the exercise were counter insurgency (COIN), and basic OBUA drills. The exercise started off with a confidence course shortly after arrival on the Sunday afternoon during which everyone was put in the relevant sections. Monday morning was spent learning the rudiments of house clearance. This involved knowing the different methods of grenade delivery, such as throwing, posting, and, rolling. Storming a building using different methods of entry, such as first floor access using grappling hooks or ladders, ground floor entry through windows, mouse-holes etc, and then storming individual rooms once entry had been gained. **WO2 (SSM) Smith** gave a lesson on tactical movement in an urban environment, and we had demonstrations on how to set-up a VCP, and how to deal with minor civil disturbances. Monday afternoon we were shown how to defend a building, and methods of crossing barbed wire obstacles. Tuesday saw the two sections each putting what they had learnt into effect with a confirmatory attack on a building at dawn. Tuesday also saw a visit to the exercise by OC Sqn, **Maj Wally Drain**, and **SSgt Rick Owen**. They were there to observe the

LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS.....LATE NEWS

exercise and to discuss with the DS the relevance and usefulness of what was being taught to soldiers of the modern British army.

Tuesday afternoon was spent learning how to properly set up, operate, and tear down a VCP, and revision of correct patrolling methods in an urban environment. Phase two of the exercise started with a briefing that set out the scenario for the remainder of the week. This involved us being put into a volatile situation in which we were to gather intelligence and quell any minor civil disturbances while trying to keep hold of your respirator as **LCpl Davies** had some difficulty in doing. The following three days were spent patrolling the village and its environs, more successfully when **Cpl Russ Craig** wasn't map-reading, and gathering intelligence from the local population. The week culminated with both sections securing and occupying individual houses opposite those of known suspects who had arrest warrants against them. The night was spent observing these suspects, and early on Friday morning both sections were given the order to move in and arrest the suspects. With the successful completion of this task it was off to the assault course for an enjoyable hour's exercise, then a welcome shower and off home.

WO2 (SSM) Gary Smith patrolling during battlecamp

Cpl Russ Craig & L/Cpl Steve Davies taking in the view

LCpl Mark Igo straining to squeeze one out without being noticed

JEANS FOR GENES, FRIDA 5 OCT 2001

Once again this year a barbecue, with auction, tombola etc was held at HQ 4th Division, Aldershot in aid of St Ormond Street Hospital. Thanks must go firstly to **Mr Derek Keen** who organised the event and was also MC for the auction, and to **Cpl Andy McNally**, who contributed so much to the tombola. This years total was an impressive £1850.88 on the day, plus more money which was still coming in as this article was written.

VISIT OF COMMANDING OFFICER ACISG, LT COL S. A. LEIGH 8-9 OCTOBER 2001

Lt Col S. A. Leigh R. Signals visited the squadron on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th October. During his visit he presented **Cpl Russ Craig** with his LS & GC medal, which came as a complete surprise to **Cpl Craig**, but not as much as when the egg he had just microwaved for four minutes blew up all over his face.

Lt Col S. A. Leigh, Cpl Russ Craig and Maj Wally Drain on the occasion of Cpl Craig's LS & GC presentation

THE PARACHUTE SIGNAL SQUADRON 1948-1975

OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER

SATURDAY 18 MAY 2002

Following the success of the success of the May 1999 Reunion Dinner held in Aldershot, it has been decided to hold the next dinner at

SCOTCH CORNER HOTEL, RICHMOND, N. YORKSHIRE

SATURDAY 18 MAY 2002

All Old Comrades who served during the period 1948-1975 are welcome to attend. For further information contact **Steve Marshall** at 251 Stapleford Lane, Toton, Nottingham, NG9 6JG (0115 8494607) or **Ralph Porter** at 10 Longhorne Drive, Reeth, Richmond, N. Yorkshire, DL11 6ST (01748 884684).

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ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM TRADING 2001 / 2002

Gift ideas from the Royal Signals Museum

Beautiful Burns Crystal

Panel Whisky Glass, 10oz Pair, Engraved with Presentation Box £26.00 (see photo)
Panel Brandy Glass, 12oz Pair, Engraved with Presentation Box £26.00 (see photo)
Panel Ships Decanter, 75cl, Engraved £62.00 (see photo)
Panel Oval Flask Decanter, Engraved £62.00 (see photo)
Pyramid Bottle, Engraved with Presentation Box £16.99
Pedestal Clock, Engraved with Presentation Box £16.99
Sky Candle Holder, 4½", Engraved £14.99
Coasters, Glass, Set of 4, Engraved £16.99
Hand-cut Paperweight, Engraved £16.99
Ashtray, 3½", Engraved £9.99
Burns Crystal Paperweight (Jimmy Engraved) £5.99

Miscellaneous New Items & Stocking Fillers

Pack of 3 100% Cotton Tea Towels (1914-1918) £9.99
In Flanders Field, The Soldier, Your Country Needs You ~
Female Walking Signaller Statuette £69.00 ~ 7" Jimmy Statuette £32.00
Ladies Blazer Badge (Jimmy) £4.99
Union Jack Boxer Shorts (M, L, XL) £5.99 ~ Polo Shirt - Union Jack / George Cross £16.99
"Songs That Won The War" CD £5.99 ~ Mini Red Flash Light Keyring £3.99
Playing Cards, First World War 1914-1918 £3.99
Playing Cards, Second World War 1939-1945 £3.99
Playing Cards, Aeroplane Spotter Cards WW2 £3.99
Playing Cards, Optical Illusions £3.99
Wireless For The Warrior, Volume 1 £27.50
Wireless For The Warrior, Volume 2 £36.00
Wireless For The Warrior, Volume 3 £40.50
Corps Ribbon, 1½" wide per metre £4.20

Mini Stubby Toolkit (engraved Jimmy) £12.50 ~ Zippo Lighter (pattern 98) £15.95
Cufflinks 98 £11.99 ~ Sweetheart Brooch £5.99 ~ Silver Jimmy Studs £8.99
Sports Flasks (multi colour) £1.60 ~ Hair Brush/Mirror (multi colour) £1.49
Bendy Pencils large £0.75 ~ Keyring Mini Torch £1.20 ~ Compass Keyring £1.99
Book Mark (History of the Corps Cap Badges) £1.00

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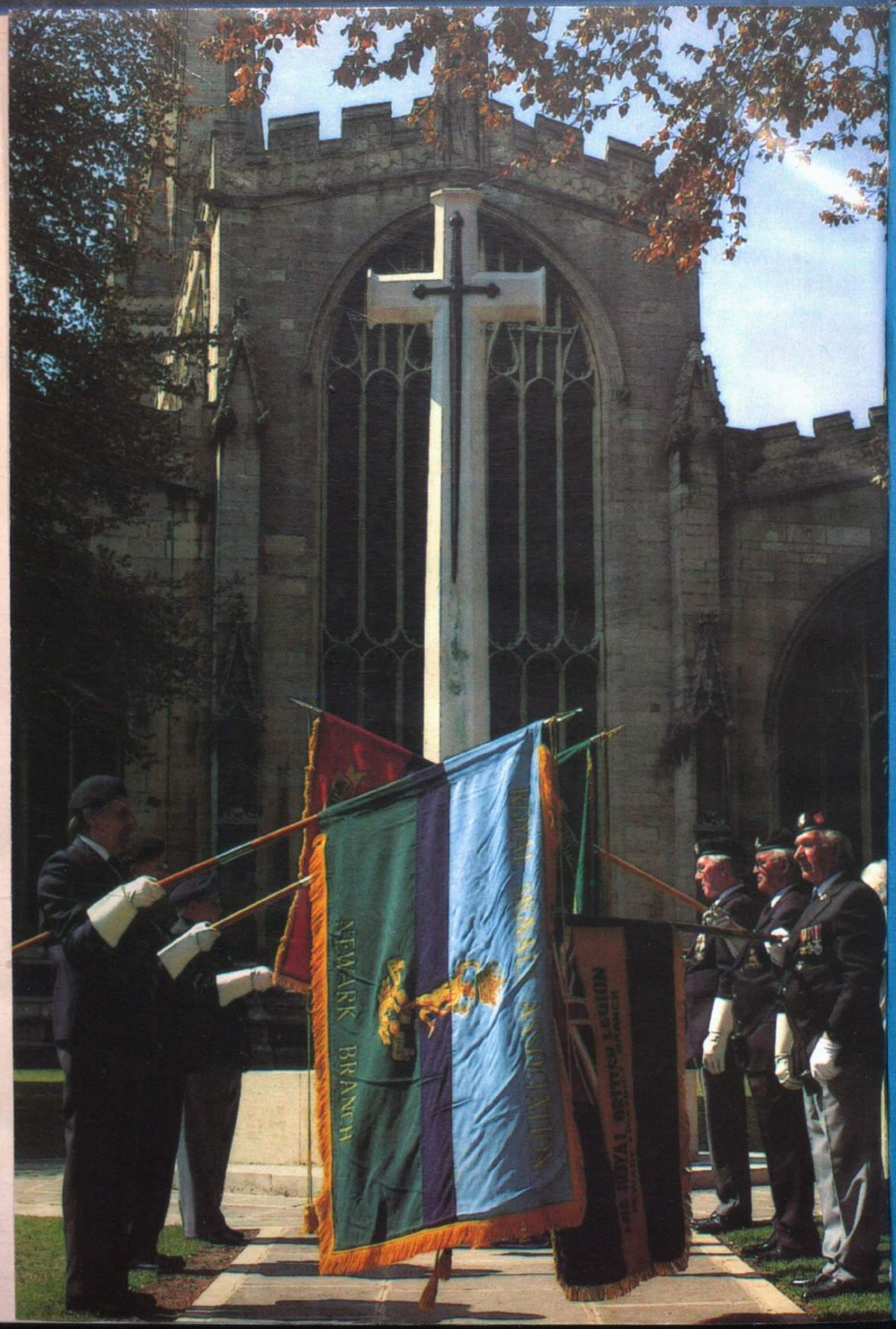
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